

Title:

Constitution of the competitive Debate Team at Indiana University

Preamble:

The competitive Debate Team at Indiana University's purpose is to maintain the advancement and excellence of debate as a practice. The team will represent Indiana University as a travelling competitive debate team at collegiate-level tournaments. The team will also advance debate as a norm on IU Bloomington's campus in the form of public as well as university wide debate events.

Article I: Membership

Section I: Members of the team must be deemed in "good standing" with the intended goals of a competitive debate program.

Section II: Members must be enrolled as students, undergraduate or graduate, of Indiana University Bloomington.

Section III: Evaluation of good standing, removal of membership and/or suspension will be determined by the University's Director of Debate after violation of University regulations and/or local, state, and federal laws.

Section IV: Membership is divided into two classes:

A) Travelling and B) non-travelling members of the debate team.

a. Travelling membership:

- i. Minimum university wide grade point average of 2.75. If you fall below this average, you will be given a one-semester grace period.
- ii. Fulltime Student Status. You must attempt and complete at least 12 credit hours of classes per semester
- iii. Tournament travel. If asked, you must agree to attend a minimum of three tournaments a semester.
- iv. Tournament hosting. You must agree to help with the hosting of annual high school and college debate tournaments.
- v. Active participation. You must remain an active member of the debate team. This means attending scheduled meetings, participating in work and practice sessions, and contributing to the squad's research base, as directed by the IU coaching staff.

b. Non-travelling membership:

- i. Non-travelling membership requires attending scheduled meetings, assistance with research objectives, as well as advancing the goals of the competitive debate program.

Section V: Statement of Non-Discrimination

Participation in the proposed organization must be without regard to arbitrary consideration of such characteristics as age, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

Indiana University debate is an equal opportunity team.

Article II: University Compliance

This organization shall comply with all Indiana University regulations, and local, state, and federal laws.

Article III: Executive Officers

President: The president shall assist the director of debate with team matters such as general team meetings and conducting team business. The President may set up temporary administrative committees or positions if necessary.

Vice President: This office shall be responsible for representing the team in any meetings where representation is deemed necessary or important by the executive board.

Secretary: This office will be responsible for all team documentation, including but not limited to, phone lists, notes of weekly meetings, recording team and individual awards, and recording weekly meeting attendance for the purpose of determining active membership. This office shall be responsible for collecting information from new members as well as organizing team socials.

Article IV: Faculty Advisor

The Faculty Advisor shall be the person hired by the School of Public and Environmental affairs as the "Director of Debate." The Faculty Advisor's duties shall include advising the team on Speech/Debate and administrative matters.

Administrative matters include all budgetary concerns, including but not limited to travel, technology purchases, and tournament fees. The Faculty Advisor shall retain his/her position as long as he/she is the Director of Debate and maintains good standing with the University.

Article V: Meetings

Section I: Meetings will be held weekly throughout the fall and spring semesters.

Meetings will be held either on Tuesday or Wednesday night, depending on what best meets the team's needs.

Section II: Emergency meetings may be called by the president of the team or by the advisor. For an official meeting to take place under these circumstances, a quorum need be present. For all purposes regarding quorums within this constitution, a quorum shall be defined as thirty percent (100%) of the active membership for that particular semester.

Article VI: Elections

Section 1: Elections will be held during the first official team meeting of the fall semester.

Section 2: Voting for the President, Vice President, and Secretary, will be reserved for active members who are in good standing during the Fall Semester.

Section 3: Terms are one year and renewable pending the next election.

Section 4: Voting must be done in person during the time of the meeting.

Section 5: Winner of the vote is determined by a simple majority. In the event of a tie, the director of debate will selection the winner.

Section 5: In the case of a vacancy of the Presidency, the Vice President will become President and a special election of the Vice Presidency will take place the meeting following the one week at which nominations are made and two weeks following the vacancy.

Section 6: In the case of a vacancy of any office other than President, the office in question shall be filled by special election to take place the meeting following the one week of nominations are made and two weeks following the vacancy.

Article VII: Anti-Hazing Policy

Hazing is strictly prohibited. Hazing shall be defined as any conduct which subjects another person, whether physically, mentally, emotionally, or psychologically, to anything that may endanger, abuse, degrade, or intimidate the person as a condition of association with a group or organization, regardless of the person's consent or lack of consent.

Article VIII: Dues & Budgets

Section I: Dues are not mandatory for team membership. Member eligibility of travel to select tournaments may required additional fund raising.

Section II: the faculty advisor manages the team's budget. The budget is reviewed on an annual basis after the end of the season's national debate tournaments in the spring semester.

Article IX: Finances

Section I: The director of debate is in charge of the team's financial affairs.

Section II: The team's budget is maintained largely by contributions from Indiana University's Schools, departments, as well as the Office of the Provost.

Section III: The director of debate reserves the right to establish a Student Organization Account if deemed necessary following all Student Organization Accounts office policies and procedures.

Article X: Personal Gain Clause

This organization, if raising funds, shall ethically raise and distribute profits from organizational functions to either the organization or to members who provide a service that directly benefits the organization. Individual members may not receive compensation from for-profit companies if acting as a representative of a student organization.

Article XI: Amendments

Section 1: Amendments shall be presented to the executive board. The executive board will determine if such an amendment shall be deemed relevant by the board. If an endorsement is made, the amendment must pass two (2) consecutive readings before a quorum of the active members by a consensus vote. If the amendment passes both the first and second reading, it shall be added to the constitution. If the amendment fails either the first or second reading, it shall be considered dead.

Section 2: In either the first or second reading, a vote may be made to send the amendment back to the executive board for a re-writing. This vote may not be made once the amendment has failed a reading and thus should be made prior to a vote in favor or opposed to the amendment. This organization, when working with children, will be aware of and abide by the University's Programs Involving Children.

Article XII: Programs Involving Children

This organization, when working with children, will be aware of and abide by the University's Programs Involving Children (PIC) Policy.