



MINUTES OF THE TDS COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE MEETING.

January 12, 2016



Meeting Summary

The fourth TDS Executive meeting of the 2015-2016 season was held at The Second Cup at 2340 Bloor St. West, at 6:00 p.m. Six members of the executive were in attendance: Heather B. (President), Daniele T. (Treasurer), Michelle W. (Communications) Jerry K. (Membership), Gerry L. (Outreach) and David F. (Editor/Secretary). Regrets: Sem O (Education). Minutes prepared by David F (Secretary).

MINUTES OF THE AGENDA

Year in Review, Unfinished Business, Reports of Committee

YEAR IN REVIEW

Heather reviewed our accomplishments over the fall season:

- We have a new logo thanks to our member Robert who reached out to two graphic designers who in turn created three designs pro-bono. Club membership decided on the one which includes the previous logo against a backdrop of the new city hall in official city of Toronto colours.
- The adjudication scorecard was revised with implementation of feedback from members.
- We created two categories of sponsorship ('Golden Gavel' and 'Platinum Podium') and reached out to neighbourhood law firms. We are delighted to include our new sponsors, family law firm Sheridan, Ippolito & Associates, on our new website on the page , 'Friends and Sponsors'.
- We have a new website. The soft launch on December 15 allowed members the opportunity to provide suggestions and corrections. The hard launch is targeted for, on or before, January 18, 2016.
- We now have a new long-term business plan.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Heather cautioned that in view of a recent flurry of pointed emails concerning the Jan. 12 resolution, that the executive's emails should be impersonal, respectful, professional, and succinct.

2. We had a discussion on resolutions and definitions. Through consensus,

we agreed to the following:

- The Editor will determine whether the topics are debatable as soon as they are decided upon. Any adjustments will be done before the resolutions are posted on the website. Once they are live on site, they will not be changed.
- The Speaker can help define the resolution if the PM requests assistance.

Daniele made the motion for a vote, Gerry seconded. By a vote of 5 to 1 with David dissenting the following was decided:

- 1) The Prime Minister defines the resolution.
- 2) The PM gives the definition to the Speaker one week ahead of time, or as soon as is reasonable in the case of a debater replacing the PM.
- 3) The resolution is shared with the opposition at the discretion of the government with no minimum time limit.

The proposed reasons for this motion were that this has always been our practice, and also that we are a parliamentary debating society and that in parliaments governments define resolutions. David's argument was that the proposal gives the government an unfair advantage because the definition can affect the direction and complexion of the debate.

Addenda: TDS rules state that the government provides written copies of the definition to the speaker at least 15 minutes before the debate, and to the opposition with no compulsory minimum notice time before the debate.

4. Heather presented the adjudication scorecard. After some minor revisions in layout it will soon appear on our website.

5. Heather presented a new handout package for prospective new members.

6. The resolutions for the winter term are now on the website. As editor, David will propose any required revisions.

7. The resolution for Feb. 9 is "Valentine's Day is No Longer Relevant".
8. A revised timing sheet is now on the new website.
9. Heather said that she has continued with requests for sponsorship and is now awaiting replies. Our one donor so far, Sheridan, Ippolito and Associates, has been invited to our mini-debate night on Feb. 26.
10. Heather proposed a special thanks to Sem for his design work on the website.

Reports of Committee:

President (Heather B): Complete a new constitution. Continue to seek club sponsors to be used for room fee increases, electronic maintenance costs and meet-up fees.

Membership (Jerry K): 1) Write a standard message for the contact form which will be added to the website as soon as it's done. It should include a subject line. 2) Write a standard message that will go out to new members, welcoming them to the club and reminding them to visit the website the day after they sign up. The draft version should be submitted to the executive for approval.

Communications (Michelle W): Continue to update 'Meet-up'. Facebook and Twitter

Treasurer (Daniele): Prepare a handover guide for the next Treasurer that enables a smooth transition. 2) Work with Jerry on a membership process. 3) Establish online banking for the community account that gives us "full portfolio status". This will be in place by January 16.

Outreach: 1. We discussed having Gerry contact community newspapers, such as "Snap", "Now" and "The Villager". 2. Contact university debating clubs in Ontario to let them know we are an option for students who live in the city and want to continue debating. 3. Reach out to training academies and learning centres, especially in Bloor West Village. They should all be given our website address and Gerry's contact information.