

Proposal for the creation of a student advisory committee in the WFCA

Having student advisors is an area of great opportunity for the WFCA. Including student voices in the decision-making processes of WFCA would bring new energy, innovative ideas, and a firsthand understanding of the needs of high school students to the WFCA. Forensics already provides an amazing avenue for students to amplify their voices, creating an ideal opportunity for those students to further strengthen their voices by being a student advisor in the WFCA. If students are involved in the WFCA's decisions, we can ensure that the WFCA is working to best further the interests of its students.

1. Students tend to better engage with organizations **in which they see themselves represented**. This helps with approachability, encourages innovation, and helps grow the organization.
2. Students, especially those who are part of an activity that fosters advocacy and public speaking, want leadership positions. They want to represent their peers, and bring their ideas to change things for the better.
3. This would align with what the NSDA has instituted, with their recently created Student Leadership Council. The NSDA created the council in response to student comments - further showing that forensics students are interested in leadership positions.
4. Other student organizations in Wisconsin, such as HOSA and FBLA, benefit greatly from having student officers. They are the voices for their state, and handle a wide variety of tasks for their clubs: providing feedback, advertising, or helping run tournaments; they have changed these clubs for the better.

Here is what some of these current student leaders have said regarding their positions:

"I would say that the [Student Leadership Council] bridges the gap between student perspectives and NSDA decision making, ensuring that our voice is always heard and our needs are being met." -

John Otto, NSDA Student Leadership Council Member

"A big reason why I think people joined the [Student Leadership Council] was to bring advocacy from our regions and our experiences with speech and debate to make speech and debate a better place for everyone." -

Bohan Pan, NSDA Student Leadership Council Member

"Being a part of the state officer team has enabled me to give back to an organization that means so much to me - it has put me in a position to make a difference."

- Reya Khatri, Wisconsin HOSA Vice President of Service Projects

All changes to the WFCAs Handbook are written *in red*.

Article VI.

SECTION III. Standing Committees. The standing committees shall be: Category, Program Assistance, Communications, ~~and~~ Tournament Practices and Procedures, **and Student Advisory**.

1. The standing committees, **other than Student Advisory**, shall each consist of a Chairperson appointed by the President following the annual spring meeting, and members appointed by the chair of each committee.
2. Each committee, **other than Student Advisory**, shall represent at least three different member schools that are geographically representative of the membership to the extent feasible.
3. **The Student Advisory Committee shall consist of a coach Chairperson appointed by the President following the annual spring meeting. Student representatives from different WFCAs member schools shall be appointed to the committee in accordance with procedures in the Operating Bylaws under Awards.**

Section IV. Responsibilities of Standing Committees.

5. **The Student Advisory Committee shall, under the guidance of the Chairperson, serve as liaisons between the WFCAs student body and the Executive Committee. Members of the committee's responsibilities will include, but are not limited to: assisting in creating educational resources for WFCAs membership, assisting in managing WFCAs social media communications, soliciting and reporting student feedback, facilitating community outreach, and assisting the other standing committees in meeting their goals. Members of the committee will be invited to attend the spring and fall membership meetings and shall have a voice but no voting rights.**

VI. AWARDS

5. **THE WFCAs STATE GRANT.** Any team in good standing with the WFCAs can apply for a grant for financial assistance to attend the WFCAs State tournament. The Awards Committee will select grant recipients. Forms must be submitted to the Past President no later than March 15th. The criteria for selection will be as follows:

- a. Completion of the grant application
- b. Completion of coach questionnaire
- c. Completion of student essay

6. **STUDENT OFFICERS.** Any student who is currently in their second or higher season of competing with a WFCAs affiliated forensic team, and has not previously held this position, is eligible to apply for a Student Officer position.

- a. **The Awards Committee will select Student Officers to join the Student Advisory Committee.**
- b. **Applications must be submitted to the Past-President emailed no later than February 15.**

- c. Applicants shall be judged based on their letter of recommendation, video essay, leadership experience, forensics experience, and community service.
 - d. Selected Student Officers should (in descending order of importance):
 - i. Show passion and dedication for the WFCFA
 - ii. Participate in a diverse range of forensics categories
 - iii. Represent geographically diverse schools
 - e. Multiple applications may be accepted from a single school, but there shall be efforts made to ensure that as many schools are represented as possible.
 - f. Applicants will be notified of their decision prior to the state tournament.
 - g. The new Student Officers will be recognized at the state tournament, where they will introduce themselves to the WFCFA body.
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Governance Procedures

Officer Duties (Continued)

Presentation of Awards

11. Scholarship: These are given at the WFCFA State Tournament. It was suggested that the coach be notified so that parents may attend this presentation if they wish. It is still advisable to let the recipients be surprised. The past-president or another designee should present these awards. The students are given a check from the WFCFA.

12. William Hintz Memorial Award for Coaching Excellence: This award is given at the WFCFA State Tournament. The previous recipient presents the award. It is a plaque obtained from Trophies and Treasures.

13. Hall of Fame: This award is presented at the Spring Convention by a person chosen by the Awards Committee. It was suggested that this recognition could also be added to the awards at the WFCFA State Tournament.

14. Milestones.

15. Student Officers: The Student Officers are recognized at the WFCFA state tournament. Student Officers are announced by their immediate predecessors.

WFCA Student Officer Application

At the state tournament, the Wisconsin Forensics Coaches' Association will appoint 3 applicants to join the Executive Board as Student Officers for the following season.

Eligibility:

1. Applicants must attend a WFCA member school, and be competing in their second (or higher) year of forensics.
2. Students cannot apply in their graduating year.

Directions to Student Applicants:

1. Complete the Student & School Information, Service Experience and Activity Summary forms. A PDF form is available on the WFCA website at www.wfcaforensics.org
2. Record a video essay lasting no longer than 3 minutes, addressing this topic: **How has forensics impacted your life? What changes would you like to see in the WFCA?**
3. Upload the video essay to YouTube as an unlisted video. Title the video “*First Name, Last Name, Application Year, 'WFCA Student Officer Application'.*”
 - 3a. For example, “*Jane Doe 2024 WFCA Student Officer Application*”.
4. Obtain a letter of recommendation from a coach of your forensics team. Letters of recommendation must be emailed to the Past-President of the WFCA from the coach's email account by the deadline listed below. Please do not submit additional letters of recommendation.

Submission Instructions:

All application materials **MUST BE EMAILED** no later than 7pm on FEBRUARY 15 of the current school year to the Past-President of the WFCA. The Past-President's email address is listed in the Officer contact information on www.wfcaforensics.org.

The Awards Committee will not consider materials received after 7pm on February 15. An incomplete application will disqualify the student from consideration.

Student Information

Name:

Home Address:

Email:

School Information

Name of current school:

Mailing address of current school:

Other high schools you attended (if any):

Service Experience

In under 200 words, please detail for the committee your experience in serving your community, both inside of forensics and in your community at large.

Activity Summary

Attach Additional Pages if Necessary

Forensics Background: In under 250 words, detail your experience in forensics. Include competitive categories you've tried, accolades received, and State or National Tournament experience.

Leadership Experience: In under 75 words each, briefly describe up to three leadership positions you have held either in your school, extracurricular activities, or community.