

Proposal for the creation of student officer positions on the WFCFA executive board

Having student board members is an area of great opportunity for the WFCFA. Including student voices in the decision-making processes of WFCFA would bring new energy, innovative ideas, and a firsthand understanding of the needs of high school students to the Executive Board. 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 member on the WFCFA executive board. If students are involved in the executive board's decisions, we can ensure that the WFCFA 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 IV. EXECUTIVE BOARD

SECTION I. The WFCAs Executive Board shall be made up of the following: the President, President-Elect, PastPresident, Treasurer, ~~and Secretary~~ **and Student Officers.**

1. The Board shall have the authority to act on behalf of the WFCAs on matters demanding immediate attention.
2. The quorum for board meetings shall be a minimum of three **non-student** members.
3. The President shall call a meeting of this board whenever they deem necessary.

SECTION II. Selection and Terms of Office. The President-Elect shall be elected by the membership at the spring meeting. The President-Elect shall become President in the second year and Past-President in the third year of service. The Secretary and the Treasurer shall be elected by the membership at the spring meeting to alternating two-year terms of service. Election of the Secretary shall be held in odd numbered years and of Treasurer in even numbered years. **The Student Officers shall be appointed by the Awards Committee to serve a one-year term. Student Officer terms will begin at the spring meeting after they are appointed.* Student Officers may not serve more than one term.**

***The timeline for the inaugural Student Officer selection shall be as follows:**

1. Nikhil Quintin shall become one of the three inaugural Student Officers upon ratification of this proposal.
2. Applications for the other two positions are due by Thursday, October 10th, 2024.
3. Applicants will be notified of their decision on Thursday, October 31st, 2024.
4. Selected Student Officers will begin their terms on Friday, November 1st, 2024.
5. The Student Officers' terms shall end at the 2025 spring meeting.

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

SECTION I. Frequency. The WFCAs shall hold semi-annual meetings in the fall and spring for the transaction of business as may come before the meeting. The election of **non-student** Executive Board members shall be held annually at the spring meeting.

SECTION II. Responsibilities of Officers.

4. The Secretary shall record and distribute the minutes of meetings to the membership and the Executive Board. The Secretary shall be responsible for creating, updating and distributing the calendar of WFCAs sanctioned events.

5. The Student Officers shall serve as liaisons between the WFCAs student body and the Executive Committee. They shall advise the Executive Board, as well as become ex-officio

members of all committees. Student Officers will assist the Executive Committee in achieving WFCA goals.

VI. AWARDS

5. THE WFCA STATE GRANT. Any team in good standing with the WFCA can apply for a grant for financial assistance to attend the WFCA 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 WFCA 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 3 Student Officers to join the Executive Board.
 - 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. Multiple applications may be accepted from a single school, but there shall be no more than one Student Officer from a certain school.
 - e. After the inaugural year, the Student Officers will be announced at the State Tournament, where they will introduce themselves to the WFCA body.
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Governance Procedures

Officer Duties (Continued)

Presentation of Awards

11. Scholarship: These are given at the WFCA 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 WFCA.

12. William Hintz Memorial Award for Coaching Excellence: This award is given at the WFCA 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 WFCA State Tournament.

14. Milestones.

15. Student Officers: The Student Officers are announced at the WFCA state tournament. After the inaugural year, Student Officers are announced by their immediate predecessors.

Student Officers

1. Attend all Executive Board, Executive Committee and General Membership Meetings, either in-person or virtually.
2. Equally share or rotate responsibilities including, but not limited to:
 - 2a. Creating educational resources for WFCA membership.
 - 2b. Managing WFCA social media.
 - 2c. Gauging student feedback.
 - 2d. Formulating plans to better the WFCA.
3. Work with and advise the Standing Committees and Executive Board to achieve both student and WFCA goals.
4. Assist the Executive Committee with duties as need be.