

Agenda  
University of Ottawa English Debating Society  
April 3, 2021 12:00 UTC-4  
Discord

1. Call to Order – 12:06pm EST
  - a. Chair: Will F
  - b. Attending: Logan, Amani, Anais, Diego, Fikunmi, Fiona, Imani, James, Joey, Khalid, Lewis, Lili, Lisa, Malcolm, Matt I, Max N, Melinda W, Michael, Nelani, Pedro, Salma, Skylar
  - c. Ombuds/Support: Ellen
  - d. Observing: Eyas, Vasu
2. Ratification of the Agenda - Approved
3. Designation of Note-Keeper - Skylar
4. Contestation of Membership Rights
  - a. Max N – vote granted
  - b. Matt I – vote granted
  - c. Pedro – vote granted
  - d. Amani – vote granted
  - e. Emily L (proxy through Vasu) – vote granted
  - f. Khalid – vote granted
  - g. Lewis – vote granted
5. Constitutional Amendments (See note a)
  - a. Discussion: Speaking times (2 vs 5 minute reply speeches)
    - i. Logan: speaking times are sufficient, should save time for important issues
    - ii. VOTE: 2 minute follow up speaking times wins by a margin of 12-9
  - b. Amendments to Section 5 – Fiona**
    - i. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1k430LRnEE5JQCt4B0TpHqglArKtJyS3XDgTHTcGc1LM/edit>
    - ii. Fiona: Changes to VPI, Chair of Outreach, and Chair of Sponsorship
    - iii. Omnibus Declaration
      1. Fiona: VPI and Outreach changes must be considered together to avoid gaps
      2. Proposal: 5.ii and 5.v be considered omnibus 5.vi separate
        - a. Did not receive unanimous consent, declined
    - iv. **Amendment to 5.ii (VPI) → Fiona: amend to focus on internal facilitation and exclude internal communications (move to Chair of Outreach) in order to more accurately reflect duties of these positions**
      1. James: amendments are well done if there are any concerns on how these positions interact (after all votes) we can amend
      2. Lili: Worthwhile to clarify, but concerned that this will take too much responsibility away from VPI, creating heavy burdens on other positions
      3. Matt E: VPI will not inherently be better able to handle the burden
      4. Fiona: It will not take major responsibilities from VPI – just reflecting what is already happening and reflecting that in the constitution

5. Imani: clarifying this will streamline the exec and clear up confusion, leading to more efficiency and less conflict among exec
  6. Vote counting – Fiona nominates Matt E, Lisa nominates Ash
  7. **VOTE: 29 cast, 16 for, 13 against. Defeated (did not meet 2/3 majority)**
    - a. Diego: votes not verified by equity
    - b. Ash: will send them
    - c. There was a double vote and a conflicting multi vote, these were accounted for
- v. **Amendment to 5.v (Vice President Communications)** → Fiona: internal communications happen on platforms (FB, discord) which are managed by Chair of Outreach, so it doesn't make sense to split this up between positions  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1k430LRnEE5JQCt4B0TpHqgIArKtJyS3XDgTHTcGc1LM/edit>
1. Fiona: 5.ii and 5.v need to be considered together because they are related and omnibus divisions should only occur on unrelated amendments
  2. Will: Rules that after this speech 5.ii and 5.v will be voted on together
  3. Lisa: how would VP communication be chosen?
    - a. Fiona: Chair of Outreach would hold this role
  4. Lisa: So responsibilities would be shifted?
    - a. Fiona: this is how things work already
  5. James: Would like to contest that this is the status quo based on FB posts since January
  6. Fiona: maintaining Discord and FB group (rather than making announcements), and currently confusing to determine responsibility
  7. Vote counting: Fiona nominates Matt E, James nominates Ash. Ash opts out, Anais volunteers
  8. **VOTE: 25 cast, 14 for, 11 against. Defeated (did not receive 2/3 majority)**
- vi. **Amendment to 5.vi (Chair of Sponsorship)** → Fiona: busy time for VPI to apply for funding, need this money for in person tournaments  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1k430LRnEE5JQCt4B0TpHqgIArKtJyS3XDgTHTcGc1LM/edit>  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1axSioZ\\_tfeLQutuvQp3Et0n6JsmdUAzesnoEEkkQqw/edit?fbclid=IwAR1iEzSj1RIEfBcwo7GKQsC42ft8vVqgOTd5\\_9hktnMdnON7VJzNATt1rA](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1axSioZ_tfeLQutuvQp3Et0n6JsmdUAzesnoEEkkQqw/edit?fbclid=IwAR1iEzSj1RIEfBcwo7GKQsC42ft8vVqgOTd5_9hktnMdnON7VJzNATt1rA)
1. James: CUSID context – last in person year we carried \$5000 over, this year we made \$6000 in revenue. Worth noting that CUDS has more money – levy. Queens – endowment. Western – multiple events throughout the year. Failure to do EDS training day was James' fault, would not be solved by position  
[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1gWnq5x6f5wrKfohtIWdzReSeEOmiM6kPoRe8xGXS\\_n4/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1gWnq5x6f5wrKfohtIWdzReSeEOmiM6kPoRe8xGXS_n4/edit?usp=sharing)

2. Vasu: financial and efficiency concerns. Definitions affect exec roles. Not broke, and chair of sponsorship did not solve the issue during Vasu's presidency. Putting someone in charge =/= solution
  3. Fikunmi: club is in a good financial position due to pandemic, but our funding is not sustainable. Putting someone in charge will be beneficial
  4. Lili: As treasurer, we have about \$4300 in surplus (see report). Chair of sponsorship would not be responsible for EDS training day. Passive funding more viable than sponsorship
  5. Matt I: Has been chair of sponsorship – brought in \$1500 through training day, which was not brought in by co-TDs. Coming up with creative ideas for fundraising
  6. Matt E: Levy committee – we are not going to get a levy, UOSU requires students to approve by vote, we don't represent the student body
  7. Michael: there are multiple ways to get a levy. There are not many other routes of funding, and they will not materialize
  8. Joey: Knows what it's like to run a broke club (St. Mary's). Giving this responsibility and using a team approach will be better, handling rejection as a team. We are currently doing things for the future
  9. Logan: Two issues: financial need and whether this position would fill it. In a non-pandemic year we would just send less teams. Levy committee is doing levy work and other work. Neither Chair of Sponsorship or Levy committee are a magic bullet. The burden is to show need for change
  10. Matt I: As a chair of sponsorship, you're picking someone with a platform and ideas. It CAN work, there are opportunities
  11. Vasu: can't be responsible for creativity. \$1000 from EDS was only a few hundred
  12. Fiona: when finding funding is not in someone's mandate, it does not get done. In the past, chair or sponsorship has raised \$1000. There is no worst case. More money will help operations
  13. Counting votes: Fiona nominates Matt E, James nominates Anais
  14. **VOTE: 27 cast, 13 for, 14 against. Defeated**
- vii. **Amendment to 3.6.6 (Equity) → Diego: reflecting broader identities, continue work towards becoming an inclusive, equitable, and supportive space**  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cYnzpGqASEhgLZHBlloeI8AcrcwfHTX7gFVGDR0s68/edit>
1. Logan: thanks Diego and equity, publicly support
  2. Melinda: wrote equity bylaws based on racial minority report from the summer, were focused on that, but this amendment helps strengthen it
  3. Vote counting: Diego nominates Anais, Joey is selected as second person
  4. **VOTE: 29 cast, 27 for, 2 against. Passes (received 2/3 majority)**
- viii. **Amendment to section 5**  
<https://discordapp.com/channels/69031645587821742/791091106724708352/827936982256320592>

1. Ash: Monarchies are bad
2. Anais: can we vote by reacts?
3. Amani: how does succession work?
4. Malcolm: appointed or elected
5. Vasu: would you adopt your successor if Roman style?
6. Malcolm: in spirit
7. Diego: what if President dies?
8. Malcolm: normal process
9. Fiona: would you rename yourself Caesar?
10. Malcolm: Malcolm Caesar
11. Voting: verbal

**12. VOTE: do not have 2/3 in favor, defeated**

- ix. **Amendment 6.7** → Matt E: votes to acclaim should be by secret ballot – still need confidence of the membership

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1c1\\_2Pw0jXubfSWxn0dklNo1ytF2HoiQgPOkJOuP6mss/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1c1_2Pw0jXubfSWxn0dklNo1ytF2HoiQgPOkJOuP6mss/edit?usp=sharing)

1. Vasu: publicly support, verbal voting is undemocratic, particularly in person
2. Voting: Matt E nominates Fiona, Anais is selected as second person
3. **VOTE: 24 cast, 18 for, 6 against. Passes (meets 2/3) majority**

6. Executive Elections (See notes b&c)

a. President

i. Fiona (nominated by Malcolm)

1. Two main duties: overseeing the daily and guiding direction
2. Everyday: being at meetings, overseeing exec, helping with portfolios, working with CUSID. Was president/VP of clubs in high school, gained similar skills, managed staff of 15 for high school yearbook. Maintaining a healthy environment, getting member feedback
3. Grand vision: in platform. Hoping to continue to improve club – more tournaments (CP title tournament), have a bigger presence in CUSID. Training tournament for BP. Exploring bilingualism – new avenues.
4. These are achievable goals, will do what membership wants

ii. Lili (nominated by Ash)

1. Debating since high school, has been treasurer, helped with VPI and President transition, held various tournament positions, ran environmental awareness and Jewish culture club in HS. Has the organizational knowledge
2. Wants to give back to EDS and continue momentum
3. Club cohesion – important on executive, need to recognize individual exec success and build 1 on 1 relationship
4. Revamp buddy system – clear expectations, assigning specific pro to nov
5. Improving equity training, giving them more resources. Combining training with CUDS to save money
6. Balance b/w competition, development, and diversity on TSC

7. Hybrid debating – retain online element to keep accessibility but have in person option

iii. Questions

1. Malcolm: How do you think you're qualified to implement platform
  - a. Lili: past club positions, faculty connections
  - b. Fiona: previous exec experience, tournament director and org com, communication with other clubs/CUSID
2. Logan: what are you most proud of that you did on exec?
  - a. Fiona: adapting to online and recruitment. Pulling novices in and retaining them
  - b. Lili: getting CVUO funding and sending everyone to tournaments for free this year, contributing to nov retention, running women/gender minority social in November
3. Matt I: club is becoming competitive, how do you reach out/ be relevant to those people?
  - a. Lili: committed novices are performing well, as President/on TSC keeping rapport with high performers and those who want to improve, keeping friendships
  - b. Fiona: balancing competitive and community aspect (through pro-ams, tournaments)
4. Imani: how do you envision return to in person?
  - a. Fiona: initial procedure planned last year, hybrid important to keep numbers manageable, could encourage former members to come back. Could do one each per week
  - b. Lili: attempts to do hybrid – uni wifi blocks Discord, not possible to do simultaneous, one each per week. Do online ones in combination w/ CUDS to maintain full rooms
5. Matt E: how would you deal with situations of animosity and tension among the club?
  - a. Ellen: do not mention specifics
  - b. Lili: tension developed due to online debate, closed communication. Make clear expectations about roles, conduct equity training
  - c. Fiona: equity is not just about issues between two people, we all need to be responsible for making sure things run smoothly
6. Diego: how would you work to reduce polarization of groups
  - a. Fiona: communication – may think that we have huge differences, but at the end of the day we're here for fun. Sometimes need to let go, check in. Realize when we need to step back
  - b. Lili: echo what Fiona said, polarization a result of not knowing people on the other side – we're all just people who are interested in improving the club

- iv. Vote counting: Fiona nominates Malcolm, Lili nominates Ash

**v. VOTE: 28 cast, 18 for Lili, 10 for Fiona. Lili elected as President**

b. VP Internal

i. Anais nominated by Ash

1. More competent than nobody
2. Really likes debate, misses classes/work for it, wants to make debate a good experience for everyone
3. Was nov rep, random pro-am organizer, brought pastries to AGM
4. Has learned attendance tracker, will invite people who haven't come in a while
5. Slotting preferences, pro am relationships
6. Making the club more equitable and inclusive (successful in not getting into fights)
7. Passive fundraisers could earn \$3000

ii. Questions

1. Fikunmi: how do you convince people to do things they are opposed to for fundraising?
  - a. Anais: it is a personal choice, some things only available on Amazon, is not contingent on everyone participating

iii. Vote counting: Anais appoints Ash, Joey selected as second person

**iv. VOTE: 23 cast, 21 yes, 1 no, 1 abstain. Anais elected as VPI**

c. Treasurer

i. Fikunmi

1. Not an EDS exec, but has been on multiple org comms and Levy committee, has been fundraising chair at sorority and childcare worker
2. Data tracking – knowing how much tournaments cost to help make decisions, knowing what is reasonable
3. Transparency – public budget (institution role locked), making it readable
4. Protocols – club financial benchmarks (eg min/max carryover amounts)
5. Equity – eg subsidize an extra tournament for minority groups (as defined in new equity), making current subsidization system opt in

ii. Questions

1. Logan: what would you do in situation of extra carryover
  - a. Fikunmi: not treasurer's role to decide. Just want to encourage balance b/w current and future
2. Lili: what benefits does opt in offer vs additional subsidies for those who need?
  - a. Fikunmi: ensures funding goes to those who need it

iii. Vote counting: Fikunmi nominates Lewis to count votes, Ash selected as second person

**iv. VOTE: 18 yes, 5 no, 3 abstain. Fikunmi elected as Treasurer**

d. VP Training

- i. Matt E nominates Max N (declined)
- ii. Joey nominates Michael
  - 1. Debating since grade 7, knows many debaters
  - 2. Wants to work on seminars on content – how do you debate certain topics, can be used for CP cases or connected BP motions, incorporated after debate basics. Using club’s human resources – using connections and personal experience
  - 3. More drills/exercises in training – mixing in breakout rooms (allows connections and engagement, builds skills)
  - 4. Competitiveness – reaching out to other clubs and build relationships that allow us to be on different servers etc
  - 5. 1 on 1 training – speech evaluations, having pros analyze recordings of nov speeches
  - 6. Seminars on note taking
- iii. Questions
  - 1. Matt E: how will you improve cohesion and community within the club
    - a. Michael: using AGM, using smaller groups and more selections to allow people to be as competitive as you want
  - 2. Lewis: how will you teach mechanization?
    - a. Michael: important topic for seminars
- iv. Vote counting: Ash and Joey selected
- v. **VOTE: 28 votes cast, 17 yes, 11 no. Michael elected VPT**
- e. Chair of Outreach
  - i. Diego is nominated by Salma
    - 1. Making a presentation for new people – they come into the voice chat and are lost, this presentation would cover info about debate, exec, accessibility
    - 2. Using Instagram – putting debate motions on story to increase interest
    - 3. Bilingual communications – being more inclusive. Cost is Diego’s time
    - 4. Debating world issues – showing other clubs what we debate. Bringing show debates to people rather than bring people to show debates
  - ii. Salma is nominated by Diego
    - 1. Levy committee member, breaking member, Jeopardy and Arab Spring seminar, connected to Ottawa-Gatineau region, radio and newspaper
    - 2. Social media – updating recognition and expanding social media presence, giveaways, etc
    - 3. Other promo – charity clubs could compete under direction of EDS members, light intro to debate. Show debate is confusing and intimidating, need lighter topics
    - 4. Updating website – making outreach and social media bilingual
  - iii. Questions
    - 1. Logan: how would you handle a return to in person?
      - a. Salma: ideas won’t change too much, events will be more effective but still have chance at success online or in person



- a. Ash: continue to have CUSID socials and special EDS CUDS socials
    - b. Strengthened relationship over last year, murder mystery/mass summer event (got huge turnout), many hands make light work
  - 5. Michael: what did you do to reduce merch costs?
    - a. Lewis: suggested idea, Lili handled financials as per position, would gladly do funding if required
  - 6. Ellen: questions should not be targeted, people do not represent entire clubs
  - 7. James: how would you deal with attendance?
    - a. Ash: marketing is key, knowing people and when they're free, organizing casual debates
    - b. Lewis: releasing calendars, reaching out to people to combat burnout, use social media
  - iv. Vote counting: Ash nominates Logan, Lewis nominates Matt E
  - v. **VOTE: 27 cast, 16 for Ash, 11 for Lewis. Ash elected as VP Socials**
- 7. Tournament Director Elections (See note b)
  - a. Guindon
    - i. Anais nominated by Lewis
      - 1. Organized and TDed random pro-am
      - 2. Would work on attendance for Guindon, has international connections if online, experience TDing in person in high school
    - ii. Vote counting: Anais nominates Fiona, Joey is selected as second person
    - iii. **VOTE: 22 cast, 17 yes, 3 no, 2 abstain. Anais elected as Guindon TD**
  - b. EDS High Schools
    - i. Matt I nominated by Fiona
    - ii. Fiona nominated by Matt I
    - iii. Matt I and Fiona running as co-bid
      - 1. Fiona TD of Guindon, org comm experience
      - 2. Matt "the high school guy" has TDed EDS HS twice, has lots of highschool connections
    - iv. Logan nominated by Lili (declined)
    - v. Jaleelah nominated by Michael (declined)
    - vi. Diego nominated by Ash
      - 1. On 3 org comms, judging high schools, has debate experience, has
    - vii. Questions
      - 1. Fikunmi: how would you build HS relationships?
        - a. Diego: use connection with EDS members
        - b. Matt: active in HS community in Ontario/Quebec, could help with in person
    - viii. Vote counting: Fiona & Matt I nominate Matt E, Diego nominates Salma
    - ix. **VOTE: 27 cast, 16 for Fiona and Matt I, 11 for Diego. Fiona and Matt I elected as co-TDs of EDS high schools**
  - c. High School Training Day

- i. Diego nominated
    - 1. It is a way to give back, experience bringing people together, judging experince
  - ii. Logan nominated by Ash (declined)
  - iii. Anais nominated by Ash (withdrawn)
  - iv. Fikunmi nominated
    - 1. Experience with organizing high school events, uniquely well positioned to deal with something focused on feedback
  - v. Vote counting: Fikunmi nominates Anais, Diego nominates Fiona
  - vi. **VOTE: 28 cast, 20 for Diego, 6 for Fikunmi**
- 8. Equity Team Selection Committee Elections (See note d)
  - a. Incoming Executive Member (1)
    - i. Fikunmi is nominated by Matt E
      - 1. Equity is important, has shown dedication to
    - ii. Anais is nominated by Ash (declined)
    - iii. Vote counting: Fikunmi nominates Anais, Fiona selected as second person
    - iv. **VOTE: 23 cast, 23 for. Fikunmi elected to Equity selection committee**
  - b. Incumbent Equity Team Member (1)
    - i. Imani nominated by Khalid
      - 1. Knows what the equity team needs
    - ii. Diego nominated by Anais (declined)
    - iii. Melinda nominated by James (declined)
    - iv. Vote counting: Imani nominates Khalid, Anais selected as second person
    - v. **VOTE: 25 cast, 21 for, 4 against. Imani elected to Equity Selection Committee**
  - c. General Society Members (3)
    - i. Skylar nominated by Anais
      - 1. Will research what makes a good equity officers and talk to Ellen
    - ii. Matt E nominated by Fiona
      - 1. Having a good equity team important, picking the right people is important, served on selection committee before
    - iii. Nelani nominated by James (declined)
    - iv. Joey nominated by Diego
      - 1. Experience with equity at SMU, nominated by a current equity officer
    - v. Max N nominated by Matt E (declined)
    - vi. James nominated by Logan (declined)
    - vii. Malcolm nominated by Fiona
      - 1. Member of several invisible minorities, experience dealing with equity, understand what is needed
    - viii. Vote counting: Malcolm nominates Fiona, Matt E nominates Matt I, Joey nominates Anais, Skylar nominates Salma
    - ix. **VOTE: 23 for Joey, 23 for Malcolm, 21 for Skylar, 7 for Matt E. Joey, Malcolm, and Skylar elected to Equity Selection Committee**
- 9. James motions to move awards to a social or weekly meeting later on

10. Equity Survey – 15 minutes completed
11. Awards - postponed
12. Items from the Floor
  - a. Levy committee
    - i. We will need an additional \$7000
    - ii. Too late to put on referendum for this year
    - iii. Estimates
      1. Conservative – 12 cents per student (\$4300)
      2. Balanced – 18 cents (\$7000)
      3. Maximum – 30 cents (\$11000)
    - iv. Other options
      1. Faculties: Social Science (3000 up), English (2000-5000), IIPSA (1500+)
13. Adjournment – 6:48pm EST

Notes:

- a. Members proposing a constitutional amendment shall be granted 5 minutes to present their proposed amendment. Following this, any member present may speak for 2 minutes for or against the motion. Following the conclusion of the speakers list, members may ask questions to the proponent of the amendment.
- b. Individuals must be nominated by a voting member. Individuals can self-nominate. After exhausting nominations for each position, nominees will be given 5 minutes each to present their platform. Following the presentation of platforms, members may ask questions of the nominees. Following the exhausting of questions, a vote will take place.
- c. If a constitutional amendment is passed adding removing or altering any executive position, the list of elections will be updated.
- d. We take nominations from the floor, and the positions are acclaimed by verbal vote (ayes vs nays) in the excess of candidates, we would do a secret ballot