

Meeting: Net Olé Rules Committee
Date: April 9, 2010
Time: 10:00 AM
Location: Sam Rayburn Student Center
(SRSC), Texas A&M – Commerce
Adjournment: 12:40 PM

Minutes

Members present: Elizabeth Porter (CD & VP*), Cheryl Brown, Sheila Easley (CD & VP), Eduardo Mendoza (CD, VP& Secretary), Maryna Otero (CD & VP), Tiffany Muñoz (CD & VP), Francisca Florent, William St. John, Philippe Seminet (President & Treasurer), Carolyn Vernon, Vicki Delgado, Gloria Smith, Jade Suhr, Jerri Boles, Nancy Pennington, Christi Denney, Reta Horner, Sarah White, Luis Franco, Gilbert Hernandez, Barbara Grubbs, Giovanna Chagerben, Marcella Hayden, Morgan Waggoner *CD & VP = Contest Director and Vice-President

I. Call to Order

- a. President Seminet welcomed all attendees to TAMU-C and requested members to review previous meeting minutes for approval.

II. Approval of Minutes

- a. Tiffany Muñoz made a motion to approve last meeting minutes as presented.
Motion carried.

III. Directors' Summary Report

- a. 15 schools participated this year
- b. 41 students participated in French and 697 students participated in Spanish. There was no German competition. Next year, private middle schools will be invited to compete in French and German. In Spanish, there is only enough room to accommodate public high schools.
- c. Scholarship Essay concern – Only 4 essays were submitted (Spanish).
Suggestions to generate more student participation: give a test grade, money for lunch, or excuse from a class assignment

IV. Office of Hispanic Outreach

- a. Guest speakers Luis Franco and Gilbert Hernandez shared the services provided by their office to new students.
- b. They informed the members about Texas A&M-Commerce's goal to become a Hispanic Serving Institution within 3 years.
- c. Office of Hispanic Outreach could provide financial support to Net Olé to help with things like T-shirts, Scholarships, etc.

V. Treasury Report

- a. Income - \$4,916
- b. Expenses - \$2,276 (This total includes 2 scholarships awarded and lunch vouchers for teachers and judges). Normally, income is not much higher than expenses, as

we award 4 scholarships and spend more on ribbons/medals trophies (this year we have surplus ribbons and did not need to reorder).

- c. Current Balance - \$14,700
- d. President requested investment recommendations for the current balance.
Recommendation to continue using CD with current bank.

VI. Unfinished Business from 2009 Rules Committee meeting

- a. All forms and event documents are now available on the Net Olé website.
- b. Results will be posted on website using student last name and school number
- c. Website has become more extensive and transparent
- d. Improvements / Additions
 - i. 5th and 6th Spelling and Bilingual information.
 - ii. Recommendation to have 4 categories for vocal competition (currently there is only Solo and Group).
- e. Date for next year's competition
 - i. The majority prefers to hold the competition the last Thursday in March and to avoid Mondays. Proposed date: Thursday, March 31, 2011.
 - ii. Recommendation to have 1 person input competition results onto a laptop and then post results on the University Info Screens all across campus.
 - iii. Next year, large calculators will be available to judges and at the Verification table.

VII. New Business

- a. Contest Directors: Spanish and German Contest Directors will serve another year; New French Contest Director: Francisca Florent – Mount Pleasant High School
- b. Possibility to have competition during the Fall semester. The recommendation was not adopted. Competition will continue to be held during the Spring.
- c. Additional Scholarships: President Seminet suggested increasing the number of scholarships awarded by Net-Olé. Texas A&M-Commerce has approved an additional \$1,000 scholarship for each additional Net Olé scholarship.
- d. Several options were presented to increase the number of scholarships. For FRENCH and GERMAN, it was agreed to have 2nd place scholarships (\$250 from Net Olé) if the student scores 80 points or more (out of 100) on the exam. For SPANISH, there will be a second scholarship awarded (\$500 from Net Olé) if the number of competitors is 20 or more for the Heritage Spanish exam or for the non-Heritage Spanish exam. If the number is less than 20, second place scholarships will be awarded using the same guidelines used for French and German.

VIII. New Events

- a. Open Verbal Fluency and Sight Reading for Bilingual and Advantaged.
- b. Technology/Video – Topics and due date will be posted on the website and will be e-mailed to teachers.
- c. Craft – Re-open the craft competition. Schools will be limited to 2 entries. We will try this event in 2011 and determine whether to continue with it based on the

level of participation. Concerns were raised regarding the limited space available to display the crafts.

- d. T-shirt competition. Students will create the design for the T-shirt and submit it to the Contest Directors in January (to provide time to determine a winner and have the t-shirts ordered). Due date will be posted on the website and will be e-mailed to teachers.
- e. Extra Judges for competition: Spanish Faculty at Texas A&M-Commerce can provide extra judges if given advance notice (2 weeks).

IX. Other Issues

- a. Spelling Bee – Name change to Spelling
- b. The winner in Spelling will be determined by the most words spelled correctly. In the event of a tie, the student whose word list (of 30 words written) has the earliest mistake will be given 2nd place.
- c. Dance – Two categories – Solo/Duet and Group
- d. Spelling Words and Poetry selections will be reviewed and updated.