

**LDE Committee Meeting
August 1, 2018**

The meeting began at 11:45 AM and was presided over by Dr. Dwayne Pavelock.

Concerns/Comments/Suggestions with Action Taken Below:

Area 1:

1. Split up portfolio judging into 2 groups - with the first group limiting the total 10 pages to 3 pages (Q & A and Reference page). Dr. Ullrich is having issues locating judges for the material due to amount of content. Out of 97 people contacted, only 9 ended up judging. This will also match up with the National Contest format.
 - a. Motion was made by Area I that the 3 pages listed above will be judged the same as in the past and the rest will be judged later by a committee designated by SHSU. The motion passed 12-0

Area 2:

1. Asked to remove Senior Skills questions due to judge's asking tough questions.
 - a. Dr. Pavelock suggested that he can discuss this with the judges at orientation. No rules can be implemented at the point because we are not in a revision year.

Area 3:

1. Expressed concerns over questions in senior skills.
 - a. See above
2. Asked Pavelock to add some extra contest dates for creating materials.
 - a. He is currently strapped with the amount of contest content they are creating - a list of all his contest dates will be attached and sent out with this report.

Area 4:

1. Expressed concerns over questions in senior skills.
 - a. See above

Area 5:

1. No comments

Area 6:

1. Expressed concerns on the scantrons for the quiz contest and it confusing the students. Wanted to know if there was a better option out there to clean up this.
 - a. Ewell was present and showed another scantron option. Ultimately the committee chose to take no action on this matter at this point.
2. Expressed a concern on the portfolio section for Ag Issues. Small schools located in small towns cannot compete with schools located near big towns in terms of quality of presentations.
 - a. No action can be taken due to it being a major rule change.
3. Expressed a concern over terminology used in the GH Chapter Conducting problems (example of state convention when Greenhands don't know what it is)
 - a. Pavelock said this was duly noted
4. Expressed a desire to have students be asked to enter the job interview room versus knocking and walking in
 - a. There are no rules or writing on this. This could be brought up in orientation.
5. Expressed a concern over people judging the finals after their team was knocked out in the semi finals the day before
 - a. No action was taken on this and there are no rules written on this
6. Expressed a concern over chairman not following the rules and DQ'ing a team for handing out materials in Ag Issues
 - a. This was discussed and duly noted by Pavelock
7. Expressed a concern over judges/chairmen influencing other judges in the state contest
 - a. This was discussed and noted

Area 7:

1. Expressed the concerns over moving prop heavy contests into more useable locations with better unloading/storage areas.
 - a. Pavelock said he will try to accommodate as best he can. With the contest increasing in size and classes going on it is tough.
2. Expressed the desire for the Public Relations contests to move to a bottom floor.
 - a. Pavelock said he will try to accommodate.
3. Expressed the desire for the portfolio in the Ag Issues contest to be updated and clarified since the sample portfolio is not the same format as what is stated in the rules
 - a. Looking into updating this - cannot change the rules but Texas FFA can change example documents on the website
4. Asked for a target audience in the Ag Advocacy contest - that it was too wide open for judges
 - a. That would be a rule change and cannot be done at this time
5. Mentioned the desire to work on improving the quality of judges at the state contest
 - a. Pavelock said he will continue to work. We discussed that this seems to be more of an area level problem and issue.
6. Expressed the desire to clarify whether FFA Broadcast was a professional style farm radio show or a casual podcast and put into rules.

- a. Another rule change that could not be completed at this time. There was some discussion regarding this topic point. Some agreed about the professional broadcast. Also a point was mentioned that students are to keep their individuality and that if you turned on the radio there are all kinds of broadcasts (funny ones, serious ones, etc.).
- 7. We covered the job interview rules and the inconsistent wording.
 - a. Since these rubrics are not tied to the rules - Tricia Sullivan was able to update these Texas FFA documents on the website
 - i. Removed the wording "includes appropriate honors and awards" under the Education or Relevant Coursework section
 - ii. Changed the rubric for Resume and Cover Letter from "font size and style is readable (10-12 point) to "11 point font"
- 8. Asked Dr. Pavelock to ensure that parly procedure problems are written with clear language - specifically dealing with the motion to reconsider and noting the dating of minutes.
 - a. Dr. Pavelock made note of the concern
- 9. Stated the concern to have state judges in Ag Issues also score the portfolios as there is confusion on who is evaluating the portfolios and that fact that they are having an impact on final ranking without seeing the actual presentation. Brought up possible solution to include having judges evaluate portfolios the morning before the contest or after the judges meeting.
 - a. No action was taken on this - seemed to be covered by Area I's concern on portfolio judging
- 10. Expressed the same concern about senior skills and the quality of questions asked to contestants
 - a. Addressed above
- 11. Brought up a desire to try to get judges with skills are careers in particular events - example of a professional in broadcasting to judge that contest
 - a. Noted

Area 8:

- 1. Expressed concern that judges for Ag Issues were not qualified at the state contest
 - a. Addressed above
- 2. Expressed concern regarding the disqualification process in the Ag Issues contest for violating rule #8.
 - a. Discussion revolved around a team not getting disqualified in the heats for violating rule #8 by giving a copy of the portfolio to the judges and then getting DQ'ed in the finals for repeating the violation. It was just reiterated to not violate rule #8.
- 3. Expressed concerns over ensuring that chairmen of contests do not influence the judges at state
 - a. Dr. Pavelock said that he would take care of this

Area 9:

1. Requested that the chapter conducting rooms at state not be set up wider than they are long due to having a student that is partially blind and that the chairs for the chapter conducting contest be shorter, especially for the greenhands.
 - a. Duly noted by Pavelock

Area 10:

1. Asked to eliminate Senior Skills questions and audience due to distractions.
 - a. Major rule change so no action could be taken

Area 11:

1. Asked to eliminate Senior Skills Questions
 - a. See above
2. Asked for Texas FFA to post materials for contests ASAP due to school year starting earlier (updated rules, rubrics, quiz materials)
 - a. Tricia Sullivan said all materials should be posted by August 15th and Austin Large said that sometimes there are issue due to the board meeting being around the first of September.

Area 12:

1. Asked if there was a possibility to video state winners so that teachers can get a clear picture of how to train a successful team
 - a. Dr. Pavelock talked about the challenges faced with doing this due to liability and releases needed from parents.
 - b. Jeff Klose discussed livestreaming contests and eliminating the audience in those contests.
2. Expressed a concern regarding the wording on the vote for suspending the rules in the book.
 - a. No action could be taken

***State will have 12 team heats with the top 5 qualifiers from each advancing to the finals.**

SHSU Comments:

1. Reiterated that judges MUST allocate points per the scoresheet - to make sure judges are not just "slotting" teams.
2. Dr. Pavelock discussed changing due dates of the cover letters and resumes but the committee agreed to leave the Job Interview contest due dates and submission method for these materials the same.
3. Dr. Pavelock discussed the new competition rotation schedule and new judges rotation schedule which includes the new areas. He tried to put these together in as fair and unbiased manner as possible.
4. Judges orientations

- a. 9:30 AM = GH & SR Conducting, Ag Issues, GH & SR Skills (on-site)
 - b. 11:00 AM = Broadcasting, Interview, PR, Advocacy, GH & SR Creed (LSC)
- 5. Dr. Pavelock also discussed that classroom space may be an issue with 12 teams in Heats and need to start earlier
 - a. We discussed eliminating warm-up rooms for contests or audiences but not action was taken. It was agreed we could make do.
- 6. We discussed the language from General Rule #10 regarding the Greenhand Division and the burning of greenhand eligibility
 - a. No action was taken on the matter
- 7. Discussed job interview discrepancies with the font size, asking for a business card and job description in the enclosure.
 - a. No major change here other than font size