



Toronto Debating Society

Toronto Debating Society Inaugural Executive Meeting 2015-16



Meeting Summary

The inaugural Executive Committee meeting for the upcoming season September 2015 - May 2016 was held at the home of Heather B, incoming President, on June 26, 2015. Six of the seven executive members were present: Daniele (outgoing President, incoming Treasurer), Heather (outgoing Treasurer, incoming President), Sem (Education), Michelle (Communications), Jerry (Membership), David (Editor/Secretary). Regrets: Gerry (Outreach).

We discussed our goals and objective for the upcoming season.



DEBATE TOPICS

TDS Editor, David Furlong, discussed the process and deadlines for debate topics for the upcoming season.

First, each member of the executive committee should submit three topics for consideration by no later than mid-July.

David to send out email reminder for submissions.

The first topic of the season should be posted by the end of July.

Three subsequent topics to be chosen during a brainstorming session at the Dark Horse (meeting in August). We will circulate and select 30 topics using Survey Monkey.

There will be a separate section for comedy debates.

Long list is 30, Short List is 17 to cover September through December.

The Executive will meet in November to discuss topics for January through May.

The fall debating season will include the following types of debates:

Comedy

Cross-Examination

Beginners Debate

Random Roles

Point of Information

Mini-debates (Education portfolio - 12 topics for debates)

2 Regular debates



ASSOCIATIONS

Renewal for Meet-Up was approved with fee increase.

EQUIPMENT / SUPPORT

Proposal for a new website linked to our current domain was approved. The cost is \$18/month billed annually (\$216/year) or \$26/month billed month-to-month.

We agreed to use 'Squarespace.com' to build a new site and incorporate existing material into it.

A group photograph of the new executive will be taken at the next meeting in August.

We approved \$100 honourarium for website consultation provided by a friend of Michelle.

Backdrop: We will look into the cost and design of a backdrop for TDS Debating Society. If approved, it will hang behind the podium (most likely from the projector) to give a uniform and professional look to our video uploads.

Heather will check with the Print House to get quotes for cost and sizing before the next meeting.

Education will cover language and debate topics.

TIMELINES

Topics / Living Lists Online: ...does anyone recall what this was about? It was dark while I was taking notes - and I have the left-handed penmanship of a stroke victim, which is a long way of saying I can't make out my handwritten notes on this.



August - Membership outreach. Will send invitation via Meet-up, with clarification on the partnership; specifically, TDS membership is separate from Meet Up membership (there has been some confusion in the past).

TDS will also actively recruit University debaters in their final year to let them know they can continue with competitive debating at the TDS once they've graduated.

DEMO DEBATES: the TDS will sponsor political debates during elections. This will be in addition to regular meeting times.

This fall, with the upcoming election (writ expected to drop August 2) the TDS will sponsor political debates that may include, but are not limited to, candidates from the Parkdale-High Park federal riding.

To be discussed and finalized in August: Strategy, PR, possible entrance fees, or cost of admission. How to co-ordinate and publicize on the website and through Social Media.

HOW DO WE IMPROVE THE MEMBERSHIP EXPERIENCE? UX?

Goals - to be discussed at the next meeting.

Adjudication - it was unanimously agreed that we should create new score card on a scale of 30, rather than 100.

Adjudication - more feedback. Tallies will no longer be announced in front of the camera. The winning team and the best debater will be announced on video.

Mentoring - deconstruct own debates online with a veteran member.

Addenda: We will take a group picture and individual headshots for each executive member at the meeting in August.