Worlds Universities Debating Council
Pre-Council Meeing
28 December, 2007

Meeting called to order 12:50

Chair	Welcome. Delegates please identify before commenting. Purpose of meeting: to address eligibility issues and and have an accurate roll of entrants
Roll Call	See Registrar's Report
Voting Status	
Croatia	Should be C
Registrar	No, demoted last year. Only one institution
Croatia	Had two: Zabreb and Zabreb Law
Registrar	Tab shows only one institution. Have any documentation?
Croatia	Will produce and check with Registrar.
N-1	
Chair	Hosts assure no institutions in violation of N-1
Speaker Review	
Chair	Any know of anyone in violation of Grandfather Clause
Taiwan	Is Taiwan acknowledged?
Chair	As first year attendant, will be given voting status next year. Welcome Taiwan.
Chair	Back to Speaker Review. Anyone know of anyone in violation of Grandfather Clause? Competitors may only speak at Worlds 4 times. No violations noted.
EFL/ESL	
Chair	Introduced last year. ESL/EFL subcommittee will report at council. Thailand willing to run competition. EFL/ESL hard to determine; Chair and Registrar sat and checked enrollment.
Derek Lande	Worlds 29 not happy to run EFL unless a clear criteria produced and agreed to at Council.
Equity	Definition last year okay, but implimentation not good. Registration procedure on website for W28 flawed.
Chair	Not official policy
Art Ward	Didn't want to discuss now
Chair	We'll talk more about ESL/EFL tomorrow. Standard not yet clear, making the distinction for W28 not an easy process. Any other questions about ESL/EFL speakers for W28? Must know now how many ESL/EFL teams now to determine break.
Equity	EFL should be included in the ESL count per last year's decision at council.
Croatia	Do EFL teams qualify for ESL break?
Chair	That's what we're determining. Checking minutes from W27 Council.
Derek Lande	Last year, if registered for ESL couldn't register for EFL. EFL teams not included in ESL count.
Netherlands	Lars' site said would be included
IONA	Motion from last year says would be counted at Vancouver

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Derek Lande	Decision only applied to last year. Can determine what we want for this year
Asia	Opposition last year was due to the exclusion clause.
Equity	Page 15: motion for council to consider EFL as a subcategory of ESL. Therefore EFL should be included.
Australia	**Motion:** Council would permit the OrgComm to consider EFL a subcategory of ESL for the purpose of counting the number of ESL teams needed to advance to certain break rounds. Second: England.
Derek Lande	Issues over whether registaration excluded participation in ESL
England	Do we need to look at all issues re: the ESL/EFL break now?
Australia	Yes
Bangladesh	Main issues of ESL/EFL: nature of qualification. Can we come to a unified definition? Lack of clarity discourages participation.
Derek Lande	Motion not to allow EFL teams to break ESL teams. Purpose only to count the number of ESL teams needed for ESL break.
Asia	Would not really make EFL eligible. Artificial inflation. Participants still angry.
Australia	What's the current rule re: can EFL break to ESL elims?
Registrar	Current constitution doesn't provide for an EFL competition. W27 OrgComm wasn't intending to count EFL teams in ESL break. No defining documents.
Australia	Did developing countries forum reach a consensus re: break ESL/EFL?
England	Could we simply identify the number of break rounds for ESL?
Derek Lande	80 ESL teams is arbitrary anyway. Shouldn't penalize for changes to the rules. Just want to give more opporutnities to EFL teams.
Netherlands	Page 25 W27: Assumption must host an EFL championship per the terms defined for UBC.
Asia	Yes, EFL teams will count for ESL.
Chair	Agree.
Thailand	Do we need 80 ESL teams for a quarter?
Chair	Motion on the floor to count EFL in ESL count.
Australia	Though it's in the minutes, we should pass another motion to clarify for this year.
Chair	Lots of discussion; move to vote?
England	So moved

Motion Carries Unanimously.

Asia	So teams can break both EFL and ESL?
Registrar	Motion doesn't address can break both.
Asia	Need to see original standards.
Derek Lande	Shouldn't be allowed to break both ESL/EFL. Someone should advance a motion
Thailand	Page 16:
Netherlands	Page 16?
Registrar	Motion was defeated.
Australia	Should be eligible for both ESL and EFL, but may only break at one.

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Derek Lande	Motion: Teams who qualify for the ESL outrounds will not be eligible to participate in the EFL final. England Seconds
Registrar	What do we do with this?
Derek Lande	Just to clarify.
Chair	Only biinding for this year's competition.

Motion Carries Unanimously.

Ciarian Lawlor	Small issue re: eligibililty. To be eligible, must be enrolled in pursuit of a degree. One competitor has completed all but thesis, not currently enrolled. Could fail and have to re-enroll, so may still be considered a student, but isn't currently at the institution of study. Ciarian feels that this person is not eligible. Leaving it to council.
Israel	When was thesis submitted?
Ciarian Lawlor	Should be asked of the speaker.
Asia	have questions for the adjudication team. Will they stick around?
England	Has vested interest: his partner. He can be objective. England supports him. 3 problems: Constitution says must be actively practicing study (art. 22). Has never been implimented, usually overlooked by Council. 6 month rule applies. Patrick could indicate that he is still a student. Three breaking speakers have been allowed to participate. Council could change it, but that's the way it's been. Cannot change and apply retroactively. Need to decide first. Next, OrgComm was made aware upon registration; didn't object. Should have, if concerned. Also, Council should decide in ways to reflect laws of country: Patrick is a student under the law in England.
Bangladesh	Institutions and countries vary in considering studenthood. Onus on institution to recognize student. Defer to home institution authority.
Chair	Need to understand: in the past, we've been more strict, have university's registrar acknowledge. In this case, Patrick would be able to obtain a letter. Paper trail became unmanageable. Could go back to that system.
Art Ward	Having letters easy to fabricate. Need to have safeguards.
Europe	Article 22, Sec 3: have a right to prove you're a student.
Registrar	Article 22, Sec 3 pertains to debating clubs.
Europe	England can claim a right to recongize Patrick as eligible.
England	For now, we don't see how Patrick is different. Can we limit discussion to this issue?
Derek Lande	What has OrgComm decided so we can see what action we must take?
Rish	Simply bringing to the attention of Council.
England	Motion: Patrick should be judged eligible. Second: Canada
Australia	How does Article 22, Section 6 work? Says nation's rep should decide.
Registrar	Yes, says should be decided locally. All should consider in voting.
England	Patrick is eligible anyway. Giles (deputy) also agrees. Deference to England would produce same result.

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Derek Lande	This decision opens the floodgates. Opens whole question of who is a student. Could have had an issue with someone who was a student because they partially completed education, but hadn't yet finished. Maybe shouldn't discuss now, but will get to it at council.

Motion Carries Unanimously.

Chair	All must read minutes in anticipation of approval vote at Council.
Asia	Composite teams are being kicked out of tab?
Chair	As I understand, first time Worlds has gone over cap. 50 team waitlist after 400 allowed to register. Has been ongoing discussion re: who can compete. Article 23 clearly says no composite teams allowed. Only reason allowed to participate in the past was because we were under cap. Given that cap now breached, had to exclude non-breaking teams.
Asia	What about composite teams the tab isn't aware of? What about accidental composite teams who are different than they registered? What should be done? Address with Chair? Pre-council?
Registrar	Composite teams may not register in advance, but now they've become composite teams. Now is the time to raise any issues. There have been composite teams in the past to make up the numbers--allowed flexibility to address illness, accident.
Derek Lande	Must address now. Will not be allowed to break anyway.
Australia	Why was team told only 2 weeks before competition?
Loke Wing Fatt	SAID was told on 14 Nov. Don't object, only want an explanation for why we weren't told earlier. Need an apology.
Rish	OrgComm is sorry; internal miscommunication.
Bangladesh	ESL/EFL Subcommittee report in anticipation of the main Council Meeting?
Chair	No, on agenda for Council meeting.
Chair	Need to close door on composite team issue
Registrar	Those with questions about eligibility should address now. Not inquisition, but if there are suspicions, we should address them.
Asia	If the space exists, why kick out? Realize that tournament is huge. Korean team told today they couldn't compete.
Logan	Donghu University speaker got sick, another Korean student filled in. Registration told them they could debate, then later told they couldn't. Want to be able to debate.
Rish	Had planned for 350 teams, have many more. To manage tab, if teams drop out no new teams allowed. Rather than allowing formation of composite teams will not allow new.
Logan	Should not change stance re: eligibility of specific teams immediately before the competition. The students were honest about their illness and change.
England	Honesty not the issue. Composite teams register with the recognition that they aren't eligible for the competition. Perhaps the team didn't realize they weren't due the right to compete. If accepting them worsens the experience for others, should not be allowed.

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USA	Were teams told they would be able to debate 2 weeks ago? What changed that now they can't debate.
Logan	Only told yesterday they couldn't compete
Rish	Who told them at Registration they would be allowed to compete?
Asia	Assumption should have told them. Everyone knew they were composite.
Derek Lande	Need to know who told them; may not have been authorized to allow them to compete.
Loke Wing Fatt	Competed at All-Asians. Weren't allowed to compete at Dublin, but told in plenty of time. You have invited SAID. Only 2 weeks not enough notice: reg fee, tickets, etc.
Croatia	What are we doing? Rules for WUDC henceforth?
England	Council's ruling not overridden by OrgComm. May want to make an exception on this issue. Composite teams know they're not formal teams--only allowed to participate if space/competition allows. Need to clarify what OrgComm's authority is. If the definition is clear, should enforce it.
Chair	Masters' Competition is at 2:00
Australia	Composites realize they can't break, but that they can be dropped from tab is not universally acknowledged. If teams have paid, should be allowed to compete. Timing should make these teams eligible. In future, should have deadlines.
Chair	Will Australia make a motion?
Australia	Do we have room? Have these composite teams already been replaced by other teams? Motion: teams not notified by first of December should be allowed to compete at this competition.
Hong Kong	Are we refusing all composite teams or just these?
Sam Greenland	What's the multiple of 4 status? Silly to add if it upsets the total.
England	Can we get the OrgComm to comment? Must have been excluded because we have a multiple of 4. How many teams are we talking about? Are we adding 40 teams? What are the costs of approving?
Ciarian Lawlor	We don't know re: multiple of 4. We'll add swing teams as necessary. CA's should be allowed discretion because it affects adjudication.
Loke Wing Fatt	Need an answer!
Ciarian Lawlor	Communicated with SAID about this very issue two years ago. Not new to them.
Equity	Tokyo Metro and Tokyo Women's Christian are a composite team. They have informed the OrgComm and haven't been kicked out so far.
Beth O'Conner	Can we know how many teams are affected by this? How many are under discussion right now? 3 so far?
Ciarian Lawlor	There are 396 teams enrolled, but some may be kicked out. That's with SAID excluded.
England	OrgComm not sure how many swing teams it will need?
Ciarian Lawlor	Not more than 3. Composite different than Swing
Beth O'Conner	Could use as dummy, but don't want Swing teams and dummies.

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Asia	Problem is not the Adjudication team's fault, OrgComm fault. That said, AdjCore should not have final authority.
Ciarian Lawlor	Talking about different issues: Registrants excluded and now composite teams formed.
England	Not just about newly-formed teams. One option: if dummy teams required, could we allow composite teams?
Derek Lande	Confusing two issues: OrgComm should have discretion to allow teams to reform as composites. SAID a different issue: were told too late.
Japan	Japan's team wasn't told of anything other than regular status (for a composite team).
Australia	Proposal: if 396 teams, then apologize to SAID. If a team drops out, then accommodate. Late notified teams should be allowed to compete.
Croatia	Not good for OrgComm to notify late. Constitution clear that Composite teams may not pre-register.
England	We're not talking about teams who are reforming. Should restrict discussion to composite teams who have registered. Have composite teams registered early in the past?
Loke Wing Fatt	Have participated in the past, never had this problem.
Art Ward	Not true, at Dublin were told you couldn't register.
Ciarian Lawlor	Have misled OrgComm at UBC, but shouldn't be allowed to now.
South Africa	Need to react to situation of telling teams late.
Ciarian Lawlor	This means there will be 99 rooms and need 99 Chairs. Don't have all we need now. All teams added to competition reduce the quality of competition for all.
Jamaica	Cannot ignore constitution. Can we ask the AdjCore to clarify the issue? Council must protect the integrity of Worlds. If they were invited, they should compete.
Asia	Should not characterize as "duping" anyone. OrgComm has looked beyond rules in the past. That sets a different precedent.
Registrar	Constitution clear: composite teams may not register in advance. Don't decide fair/not, but should Council bind the AdjCore's decision? Airing grievances not purpose of this discussion. Someone should propose a course of action.
Derek Lande	SAID being treated unfairly. UBC knew they were a composite team. "In advance" does not prohibit a composite team from registering. 2 weeks before the competition is too late. They committed resources, should be allowed to compete.
Beth O'Conner	OrgComm may not have known SAID is a composite team.
Asia	All Asia knows SAID is composite
Beth O'Conner	People have been excluded because composite teams registered. What else does "in advance" mean if not "before tournament". Should not exclude legitimate teams.
Australia	Shoud maintain a respectful tone. Quality of judging: we're under 400 teams, no new teams coming. Too late to say "can't find judges."
Beth O'Conner	Would be another team to take SAID's place.

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Australia	Re: the constitution, there are other issues where we have a liberal interpretation of the constitution. In the past, others were allowed to compete.
Equity	Japanese team understood they were accepted.
England	If OrgComm says team can come, should not hold team accountable for verifying per constitution. If we've allowed in the past, should allow now. Will OrgComm refund flights, reg if they're disallowed?
Asia	When was AdjCore made aware of issue? Seems like an OrgComm error.
Beth O'Conner	About a week ago.
Chair	Circulated an interpretation of the constitution re: composite teams, didn't hear back. Assumed that OrgComm would act. I then heard from East/West that SAID is still competing.
Art Ward	Need to do something about this.
Chair	SAID will withdraw team from competition.
Loke Wing Fatt	Withdraws under protest. Not happy with comments from Ciarian Lawlor.
Hong Kong	Shouldn't overrule, but reocmmend that the AdjCore take this into consideration.
Ciarian Lawlor	Would affect the competition. May be willing to accommodate if the numbers warrant. Ask for flexibility: do not yet know what situation is.
England	Can we refund for these teams?
Ravi	Can refund Rego fees for SAID.
Asia	Must address for Korean and Japanese team.
Logan	Dongduk U lost a speaker due to illness, formed a composite at registration. Were told today they couldn't compete. Informed OrgComm at registration.
England	Not talking about last-minute reformed teams. What about Japanese team?
Japan	Told OrgComm they were a composite team.
England	If they haven't been dropped, it's not an issue.
Chair	Can move on, then.
Ciarian Lawlor	But we don't know exactly the number of teams: may have an uneven number.
England	If the registered as a composite team, and they weren't excluded, then we should allow them to compete.
Registrar	Realize that you have empowered the AdjCore to make decisions. Be careful about making precedent.
Beth O'Conner	OrgComm knows nothing about Japanese team.
Art Ward	Can't know final number of registered teams.
Australia	Can Japanese contingent talk with OrgComm?
Chair	Whle we're waiting, will recognize Israel
Israel	Were told 2 weeks ago that all participants requiring Kosher food would have to pay extra $200. This is unacceptable. Constitution says must provide for food requirements.

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Registrar	Article 10 addresses when participants should be informed about costs.
IONA	What says the Code of Conduct re: late assessment of fees.
England	Regardless of Constitution, unacceptable to make special requirements pay more.
Chair	Delegate from Israel wanted simply to voice concern. Not much Council can do about this now.
England	Is Israel getting Kosher food?
Israel	No
Chair	In the past, if no Kosher food provided they had to eat vegetarian food. Not optimal.
Ciarian Lawlor	3 people handling email, spoke with one. They didn't know anything about Japanese composite team.
England	Can we phrase a hypothetical re: permission of Japanese composite team to participate?
Ireland	If people were told they could compete, they should be allowed.
Japan	What if more teams declare or are accused of being composite?
Hong Kong	No difference between Japan and SAID. We either give the OrgComm the flexibility to decide or direct them.
Malaysia	If the team's payment has been accepted, then they have a right to compete.
England	**Motion:** Re: teams that have registered in advance and have told OrgComm that they were composite should now be allowed to compete as non-breaking teams. Second: Ireland
Registrar	Would permit SAID to compete.
England	Yes, if they can prove they were told they would be allowed to compete as a composite team.
Equity	Tokyo Christian University uses school email account and may not be able to prove they alerted OrgComm to composite status.
England	Amendment? Maybe should be required to prove status.
Derek Lande	Maybe reverse? Prohibit these teams?
Beth O'Conner Australia	There must be an email that confirms Tokyo's registration.
	Less teams not a reason to prohibit. Need to have procedural clarity.

Motion Carries Unanimously.

Chair	Lunch waiting, Masters waiting. Please read minutes. Delegates from Botswana, Koc, Singapore here with documents to hand out. Not allowed to speak to Pre-Council.
Kiley	Understood that SAID were not registered students
SAID	One speaker registered at SMU. Partner not registered.
England	Motion doesn't affect SAID: they're not both studens.
Chair	True.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.