

S20-5 Motion to Formalise Commitments of the Union Debating Society (UDS) Board of Ten to the Competitive Functions of the UDS

Owner: Toni Valencia

In Effect From: Immediately

Review Date: February 25, 2020

Proposer

Toni Valencia – SSC Debates Officer

Seconders

Markus Lee - SSC Societies Officer

Gavin Sandford - SSC Member without Portfolio

Shaina Sullivan - DoSDA

It is noted that:

1. The Union Debating Society sends teams to competitions across the UK almost every weekend.
2. The UDS commits to sending every new debater to at least one competition a semester with a more experienced debater.
3. Almost all competitions in the UK have an n-1 judge requirement where you must send a judge for every team you send past the first team.

It is believed that:

1. The current and former Intervarsity Secretaries have had difficulty in recruiting people to judge at or train with novices at local competitions.
2. This places a particular time and financial burden on the Intervarsity Secretary and some other members of the Board of Ten as they have to fill those spots themselves throughout the semester.
3. This was previously not an issue as members of the Board of Ten informally chose to attend competitions.
4. The members of the Board of Ten are often the most experienced speakers and judges, given they have commitments to attend training and have often attended debating competitions in the past.
5. Requiring members of the Board of Ten to commit one judge spot or speaker spot in the semester would make it easier to send teams with novices to competitions.
6. The current bursary scheme should support any member of the Board of Ten who cannot meet this obligation due to financial restraints.

It is resolved to:

1. Add the following to Chapter 14 Section 3 of the Laws of the Association as item 3.3:

3.3. Every member of the Board of Ten (voting or non-voting) shall be required to speak or judge at at least one competition a semester. Some exceptions may be made for exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the Intervarsity Secretary.