

CONSTITUTION OF THE CENTRAL DEBATING LEAGUE.

Article I. - Name.

Section 1. This organization shall be known as the Central Debating League and shall consist of the following Universities: The University of Michigan, Northwestern University and the University of Chicago.

Article II. - Object.

Section 1. It shall be the object of this League to foster an interest in debating by holding annual contests as herein provided for.

Article III. - Officers.

Sec. 1. Each University of the League shall create a Debating Board the majority of whom shall be members of the faculty.

Sec. 2. A Graduate Council of three members shall be constituted as follows: Each university of the League shall elect one alumnus residing in Chicago to sit in this Council.

Article IV. - Duties of Officers.

Sec. 1. Each Debating Board shall have general supervision of local debating matters, shall pass upon the eligibility of debaters, shall name the university's member of the Graduate Council, and shall cooperate with the Graduate Council in selecting questions and judges, as provided for in Articles V and VI, respectively.

Sec. 2. The Graduate Council shall decide all cases of appeal,

Section 1. The purpose of this act is to provide for the

establishment of a permanent commission on the

subject of the administration of the courts.

Section 2. The commission shall be composed of

seven members, to be appointed by the governor.

Section 3. The commission shall hold its first

meeting on the first day of January, 1911.

Section 4. The commission shall have the honor

of the rank and precedence of the cabinet.

Section 5. The commission shall have the right

to call upon any department of the state

for information and assistance.

Section 6. The commission shall submit its

report to the governor on or before the

first day of January, 1912.

Section 7. The commission shall have the

privilege of access to all records and

papers of the courts.

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Section 9. The commission shall have the

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Section 10. The commission shall have the

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shall select the questions for debate, according to Art. V, and shall submit a list of judges as provided for in Art. VI, Sec. 3.

Article V. - Selection of Question.

Sec. 1. Each Debating Board shall submit to the Graduate Council, not later than May 15, one question properly stated for debate. The Council, by June 1, shall submit these questions to the universities who shall designate their choice by percentage on the scale of 100, marking no question lower than 90%; and shall also rank them 1, 2, 3, in the order of their preference. This vote shall be sent to the Graduate Council by June 10, and shall remain sealed until Sept. ~~20~~¹. The Council shall then determine the choice of question as follows:

- (1) If any question be marked first by two of the universities it shall be the choice;
- (2) If no choice is made by the first method that question shall be chosen the sum of whose ranks is lowest;
- (3) If no choice is made by either the first or second method that question shall be chosen whose total percentage is highest.

The Graduate Council shall report the decision to the officers in charge of debating at each university, by Sept. ~~20~~¹, but it shall not be made public until Sept. 25.

Article VI. - Judges.

Sec. 1. Three judges shall be secured by the Debating Board of the university at which the debate is to be held at least one month before the contest.

Sec. 2. Each Debating Board shall submit to the Graduate Council not later than May 15, the names of twenty persons whom they

shall select the questions for debate, according to Art. V, and shall submit a list of judges as provided for in Art. VI, Sec. 2.

Article V - Selection of Questions.

Sec. 1. Each Debating Board shall submit to the Graduate Council, not later than May 15, one question previously stated in debate. The Council, by June 1, shall submit those questions to the university and shall designate a body of judges to hear the debate. The number of judges shall be determined by the Council, but shall not be less than 100, nor more than 200; and shall also

be composed of members of the university, and shall be chosen by the Council. The Council shall also designate a body of judges to hear the debate. The number of judges shall be determined by the Council, but shall not be less than 100, nor more than 200; and shall also

(1) If any question be marked first by two of the university judges, it shall be the choice of the university.
(2) If no choice is made by the first marked question, the choice shall be made by the second marked question.
(3) If no choice is made by either the first or second marked question, the choice shall be made by the third marked question.
The Graduate Council shall report the decision to the university.

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Article VI - Judges.

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Sec. 2. Each Debating Board shall submit to the Graduate Council, not later than May 15, the names of twenty persons who they

consider eligible to act as judges.

Sec. 3. The Graduate Council shall by June 1 send a full list of nominations for judges to the several Debating Boards. Three Boards shall check off such as are considered undesirable and shall return the names to the Graduate Council by June 10^o. From the list not objected to the Council shall select and report to the several Boards, by Sept. ~~20~~¹, eight nominations for each debate from whom three judges shall be chosen.

Sec. 4. No resident of the State of Michigan or Illinois, no relative of any contestant; no alumnus of any university participating; and no person who holds or ever has held any official relation with any of the contesting universities, shall be eligible for appointment as judge. A copy of this section shall be sent to each person who is invited to serve as judge.

Sec. 5. Judges may be removed upon protest of any university in the League, provided that such protest be made in writing to the Graduate Council at least three weeks before the contest. Otherwise the appointment shall stand.

Article VII. - Contestants.

Sec. 1. Each University shall send to a contest in which it participates three representatives.

Sec. 2. Any student who is regularly enrolled in one of the universities of the League for at least twelve (12) hours of recitation or lectures per week, may enter two contests but never twice against the same university.

Article VIII. - Contests.

Sec. 1. There shall be Three annual contests in the League, on

consider eligible as set out herein.

Sec. 2. The Graduate Council shall by June 1 send a full list of nominations for judges to the several District Boards. These

Boards shall check off each as are considered undesirable and shall return the names to the Graduate Council by June 15. From the list not objected to the Council shall select and report to the several District Boards. The District Boards for each District shall from whom three judges shall be chosen.

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Article VIII. - Contests.

Sec. 1. There shall be three annual contests in the League, on

the same evening - one at each university. These contests shall occur on the third Friday in January, beginning in 1907.

Sec. 2. The same question shall be used in all three of the contests. The visiting teams shall take the negative side of the question.

Sec. 3. In 1907 the contests shall be:-

Michigan vs. Chicago at Ann Arbor.

Chicago vs. Northwestern at Chicago.

Northwestern vs. Michigan at Evanston.

In 1908 the contests shall be :-

Michigan vs. Northwestern at Ann Arbor.

Chicago vs. Michigan at Chicago.

Northwestern vs. Chicago at Evanston.

Sec. 4. Each debater shall have seventeen minutes; twelve minutes for his opening speech and five minutes for rebuttal. The first speech in rebuttal shall be made by the negative.

Sec. 5. At the close of a contest each judge, without consultation with his associates, shall hand to the presiding officer his vote on the debate, duly signed and sealed. Each judge is to decide for himself what constitutes effective debating.

The presiding officer shall thereupon immediately open the envelopes containing the judges' votes, and shall declare that side the winner which is found to have received a majority of the votes.

Article IX. - Expenses.

Sec. 1. The University at which a debate is held, shall make full arrangements therefor; shall pay the expenses of the judges; shall procure the presiding officer and pay his expenses; and shall pay all other local expenses of holding the debate.

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The Union

My dear D

Dec. 5th, 1901.

Revalis

My dear Mr. Angell:-

I am much obliged to you for your kind note. I learned after writing you of the arrangement at the Club which had already been made for the evening of December thirteenth. I am sure that we can avoid such conflicts in the future.

Thanking you for your courtesy, I remain

Yours very truly,

Dec. 24th, 1901.

My dear Mr. Angell:-

I am much obliged to you for your kind note. I

learned after writing you of the arrangement at the Club which had
already been made for the evening of December thirteenth. I am sure
that we can avoid such conflicts in the future.

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Yours very truly,

University of

President of the

that

to

The University of Chicago

Prof. James Thompson

Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst.

and in reply to inform you that

the same has been forwarded to the

proper authorities for their consideration.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Yours, etc.

J. H. Thompson

James H. Thompson

Chicago

Dec.2d, 1901.

My dear Mr. Angell:-

I am writing to suggest that unless it is too late, and unless there is something of a special character on hand, we try to keep the evening of Friday, December thirteenth, free for the Annual University Debate. I have thought that perhaps you might be willing to keep the evening clear at the Quadrangle Club in order that we might concentrate the interest of the University on this particular evening. The Debate henceforth is to be an annual event, and there seems to be every reason why, from the University point of view, the members of the staff should unite to make it a strong and important occasion.

Sincerely hoping that we may have your co-operation in this matter, I remain

Yours very truly,

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Sincerely hoping that we may have your co-operation in this

matter, I remain

Yours very truly,

Debate

January 23rd, 1904.

My dear Mr. Chandler:-

I am writing to congratulate you and the debators in spite of the fact that we did not gain the victory. I shall be very glad to cooperate with you in doing something to show our appreciation of the men. Perhaps we can have a luncheon or a little dinner sometime. I have written a letter to the debators. I wish to say to you how greatly we appreciate the spirit you have instilled into these men.

Yours very truly,

W. R. Harper

WRH

January 23rd, 1904.

De Jolly

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Yours very truly,

W. R. Harper

WRH

The Quadrangle Club

CHICAGO

January 26, 1904.

My dear President Harper:—

I thank you more than I can tell for your very kind note of appreciation in connection with the debate. The cordial sympathy which you have given me ever since I came here, makes work a high privilege even when the immediate results of it are disappointing. I can only regret that I have not more to show: fewer defeats, more victories. At the same time I feel an advance has been made. Every year I think I can see that the students of the University are supporting debating more strongly. There are more men too actively at work at debating now and the general standard of speaking among these men is higher than it was two years ago. I can only keep working, wait patiently, and hope that in time this advance will be more conspicuously manifest and will bring us a larger share of victories in intercollegiate debates.

The Quadrangle Club

CHICAGO

While I thank you for myself I cannot omit to say that the men on the team appreciate your kind words to them very warmly. Your suggestion of a luncheon or a dinner is a very thoughtful one. I know that the men would be greatly pleased if we could carry it out. But whether or not that is done, I want to say that we are all warmly grateful for the encouragement you have given us already, and shall look forward to the next campaign with rekindled devotion to the University.

Yours very sincerely,
Henry Porter Chandler

CHICAGO

The Quadrangle Club

While I think you for myself cannot count to say that
the men on the team of the Quadrangle Club is new at
very young. You are a good deal of a member on a division
is a very thoughtful one. I know that the men would be
greatly pleased if we could count on it. But what is the
that is done, I want to say that we are all very glad to
help for the Quadrangle Club. I am sure you will be
and shall look forward to the next campaign with
kindled devotion to the University.

Yours very sincerely

William Brewster

William Brewster

Question

Resolved, that a system
National Bank-notes
upon the general
our National B
erable to
tional
upon

Debates

①

June 21st, 1904.

Mr. E. H. Trousdale,
Grundy Center, Iowa.

Dear Sir:-

The question of the arbitration of the labor
disputes has never been discussed in an intercollegiate debate
at this University. The question of the *"Open Shop"*, however
was debated between Chicago and Northwestern last winter. I
think that by writing to Mr. J. S. Barnes, Northwestern Uni-
versity, Evanston, Illinois you could obtain the verbatim copy
of the debate. The price is one dollar I think.

Yours truly,

H. P. Chandler
Secretary to the President

Question

Resolved, that the system of National Bank-notes based upon the greater assets of our National Banks is preferable to a system of National Bank-notes based upon government bonds.

Cornell Debating League
Miltonian-Adelphian
Debate

Adelphian Team

R. J. SMALLEY
E. D. GOODELL
J. A. STINSON

~~Mount Vernon, Va.~~

Grundy Center, Ia. 6/20/04

Pres. Wm. Harper
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir-

(4)

Has the following question or a labor question similar to it been debated in your school, within the last few years? Resolved, that the adjudication of disputes between employers & employees should be made a part of the administration of justice. If this or any labor question has been debated, would you please inform me. Also state if the debates are in book form for sale & the price of same.

Respectfully

E. H. Trousdale.

Edelman Cam
IS A SMALLLY
E D GOODWILL
L A STINSON

Cornell Debating League

Miltonian - A delphian
Debate

Question
Resolved, that a system of
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and the Graduate Schools. But, whatever plan is followed,
you may be fairly certain that the preliminary trials will
occur about the first of November.

Through Mr. Sulcer I sent you the question, but
I repeat it in case it did not reach you: "Resolved, that
July 30, 1904.

Mr. Charles C. Parsons,
Norris, Montana.

My dear Mr. Parsons:-

Debate

I cannot tell you definitely
just how trials for the debating team will be conducted
this year, because in my opinion the plan which has been
followed heretofore has not worked very well, and I am in
favor of a change. But I shall no longer have charge
of the debating. My successor has not been appointed,
and so details for the coming year have not been arranged.

In the past, however, there have been separate
trials for the Junior College candidates, Senior College
candidates, and candidates from the Law, Graduate, and
Divinity Schools. What I favor is gathering these four
or five sets together into just two groups,- the Colleges
and the Graduate Schools. But, whatever plan is followed,
you may be fairly certain that the preliminary trials will
occur about the first of November.

Through Mr. Sulcer I sent you the question, but
I repeat it in case it did not reach you: "Resolved, that
the United States should continue its present policy of
opposing the combination of railroads."

I am very glad you are thinking of trying for the

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My dear Mr. Parsons:-

Norris, Montana.

Mr. Charles C. Parsons,

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CHARLES C. PARSONS
NORRIS, MONTANA
JULY 30, 1904

I L
OCCONL
Montana
MONTANA
CHAS. C. P.
ROSEN

C. C. P. #2.

team. The inquiries I have received promise greater interest and more spirited competition this year than heretofore.

Yours very truly,

A REVENUE
NORRIS.
PARSONS, PRESIDENT.
C. KNOX, GENERAL MANAGER.

Mr. Ch

C. C. P. #2.

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before.

Yours very truly,

from.
G. C. B.
MONTANA
A REVENUE GOLD MINING CO.

NORRIS, MONTANA.

PARSONS, PRESIDENT.
C. KNOX, GENERAL MANAGER

421
July 26, 1904.

Mr. Chandler,

The University of Chicago,

Chicago.

My dear Mr. Chandler:

If it is not too much trouble,
would you please let me know the way in which trials for the
debating team are conducted. Also, let me know the date
of the first of the preliminary trials.

Yours very sincerely,

Charles C. Parsons.

~~Handwritten signature~~
Answered
Henry P. Chandler.
Secretary to the President.
JUL 30 1904

THE MONTANA REVENUE GOLD MINING CO.

NORRIS, MONTANA.

CHARLES C. NORRIS, PRESIDENT.
ROBERT W. BROWN, GENERAL MANAGER.

July 26, 1904.

Mr. Chandler,

The University of Chicago,

Chicago.

My dear Mr. Chandler:

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If it is not too much trouble,

Yours very sincerely,

Charles C. Norris

Debate

March 16, 1916.

Henry P. Judson,

Dear Sir:

Realizing no doubt that you are busy with affairs of your own, we nevertheless address this inquiry to you with the hope that you will not consider it an imposition on our part.

We are debating at the present time the question Resolved That further immigration to the U.S. should be restricted by an educational test. What we would like to know is whether or not this question can be interpreted to mean that said test may be applied after the immigrant is a resident here, say for five years, during which time the immigrant is given ample educational opportunities, or does the question demand that said test be applied at port of entry.

In case both interpretations can be made, may we ask what is your personal opinion with regard to the merits or demerits of the respectful scheme. Just a short pertinent reply will be appreciated.

And again, when we speak of the educational test in this country, do not we mean the literacy test?

Thanking you in advance for these favors,

I remain

Arthur Palmer

North-Western College,

Naperville,

Ill.

March 16, 1916

Henry F. Johnson,

Dear Sir:

Resisting no doubt that you are busy with affairs of your own, we nevertheless address this inquiry to you with the hope that you will not consider it an imposition on our part.

We are debating at the present time the question resolved that further restriction to the U.S. should be restricted by an educational test. That we would like to know is whether or not this question can be interpreted to mean that said test may be applied after the instant is a resident here, say for five years, before which time the instant is given equal educational opportunities. Or does the question demand that said test be applied at point of entry.

In case both interpretations can be maintained we ask that in your personal opinion with regard to the merits or demerits of the respective schemes. Just a short pertinent reply will be appreciated.

And again, when we speak of the educational test in this country, do not we mean the literacy test? Thanking you in advance for these favors,

I remain

W. H. Johnson

North-Western College,
Knoxville,
Tenn.

Chicago, March 21, 1916

Dear Sir:-

Your note of the 16th inst. is received. May I say that in my opinion the exact interpretation of your question ought to be decided by those concerned in the debate in advance of the debate itself, and not left to the interpretation of others? So far as opinions on the various schemes are concerned, I am always inclined to point out to young men engaging in debates that debates should be settled on the merits of the question, and not on the weight of those who may think one way or the other about it.

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Mr. Arthur Talman,
Naperville, Illinois.

Chicago, March 21, 1916

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Mr. Arthur Taiman,
Naperville, Illinois.

Debating

The University of Chicago
The Colleges of Arts, Literature, and Science

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

November 6, 1924

Vice-President James H. Tufts
Harper Library

Dear Dr. Tufts:

It has been customary in recent years to appoint a debating coach at a salary of \$400 a year (the charge being to an account called "Education, Administration, General Expense") and to award scholarships for members of debating teams to a total value of \$1125 a year.

The debating has been of a very dour and formal type, its main expression being a triangular debate, one of our teams meeting Michigan, while the other met Northwestern.

These plans have been working very badly. I have found notes by Mr. Robertson indicating his opinion that such debating might well be discontinued; and my own observation last year led me to the same conclusion.

Membership in the debating teams has been sought in some cases more for the sake of the financial reward than for the interest and honor of the activity; and failure to make the team has brought upon the coach charges of injustice due primarily, in my opinion, to financial disappointment.

Members of the team have been chiefly Jews. The audience at the joint debate here last year was small and predominantly Jewish.

I have talked the situation over with Mr. Nelson and with a number of other men, faculty and students, who are concerned in the development of debating as a real interest here, and have found that there is general agreement to this effect: (1) that the present formal type of debating should be abandoned in favor of experimentation designed to develop a greater readiness in speaking of a more extempore character, and on the part of a much larger number of students; and (2) that the awarding of scholarships to members of the debating team should immediately cease.

I have communicated with Michigan and Northwestern, and find that they are willing to release us from the debating agreement.

In view of these suggestions, I recommend the appointment of Mr. Harold Lasswell as director of debating for the present year, with a salary of \$400, on the understanding that he will carry on experiments along the lines suggested above. Mr. Lasswell is well qualified by experience and interest to do this work; and the suggestion of his appointment has the hearty approval of Mr. Nelson. Mr. Lasswell has agreed to serve if appointed. Last year's coach, Mr. Montgomery, would not serve this year in any case.

The University of Chicago

The College of Arts, Literature, and Science

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

November 8, 1934

Vice-President James H. Tufts

Harper Library

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11/6/24

I recommend also that the awarding of scholarships to debaters be discontinued for the present year at least. There appears to be no satisfactory reason why we should give financial reward for this activity, when we do not give such financial reward for other activities of equal importance and much greater interest to the student body. This year, in any case, there will presumably be no regular debating teams. Mr. Plimpton feels that we are perfectly free to discontinue the scholarships, as no student has been given any basis for expectation that he would receive such a scholarship. Such discontinuance of scholarships would save the University \$1125 this year.

Very truly yours,

Ernest H. Williams

Dean of the Colleges

EHW/ES

11/8/24

Vice-President James E. Tullis--Page 2

I recommend also that the awarding of scholarships to debaters be discontinued for the present year at least. There appears to be no satisfactory reason why we should give financial reward for this activity, when we do not give such financial reward for other activities of equal importance and much greater interest to the student body. This year, in any case, there will presumably be no regular debating teams. Mr. Ellinger feels that we are perfectly free to discontinue the scholarships, as no student has been given any basis for expectation that he would receive such a scholarship. Such discontinuance of scholarships would save the University \$125 this year.

Very truly yours,

Ernest H. Williams

Dean of the College

EW/ER

December 3, 1924

Mr. Harold D. Lasswell,
Faculty Exchange

Dear Mr. Lasswell:

At the meeting this morning of the Committee of Expenditures, I was authorized to arrange with you to carry out the experiment in debating, concerning which you have had a conference with Dean Wilkins and myself.

The Committee voted to appropriate \$400 to cover your work with the team in preparation for the Oxford Debate and such further work during the year as would be proper for the remainder of the same.

I had thought in a general way that about \$100 might be considered as appropriate for the work with the team for the Oxford Debate, leaving \$300 for the work for the rest of the year. If this meets your approval, please let me know and confer with Dean Wilkins as to details.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Tufts

JHT:H

Debate's

The University of Chicago
Department of Political Science

debating
team

4 December 1924

My Dear Mr. Tufts,

I am quite willing
to proceed upon the basis indicated
in your note of December 3rd, and
I will communicate with Dean
Wilkins immediately.

Sincerely yours,
Harold D. Lasswell

4 December 1914

My dear Mr. Tappan,

I am quite willing
to practice upon the basis indicated
in your note of December 3rd, and
I will communicate with Dean
Tappan immediately.

Sincerely yours,
Harold D. Lasswell