

NET-OLÉ Rules Committee Meeting Agenda

April 5, 2012

1. Call to order.

2. Approval of Minutes.

3. Old Business

1. Financial Report by Eduardo Mendoza, Treasurer.
2. 2012 Competition Reports: Maryna Svirska-Otero & Zisca Florent

4. New Business

1. Registrations sent late or not sent at all do not allow for appropriate planning.
2. Number of places reserved versus how many kids actually show up for competition. Some of the consequences if this are: delayed events, missing judges.
3. Alison Hayter, North Lamar ISD, would like to address advantaged students competing in lower categories. Question: Does it state in the rules that advantaged students must be Hispanic? Casey Gunnels, Bland ISD, suggested eliminating the Advantaged category altogether, saying it is “a gray area” and presenting problems for judges in determining if a student should be advantaged or bilingual. Suggestion: Changing the name from Bilingual/Heritage to Native and 5th/6th/Advantaged to Advantaged/Heritage.
4. Jaime Wilkerson “would like to suggest that there be some sort of penalty (??) for not providing at least one extra judge per teacher. It's unfair to everyone if there aren't enough judges.”
5. Casey Gunnels, Bland ISD, suggested “instead of having separate judges and rooms for each level of each contest (ie two judges for beginner prepared speech, two different judges for intermediate, two more for advanced), why not have two (or three) judges do all levels of prepared speech, all levels of memorized prose, and so on? We would need fewer rooms, students would not have to worry about scheduling conflicts, and we would need fewer judges. We could open all of the contests at 9 and close them at 1 with a 30 min lunch break, students could sign up with the door monitor for a time slot, and we could judge them as they come in (just maintain a separate stack of rating sheets for each level). I know it would be somewhat of a drag to be stuck in a room from 9-1, but it would make it easier on the kids.”
6. Elizabeth Porter, Greenville ISD, recommended to consider “box lunches for Spanish judges - many were too tightly scheduled with events running longer...” or “feeding our judges since there is no pay for spending the day working for us.” Response: Net-Ole organization pays for lunch vouchers for all judges.
7. Elizabeth Porter, Greenville ISD, recommended that “teachers leave at least with student rating sheets - where else do students and teachers have to wait several days for results? French results were posted in the Hall of Languages, but Spanish results posted were incomplete (more schools, events, and students do create a logistics challenge).” Response: Student rating sheets assist in verifying the correctness of student placement done by judges during the event. There are lots of judging mistakes that would not be corrected without rating sheets. Example: Cristina H., who in fact deserved the 1st place in Bilingual Sight Reading, was not placed on the summary of winners by the judges.

8. Elizabeth Porter, Greenville ISD, suggested “adults deal with summary sheets and input results for school scores. Adults are better able to check summary sheets for accuracy before releasing judge to leave. Also there is the matter of authority.” Response: Adults did this. Students only aided in organizing packets, separating out score sheets after the had been recorded.
9. Tiffany Muñoz, Mt. Pleasant ISD, would like to address the issue of ‘integrity’ in judging.
10. Transition of contest directors from Mount Pleasant to North Lamar. New Officers.
11. Treasurer: Eduardo Mendoza, Mt. Pleasant ISD, is willing to stay on as Treasurer if that is okay with everyone. He has spoken to an attorney about getting the organization 501C3 status and would like to see the process through.
12. What do we want to do about t-shirts (propose a competition between schools on the day of competition)?
13. J.D. Stutler asked to reconsider making Reading Comprehension worth points, maybe making more questions as well.
14. Maryna Svirska-Otero, Mt. Pleasant ISD, suggested revising Spelling lists and make them more level appropriate based on the curriculum taught in schools.
15. Maryna Svirska-Otero and Francisca Florent, Mt. Pleasant ISD, suggest increasing the number of points received for Prepared Speech event because of its complexity (written and memorized speech, oral questions on the topic).
16. Comments from Chapel Hill ISD: Chapel Hill ISD – Don Prantl, Stacy Ratliff, and Christi Denney

We would say the event went much smoother this year compared to last! The door monitors were MUCH better this year! They did an EXCELLENT job! We liked having the option of the luncheon (with two time slots) or a cafeteria ticket.

We did not like hearing about judges not showing up for their events - that puts students, sponsors and OTHER judges in hard positions. We also think the tally process could run more smoothly if there were volunteers to assist with that. One person doing that job is not efficient; we would have been glad to help after we judged.

One glitch we had (judging) was with an entry that may have been misplaced by her coach. We would only say that it be emphasized the coaches be accurate when determining whether a student is bilingual or not, and entering them in the appropriate competition.

We would like to recommend not placing teachers/judges to judge two events back to back – if the first event is running late, we can’t get to second event to judge and it perpetuates the lateness.

We appreciate all the hard work the Mt. Pleasant ISD teachers put into the Spanish competition!

5. Questions or Comments.

6. Adjourning.

Important Contacts for Contest Directors:

1. Contact person for Net-Ole Competition date reservation (6 months in advance), room reservations, lunch vouchers, bus parking and other organizational questions:

Sarah Latham White
Camps, Conferences & UIL
(903) 468-3024 (office)
(903) 468-8708 (fax)
sarah.white@tamuc.edu

2. Contact person for Room Setup for the competition:

Connie Mears
Associate Director of Operations and Special Events
Sam Rayburn Student Center #241
903.886.5819
903.886.5891 fax
Connie.Mears@tamuc.edu

3. Contact person for Scholarship Exam scheduling and set up:

Wendy Gruver
Director
College Readiness &
University College Programs
P. O. Box 3011
Commerce, TX 75429
903-886-5122
903-468-3210 (fax)
Wendy.Gruver@tamuc.edu

4. María Fernández Lamarque, Ph.D.

Associate Professor and Director Spanish Graduate Studies
Department of Literature and Languages
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Maria.Lamarque@tamuc.edu

5. David Hervás, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Spanish
Coordinator of Lower Division Spanish Program
Department of Literature and Languages
Texas A&M University-Commerce
David.Hervas@tamuc.edu

6. Inma Cívico-Lyons, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Spanish Department of Literature and Languages
Texas A & M University-Commerce
Inma.Lyons@tamuc.edu

NET-OLÉ Rules Committee Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2012

Greetings. Members present: Elizabeth Porter, Cheryl Brown, Giovana Chagerben, Reta Horner, Fany Loftin, Gloria Smith, Marcy Hayden, J.D. Stutler, Christi Denney, Jeri Boles, Jeltje Hoekstra,

1. Call to order.

a. Spanish Contest Director Tiffany Muñoz welcomed all attendees to the NET-OLÉ Business meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes.

Gloria Smith made a motion to approve last meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

3. New Business

a. With the current situation, Philippe having left and there not being anyone at the university willing to take on coordinating the event, Elizabeth Porter suggested we continue working through Departments Chair to plan the event, reserve it and receive support such as college students helping during the competition.

b. Fany Loftin suggested having a professional meeting to discuss the upcoming NET-OLÉ competition, answer questions and resolve possible issues.

c. Tiffany Muñoz proposed that several CD player were purchased with the NET-OLÉ money. Motion carried.

d. Sheila Easley had sent a letter of concerns to the meeting, noting her displeasure with the decision to not have German competition with only one school competing. Cheryl Brown proposed that the vote should be a mail-in vote concerning what to do if there is only one school to participate in one of the competitions. This way all members are given the opportunity to be heard. Bylaws need to include information on this subject.

e. Clarification on such terms as Advantaged, Bilingual and Heritage speakers was held to assure that students are placed in the events appropriately. No matter the level of study of the students, they should be placed in the events according to their abilities.

f. Gloria Smith expressed a concern about Sight reading poetry event. It seemed difficult to judge and unfair to the students to have to read poems from different authors and of different levels of difficulty. Contest Directors will reevaluate the materials.

g. Suggestion was made to create assigned slots to schools on the sign-in sheets with the school numbers on them depending on how many students were registered to compete in each specific event.

h. All teachers must do their jobs and prepare their students by supplying the correct judges sheets filled out correctly, clearly explaining students' responsibilities of carrying a name tag with the school numbers and not wearing any identifiers of their schools other than the numbers.

i. It is not clear what should be done with school whose students do not comply with all the guidelines and requirements for the events. Proposal made to amend section I. point H. 3. to reflect that any student who does not comply with this requirement should be disqualified. Motion passed.

j. On the judges information it is necessary to change line "Levels Taught" to "Levels Currently Taught".

k. Motion to permit to enter one craft per level per language to ensure fair participation in this event. Motion passed. One member was opposed.

l. It was suggested that to create more free space for students to be during the competitions, the Headquarters could be moved to a different area. Contest Directors will consider the proposal.

m. Proposal to start the competition at 9:00. It was decided that judges should report at 9:00 am and competitions will begin at 9:30 IF there is room enough to hold all competitions within a reasonable period of time.

n. Include information in the bylaws that states that if a teacher takes students to the competition, the teacher must be present.

o. Motion to change Spelling entries from one to two. Motion passed. Change it on page 3 of letter A of section II of General Information.

p. Check the recordings on the website for the Spelling. Some appear to be corrupt.

q. Motion has been made that any one submitting their membership dues between December 15th and January 30 is to pay \$5 of late fee. After January 30th no membership enrollments are accepted. Change to be made on page 1 in I General Information, part C. Motion passed.

r. Add to number 6. On p.2 of letter F in I. General Information "..., but may not reflect the school name, mascot, colors, etc."

s. Cheryl Brown requested that contest materials be revised. Advantaged materials seem to be easier than the Advanced.

t. Gloria Smith requested that Reading Comprehension selections be reviewed and check answers.

u. Change Topics of Bilingual Prepared Speech to reflect aspects that the students are interested in.

v. Add "...will disqualify all the competitors for the event..." on number 5. in letter A. in section II of General Information.

w. Motion to include level of difficulty on the drama rating sheet as presented. Motion passed.

x. Motion to change general information in all competitions that have a memorization component. Instead of disqualifying the student, they will be rated on what they did. Motion passed.

y. Change wording in Vocal on p.8 to take off Heritage and Non-Heritage from Spanish. Create a separate rating sheet for French and German to include Classical. Look at the evaluation to redistribute the points in order to reduce number of points for pronunciation.

z. Take out Level information from Dance rating Sheet. Have Solo/Duet and Group. In instruction, correct the mistyping “traditional standards should be used~~d~~...” Take out the wording “Both styles must be authenticated”. Create a separate score sheet for German and French to include Classical, Traditional and Modern.

4. Questions or Comments.

5. Adjourning.

Maryna Otero moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:57, and the motion was passed.