

# EC Minutes for Sunday, January 30th, 2022

**Present: Kimberley Falco, Tasha Jones, Davy Holmes, Robert Shepard, Preston Stolte, Lillian Adeyemi, Nathaniel Council, Aaron Timmons, Kelsey Vincent, Brain Alford, Rory Mckenzie, Stef Cambre, Ryan Hennessey, Nicole Cornish, Noah Recker.**

## **Start 1:02**

- I. Welcome
- II. Special Guest
  - A. TFA State Host- Salena Pereida and Madison O'Brien briefed the EC. Items discussed included the total number of tables needed for our larger rooms, room counts, GP's ruling on mask mandates, sanitation stations, event backdrop, and school fee. Aaron Timmons asks if the district will issue a letter saying they will allow TFA to mandate masks. O'Brien says yes.
- III. New Business
  - A. What will cause us to go virtual? Ryan Hennessey and Kim Falco point to the Jan. 13th vote to stay in person as long as state and local guidelines allow for it. Rory McKenzie asks if a hybrid option would be available. Preston offers UT as an example for the tech infrastructure that is needed to accommodate a hybrid situation. He also mentions the specific permissions and additional fees required to accommodate hybrid on tabroom. Aaron Timmons points to the Flower Mound tournament as a bad example of how to handle the state tournament. Ryan Hennessey mentions that the school district closed because of lack of subs. Aaron Timmons asks if we have liability insurance. Robert Shepard points to the politics of deciding school closure and directs the group back to the discussions at retreat about growth of the organization. Robert Shepard points to the lack of available curriculum, areas where participation is diminishing, and speech being a required course. Robert Shepard lets the group know that insurance is good to go, but he needs to discuss the total fee with Lillian Adeyemi first. Nathaniel Council asks what options are being proposed. Ryan Hennessey points out that in Region 4 there have not been large outbreaks. Rory McKenzie points to the inevitable of there being some cases of covid. Preston Stolte mentions the small likelihood of TFA getting sued because of the precautions being taken. Aaron Timmons mentions the need to talk to professionals about this issue. Ryan Hennessey fleshes out both sides of the issue. Noah Recker checks on the date of the survey, it was the first week of school being back. Lillian Adeyemi points out that we were at 8% who wanted virtual. Preston Stolte offers the suggestion of waiting until the next report from Texas A&M University CC Epistemologist report to decide if we will go virtual and this would allow time to do another survey. Lillian Adeyemi brings us back to the original question of what will cause us to go virtual. Davy Holmes asks about the prospects of being short on judges and Preston says we can not move forward until an official decision is made.

# EC Minutes for Sunday, January 30th, 2022

## IV. Special Guest

A. TFA State Coordinator- Joe Uhler's hotel list is updated as of last week and he has noticed that some schools have been reluctant to book pending the EC vote. There have been 3 responses from colleges and universities interested in recruiting students for their programs. Uhler is still accepting leads on college and university programs who may be interested in setting up a table at TFA State. Kim Falco asks if the cost of balloons ect. are a cost the EC pays or the host school. Lillian Adeyemi and Joe Uhler mention that it is a bit of both. Decorations are coming from host school, but balloons are a special 50th anniversary item.

## V. New Business Continued

A. In person protocol- Lillian Adeyemi suggests we move to mandating masks. The group discusses how to handle schools or competitors who refuse to wear masks. Noah Recker asks what the stance will be in regards to masks while speaking. Preston Stolte points to the CDC which states 'being unmasked for 15 minutes or more'. Robert Shepard brings up the particles in the air that differ based on events. Kimberley Falco suggests the wording be 'masks can be worn while performing'. Stef Cambra points to the disadvantage of performing interp rounds with masks on. Ryan Hennessey clarifies that a student can step out during an IE round if they are not comfortable with a performer not wearing their mask. Aaron Timmons questions how spectating rounds will be handled. Lillian Adeyemi suggests allowing a certain number of guests in finals and socially distancing the room. Noah Recker motions to reconsider the decision to move to a virtual tournament. Rory McKenzie seconds the motion. Aaron Timmons asks for the best arguments for hosting in person. Kimberley Falco points to the survey results which indicate that over 90% of coaches want to have TFA State in person. Nathaniel Council speaks to the number of students who will back out if the tournament goes virtual. Ryan Hennessey speaks to the Region 4 tournaments that have been held in person and the decisions made by the coaches, students, parents, and superintendents to still attend those tournaments. All in favor of the reconsideration: Rory McKenzie, Noah Recker, Preston Stolte, Lillian Adeyemi, Tasha Jones. All opposed: Kim Falco, Davy Holmes, Ryan Hennessey, Nathaniel Council. Motion passes. Davy Holmes asks how many times TFA has been sued and what the outcomes of those lawsuits were. Robert Shepard and Aaron Timmons say there have been 3 times. Davy Holmes clarifies that all were dropped. Preston Stolte mentions not wanting to make decisions in the rush of an EC meeting. Tasha Jones asks for a lawyer to be present to answer the unanswerable questions. Lillian Adeyemi is working to get a meeting option this coming week with a lawyer. Nathaniel Council moves to previous question. There is no second. Preston Stolte motions to table the motion until a rescheduled meeting this week. Tasha Jones seconds. All in favor: Noah Recker, Kim Falco, Ryan Hennessey, Preston

# EC Minutes for Sunday, January 30th, 2022

- Stole, Nathaniel Council, Rory McKenzie, Davy Holmes, Lillian Adeyemi, Tasha Jones. Motion passes. Noah Recker suggests we send in questions for the lawyer.
- B. TFA State Tab Staff- Aaron Timmons suggests not cutting the tab staff down to EC members only.
  - C. TFA State Tournament Schedule- Aaron Timmons asks if the schedule can still be changed to prevent debaters from having so many rounds on Saturday. Lillian Adeyemi is working on adjusting the schedule.

Noah Recker motions to adjourn. Rory McKenzie seconds. All in favor: unanimous.

**Ending: 3:35**