AFA Business Meeting Notes

Attendance – Eric Morris, Alex McVey, Ben Voth, John Katsulas, Jarrod Atchison, Joe Gantt, Ron Green, David Cram Helwich, Adrienne Brovero, Heidi Hamilton, Kathleen Edelmayer

Joe Gantt – entertain a motion to approve the minutes and agenda.

Eric entertains

John seconds

Motion Passes

Adrienne asks - Did I miss minutes and agenda? Did not see them in the meeting invite email

Introductions of EC

Joe Gantt - Reports -

NST – Wisconsin au claire

197 (?) entries – within 2 of 2019 – indication of activity getting itself back into

A couple of appeals at NST that were granted. Will lead to some re-evaluation of the rules of impromptu speaking.

Next year held at UNC Charlotte – April 4-7 2025

NDT report – Adrienne Brovero – Held – 78th NDT. Won by U Mich defeated KU. Hybrid format. 2025 – hosted at Gonzaga Spokane. In the process of securing bids. Membership up last year. Some are programs that are fledgling and have single debaters debating with other schools. Hoping some of those programs stick. NDT also April 4-7.

NPDA – not represented on the call – apx 22-23 active schools. Held nationals last year at u of pacific. Don’t know beyond that

Treasurers report – John Katsulas – Reported on financial status of various AFA accounts. We haven’t increased our dues in 100 years, fixed costs are going up. If we have to spend money at alta may want to

Exec Secretary – Got membership list into the publisher, issue 61.2. Copies of that. Elections, email winner. Several panels at NCA. Sent out in most recent e-mail, job call in area of forensics. EC Agrees appropriate to use mailing list resources to do that. Would be fine if people choose to send forensics and debate related job calls.

VP D Cram– Panels at NCA.

Joe Gannt – President’s report is similar to VP report. Presented MOU with NCA earlier this semester. Will defer that commentary til discussion item to not bifurcate that discussion anymore.

Standing Committee Reports – Finance Committee – Was approved.

Professional Development and Support – Melissa Wade is recipient of DSRTKA Distinguished service award.

Edu development and practices – (nobody present)

Research – don’t get requests for grants. Ben voth reporting – for research and grants. Journal – all of metrics are up from past 3 years. On pace for 16k digital downloads this year in 2024. In 2023, 60% of published authors were women. Special Issue. Changes happening in online publishing world. We welcome more submissions. Will have a special issue from Jim Kuypers on social media in 2025. We have a call for African scholars in argument. Special issue Mitchell McKenny on Presidential Debates. Goodknight in convo w/ the journal on AI special issue.

Research Awards – No dissertation nominations. Winner for research award

From report “Daniel Rohrer Research award 2024 goes to:

Ed Hinck co-authored by Robert S. Hinck, Shelly S. Hinck, William O. Dailey. 24 article Inspired by 2002 A&A article And professor Kathryn Olson “Gender, politeness, and the 2020 Democratic primary debates” published in the Western Journal of Communication, volume 88, issue 2, co-authored by Robert S. Hinck, Shelly S. Hinck, William O. Dailey.”

Question from McVey about if diss awards also include MA theses… Possible, Ben will check in on it.

Nomination Committee – Something we need to form in the coming months. Question about this process - most from NST.

Morris - We were delayed beyond deadlines in this last cycle. We want to try to ensure for next cycle that we have it ready so the actual slate is approvable at this meeting. We got it there and had a solid slate by the time it was all done, but behind deadline on the last cycle.

Did not have a committee election last time on nominating committee bc only as many people interested as slots.

New Business - MOU from NCA regarding the affiliate relationship. One thing looking at the document and the specifics of it. From 2025 – 2029 NCA. Affiliates (not afa specific – affiliate wide) being reduced to 2 panel slots per affiliate. Currently we have 6, and have had 6 for the last year. 66% reduction. Checked in with other debate and forensics affiliates. They also had gotten the same MOU. Best guess is that the activity of forensics on general is now down probably around 50% of its slots at NCA moving forward.

Happy to have Alta Back – post from Ron in Chat -  ALTA conference is back on this summer at SNOWBIRD. July 31-AUG3. I wanted to share that with you and make the draft CFP available that is the first link above.

Link to conference call for ALTA here - <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/search?q=CFP-ALTA2025>

Is there a role for the AFA for creating conference slots for debate and forensics at ALTA.

Or maybe a forensics specific conference that would open the door to multiple.

Eric Morris - We can appeal for more slots – we should aggressively pursue more submissions, ask for slots, and see what happens.

Kathleen Edelmayer asks question - Is the reason more divisions? Space issue?

Joe – thinks its all of the above – new affinity groups, new caucuses, last year at planners meeting there was some significant dissension amongst some groups about lack of slots. They may have cut more than they needed to in order to make people happy down the road when they provide people with some extra slots down the road.

Ron (in Chat) suggests - If AFA members are not in the Argumentation and Forensics division of NCA we might encourage people to join the division as division number increase slots increase (at least that was the old system)

Adrienne (in chat) points out - Alta timing is somewhat prohibitive for a lot of debate coaches/grad students who work at debate institutes (literally why I've never attended Alta)

Kathleen – it’s surprising because it’s usually about numbers for interest groups, not sure why it wouldn’t be about it for affiliates. Now RCA (Religious comm) runs a separate conference. People just submit to NCA, and then they pick and choose, which ones slotted at NCA, which ones slotted at a preconference. People when they submitted committed to going to either one. AFA could maybe do something on the day before.

Ben – informal and erratic tradition of early summer developmental conferences between ie schools and debate schools. This could be one avenue for doing these things.

Joe - CEDA and topic committee tends to meet early in June. If there’s interest, could have a developmental conference for themes. Could also have room for business meetings. Maybe needs to be a reason to develop background between different formats.

Heidi – likes that idea, as the exploring of that idea – location becomes a question in terms of cost. Is there a host school for an event like that. Or the expenditure for a conference location may be outside. Or a virtual conference. NCA locks down a bunch of rooms which makes it hard to do a day before style conference. We are at 6 slots, when Heidi was there, was at 10 or 11, drop to two is even more difficult.

NST still does an in person meeting the day before – Wednesday – hybrid meeting. Convention spaces under NCA were looking for $800 for a day alone for a single meeting room. Ended up going offsite for $200.

Alex – hard to travel to multiple conferences.

Ermo - Could AFA host a nice room and do a few panel presentations there plus a business meeting.

Ron Green (in chat)- And other argumentation conferences have been populating the late MaY early June time (these are often every 2 or 4 years). Joining argumentation and forensics division – how many AFA members are not in the arg and forensics division to help solve the slot problem.. Worthwhile for decline in slots as to how much that affects the numbers going. If this conference doesn’t work they lose money.

Ermo - What kind of cost would AFA occur doing things like the 2021 developmental conference?

DCH thinks it’s minimal cost if hosted at a school during a lull period.

Joe thinks it would cost $10 a day to do it in Portland

John Katsulas says the biggest cost was the publication.

No immediate decision on this . Where our students and professionals can publish forensics related material. Still peer reviewed and refereed, with reasonable opportunity for acceptance at the same time.

Ron Green re-ups for ALTA. July 31st – August 3rd.

May be money for grad students.

Theme is on democracy

No other new business.