

Texas Community College Speech and Theatre Association Fall Business Meeting

September 8, 2007

Blinn College
Brenham, Texas

MINUTES

After determining that there were enough schools present to form a quorum, President Eric Skiles called the meeting to order at 9:08am. There were 11 members present representing 7 schools.

The minutes were approved with minor corrections. Dom Bongiorno moved to approve the minutes. Floyd McConnell seconded the motion. Eric Skiles observed that the room inexplicably smelled like cinnamon rolls and the motion was passed unanimously.

In the absence of the Treasurer, the Secretary (Collier Patton) presented a Treasurer's Report based on information received via a telephone call to Freddie Mason. That Report follows in a separate document.

The Playfest Respondent Guidelines Committee reported that the need for guidelines still exists. They also proposed that the requirements be opened up to allow former TCCSTA members who are two to three years out of the festival to serve as respondent.

The Website Committee reported that they were unsuccessful in creating a website for the organization this year.

The Scholarship Committee reported that, while Phil Hoak has done some work on the scholarship efforts, there has been no success so far. However, he will keep working on it. Eric Skiles proposed that we give away two scholarship awards (one at Playfest and one at the State Forensics Meet) to be funded by corporate sponsors.

OLD BUSINESS:

Playfest: All went well last year.

State Forensics Meet: All went well last year. Results were not sent to the archivist (Brad Nies), and they should be forwarded to him in the future after all State Meets.

TETA/TCCSTA Liason: The nominees for TETA Educator of the Year are Sherri Ryan White and Don Luna.

NEW BUSINESS:

Forensics: Conflict patterns. Collier Patton reported that a concern was expressed via email that the conflict patterns for the TCCSTA State Forensics Meet be made the same as the patterns for Phi Rho Pi nationals. He read the relevant emails to the meeting. Collier Patton made a motion that the TCCSTA patterns be changed to reflect the Phi Rho Pi patterns. There was no second to the motion. The motion died.

Forensics: Location of State: Floyd McConnell offered a bid to host the 2008 State Forensics Meet at San Jacinto College North on February 8-10, 2007. Collier Patton moved to accept the bid and Matthew Taylor seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried.

Forensics: Ray Williams Award. A discussion was had about the death of Ray Williams and the impact that he had on the TCCSTA forensics community. After entertaining a number of different ideas, John Corley proposed the creation of two "Founder's Awards" to be presented each year (one at Playfest and one at the State Forensics Meet) to a coach or director who embodies the spirit of the founders of TCCSTA. A committee was appointed by Eric Skiles to establish guidelines for the award which will be awarded for the first time in the 2008-2009 academic year. The committee members include: John Corley, Sheleigh Carmichael, Sherri White, Floyd McConnell, and Brad Nies.

Forensics: Fall Forensics Meet. Collier Patton reported that a concern was expressed via email that the Fall TCCSTA tournament be rotated among member schools. He read the relevant emails to the meeting. Dom Bongiorno explained that a Fall TCCSTA tournament does not exist. He explained that he created the tournament several years ago independent of the organization and used the name "TCCSTA Fall Tournament" for lack of a more creative title. Dom expressed that he would be happy if TCCSTA wanted to create a Fall tournament that would rotate among member schools using a bid system as currently exists for the State Forensics Meet. However, the current tournament will be renamed the Community College Classic to eliminate any confusion and Kingwood College will continue to host the tournament on the established date on the competition calendar (the second weekend in November). Dom also pointed out that a constitutional amendment would be needed if the tournament were to become permanent, as the current constitution only calls for one TCCSTA tournament per year. However, on a trial basis, the constitution does allow for other tournaments to be established by a vote of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee voted and the motion to create a Fall TCCSTA tournament failed. Collier Patton reported that other members of TCCSTA who were unable to attend the meeting had expressed a desire to discuss this and vote on it at the Spring Meeting (at the State Tournament). Dom Bongiorno pointed out that the Spring meeting is not a voting meeting, so the proposal could be made at the Spring meeting, but it would have to be voted on next Fall at the official Business Meeting of TCCSTA. Sheleigh Carmichael moved to table the motion to create a Fall TCCSTA tournament until the meeting next Fall. Dom Bongiorno seconded the motion. There were 10 votes in favor of tabling the motion and one against. The motion passed.

Playfest: Moving back to the Spring. A concern was expressed that Playfest be moved back to the Spring. Sheleigh Carmichael proposed that the Playfest be moved back to March. Bradley Nies explained that whether it is in the Fall or the Spring may not be the main concern about playfest attendance. He suggested that we try it this year and give it a chance. Bradley explained that directors can make it work regardless of the date. Sheleigh expressed a concern about membership loss. Clay Grizzle asked if it could possibly be moved to earlier in the Fall, to which the membership unanimously answered in the negative. Eric Skiles asked if the date is really the reason why people don't come to Playfest. John Corley clarified that one-person departments are the ones inconvenienced the worst by the date. Eric expressed a concern about a conflict between KCACTF and Playfest. Sheleigh explained that whenever we hold Playfest is fine – that regardless of the conflict with KCACTF, participation is possible. The membership decided to allow the current situation (in which Playfest is being held in the Fall for one trial year to be re-evaluated after the November Playfests) to go forward.

Playfest: Host School. Kingwood College offered to host this year's Playfest. Clay Grizzle made a motion to accept the bid. Sheleigh and Brad both seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Playfest will be held at Kingwood College.

Playfest: Respondents. The list from last year's Playfest was read. Don Luna from Corpus Christi was added to the list. A discussion ensued about the possibility of using one critic instead of two. John Corley explained that that would exhaust the one critic. Additionally he explained that often the two critics can work in tandem to give better evaluations to the students. John Corley proposed that we consider bringing in two critics close to the venue for Playfest in order to save money on airfare. The question was raised about whether past TCCSTA members could act as respondent. Dom Bongiorno explained that there was nothing in the constitution prohibiting it. Ray Carr and John Wright were added to the list of potential respondents pursuant to the discussion. Dom Bongiorno did suggest that we only consider respondents who are at least two years out of participation at Playfest, to mirror the standards for judging at the State Forensics Meet. Kali Vlahos made a motion was made to add this to the Constitution. Exact wording of the Constitutional Amendment will follow before next year's Fall Business Meeting. Clay seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed. At least ten days prior to the next Fall Business Meeting, Kali will present the exact wording of the Constitutional Amendment to be voted on at the meeting.

Playfest: Honor Crew. Honor Crew will be led by Phil Hoak. The host school should feed the honor crew. Eric Skiles said that Kingwood College will be happy to do so. Honor Crew IDs and a safety briefing/booklet should be created. The constitution's safety guidelines will serve as the beginning point of the briefing.

Playfest: Tech Awards. John Corley expressed a desire to have a time when the tech presentations could be examined without students present, perhaps the first 30 minutes. Eric Skiles announced that, at this year's Playfest, the art gallery at Kingwood College would be used to eliminate this problem.

Outreach. A concern was expressed that many community colleges in Texas have theatre departments and speech programs, but they are not members of TCCSTA. The presence of a table at TETA was proposed to reach out to non-member schools. Sheleigh, Eric, and Brad will be in charge of the table at TETA. The need for a brochure and other promotional materials was brought forward. Table tents reading "TCCSTA member" for all member schools were also proposed. Eric proposed a committee consisting of Eric Skiles, Kali Vlahos, and Collier Patton to create a brochure, table tents, and other promotional materials. Sheleigh Carmichael moved that we accept the committee and allow them to make promotional materials without further approval of the organization. Brad seconded the motion. Eric expressed a willingness to help create a TCCSTA website with his own money. Overwhelmed by his generosity, the members of TCCSTA each donated cash to Eric to help pay for the website. \$140 was collected at the meeting. Eric explained that he is happy to have the website created, but that the organization will have to renew it when the time comes. Clay offered to make calls to TETA attendees, but expressed a desire to split the phone list with someone else. Please contact him if you are willing to participate in this. Sheleigh proposed that TCCSTA become an institutional member of TETA. She will share her table with TCCSTA this year and will begin the process of applying for institutional membership, which apparently is a multi-year process.

Constitution. The secretary and treasurer (per the current constitution) will revise and submit new copies of the constitution to all members. Eric Skiles appointed the Executive Committee and Matt Taylor to help on the constitutional revision committee.

Sheleigh Carmichael made a motion to temporarily adjourn for a break. Clay seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Eric Skiles reconvened the meeting at 10:30am.

Archivist: Brad Nies and Sheleigh Carmichael will take a summer road trip in July 2008 to gather interviews about the history of TCCSTA. Sheleigh will contact John Wright and Ray Karr. Brad will contact Mrs. Dietrich. Dom will interview M'Liss Hindman at the TCCSTA State Tournament. Attempts will be made to videotape or audiotape the interviews.

Invoice: Collier Patton will send out the invoice and minutes next week. X still is \$100. Associate Membership is still $\frac{1}{4}$ X. Playfest membership is still $1\frac{1}{2}$ X. Interpreter's Theatre membership is still $1\frac{1}{2}$ X. A concern was expressed that, because Playfest is being held so early this year, members send in their membership dues as soon as possible. The December 1st deadline is still in effect, but members will be asked to send in their dues by October 31st, or as soon as possible. Brad made a motion that we encourage early payment of dues. Floyd seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Elections: Treasurer. The position of Treasurer was up for election. It is a 2 year term. Sherri White was nominated in absentia by Sheleigh Carmichael. Kevin was nominated by Brad Nies. Kevin declined the nomination. Dom moved that nominations close. John Corley seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. Clay moved that we elect Sherri by acclamation. Dom seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Sherri White is the new Treasurer.

Elections: President-Elect. Dom nominated Floyd McConnell. Matt Taylor seconded the nomination. Brad Nies nominated Matt Taylor. Dom seconded the nomination. Clay moved that nominations should close. Kali seconded. It passed unanimously. Floyd was elected president-elect.

Meeting date for next year. The date of September 6, 2008 (the first weekend after Labor Day) was announced by Floyd McConnell. The pre-meeting-meeting will be held on Friday September 5, 2008.

Other new business: Location of 2008-2009 Playfest. There are no current proposals. This will be discussed at Playfest in November.

Announcements: none.

Dom Bongiorno moved to adjourn. Floyd McConnell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Collier Patton
Secretary