

Moody College of Communication

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Department of Communication Studies | Forensics Programs

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December 4, 2017

Dear Friends:

The University of Texas Moody College of Communication and the Texas Forensics Union Debate Team cordially invite you to Texas Open Debate Tournament, to be held on the Austin campus of the University of Texas, February 2-5, 2018. Registration will be on Friday evening, February 2nd at the JW Marriott in Downtown Austin .

A few items of note:

1. Please stay at the tournament hotel. The JW Marriott Austin is named one of the top 50 hotels in the world by Conde Nast. While it is a very nice property, the viability of the tournament this year and in future years does require that we fill the hotel block.
2. Mini-Lupo rule: All coaches are expected to make themselves available for at least a two round judging commitment. To request an exemption, see below.
3. The tournament will feature eight preliminary rounds of two-person, switch-sides, cross-examination debate on the national topic in the standard 9-3-6 format. Elimination rounds will start with double-octafinals. Brackets will not be broken, sides will not be equalized.
4. UT is a smoke free campus, vaping included: <http://tobaccofree.utexas.edu/> .

TOURNAMENT HOTEL

The Sunday night banquet as well as Monday's elimination rounds will be held at the JW Marriott. Travel to the hotel on Monday morning will be quite difficult. We are again asking, if your budget at all permits to please stay in the tournament hotel.

[JW Marriott of Austin](#)

www.jwmarriottaustin.com

[110 East 2nd St](#)

Austin, TX 78701

Reservations must be made by 5PM Central Time, Thursday, January 11th

Texas Open Debate Tournament (Feb 1, 2018 to Feb 5, 2018)

Start date: 2/1/18

End date: 2/6/18

Last day to book: 1/11/18

JW MARRIOTT OF AUSTIN for 139.00 USD per night

USE THE LINK BELOW TO RESERVE YOUR ROOMS

<https://aws.passkey.com/go/TXOpenDebateTournament>

Provided Amenities

- *Complimentary Guest Room WI-FI for all attendees*
- *No resort fee*

GENERAL LOGISTICS

TOURNAMENT DEBATES:

Preliminary debates will be held in University of Texas buildings and elimination debates will be at the JW Marriott hotel.

Campus map: <http://www.utexas.edu/maps/index.html>

Campus Parking Map: <https://parking.utexas.edu/maps/visitors>

FOR MOBILE DEVICES: The Campus Map feature works well. GPS allows you to identify your location, search, pan, and zoom in on UT campus buildings. You can find the buildings you need, complete with a photo of it, and other helpful information.

For Apple Devices --->

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/the-university-texas-at-austin/id347883008?mt=8>

For Google/Android -->

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.nasageek.utexasutilities>

TRANSPORTATION:

If I were planning this trip for my team, I would not rent a vehicle. The hotel is downtown, and the public transportation is reliable.

You can access Austin easily by air via Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS). The travel time from the airport to the tournament hotel in ideal conditions is 30 minutes, yet traffic congestion can significantly alter that, making it over an hour.

Transportation from the airport to the hotel can be obtained by contacting Super Shuttle (www.supershuttle.com/htm/cities/aus.htm, 512-258-3826). Roundtrip fare is about \$25 per person.

Taxi: ATX Co-op Taxi ([512\) 333-5555](tel:5123335555))

LYFT and UBER operate in Austin, once again.

PARKING:

On Campus: There is no free visitor parking on the main campus (aside from 30-minute garage and loading zone parking). Visitors are advised to park in university [parking garages](#). No permit is required to park in the garages; just pull a ticket on your way in and process it at the exit, a paystation, or the garage office before you leave.

Campus Parking Map: <https://utdirect.utexas.edu/apps/fasweb/parking/nlogon/garages/>

The pay lots unaffiliated with the University of Texas WILL tow, and for little apparent reason. We urge you to park in the university affiliated parking lots.

At Hotel: 30 USD daily; Valet **parking**, fee: 43 USD daily; Valet fee includes in/out privileges

ALL GENDER RESTROOMS:

Can be found in several places on campus. CBA, MEZ, PCL (Library). The following link will take you to a map and specific room numbers.

<http://ddce.utexas.edu/genderandsexuality/all-gender-restrooms/>

QUIET ROOMS:

Can be found on each floor of the PCL. The PCL is adjacent to many competition buildings.

ENTRY DEADLINES, LIMITATIONS, PROCEDURES, INTERNET

Entry Deadline: January 22, 2018.

Use www.tabroom.com to enter. There is no limit to how many teams from one school can participate. We will be able to accommodate up to 200 teams. Please complete your entry by

5pm CST January 22, 2018.

To finalize your entry do the following on tabroom.com by NOON January 29, 2018:

- (a) Double check the teams entered
- (b) Make sure your judges are entered along with number of rounds (as per the invitation schools with more than two teams owe 5 rounds for each subsequent team, and all coaches are expected to make themselves available for at least two rounds of judging)
- (c) All judges must have a philosophy entered at tabroom.com. Make sure each one does
- (d) Enter the TOTAL NUMBER in your party (all debaters, judges and observers, scouts, hangers on)
- (e) Make sure all attendees' dietary preferences are in the system
- (f) Double check your school's contact info at tabroom.com.

ENTRY FEES:

Fees for the tournament will be \$85 per person attending the tournament. We can take cash or checks for payment. **Make checks payable to "UT Debate."** Universities that require a fee invoice or a W9 form prior to the tournaments are encouraged to contact the tournament directors by January 21, 2018. Fees are due at the time of registration; but we will allow reasonable accommodations given institutional hurdles. If you need to pay after the tournament commences, please contact the tournament directors beforehand. NB: we will require a late fee of \$50 if we receive your payment after February 21, 2018. We will seek to accommodate schools with financial difficulty; please contact me if your program would like to attend our tournament.

Your fees cover a variety of meals, including breakfast and lunch on Saturday and Sunday, and a tournament banquet on Sunday evening. It also contributes to internet access on campus and the hotel, other catering, the cost of appropriate team and speaker awards, room and building security and clean-up as required by the University, extra rounds of judging, tab room expenses and supplies required for tournament administration, and administrative charges we pay to the University on expenditures.

All fees will be calculated on January 29, 2018 at NOON CST. Your school will be responsible for all people listed as of that time. Should you need to drop a participant, please do so no later than Noon CST on January 29, 2018. Drops are official ONLY if confirmed at the official tournament web site. Should your school need to drop one or more participants or observers after the aforementioned deadline, a drop fee of \$85 per person will be assessed.

TAB PERSONNEL:

We are pleased to have Jon Brusckke and Chris Palmer in the tabroom.

JUDGE REQUIREMENTS:

As in past years, we require more than other tournaments. **Schools are required to provide four rounds of preliminary judging for each of their first two teams entered, and five rounds for each subsequent team.** Per community practice, all judges are committed through the first elimination debate on Monday, or one round beyond which their team is eliminated.

If you are hiring judging from outside of your school's staff/alumni, and the tournament cannot place your judges into the required number of rounds, the tournament reserves the right to adjust the judging obligations of your judges (adding rounds of commitment to those of your judges who are easier to place).

Diversity: we will attempt to increase it.

All coaches are expected to make themselves available for at least a two round commitment. Anyone wishing to apply for an exemption to this rule should notify the tournament 1 week prior. Possible reasons for exemption include: health, family-care, unique travel situations, etc.

Judges must post philosophies on the www.tabroom.com website by noon January 29, 2018.

Each judge will be REQUIRED to declare ONE AND ONLY ONE WINNER and ONE AND ONLY ONE LOSER in each debate to which they are assigned by the tab room. Compliance with this rule requires each judge to complete an official judge ballot as designated by the tab room. The side (affirmative or negative) and school affiliation must match the assignments made by the tab room. Judges will also be required to assign speaker points to each participant in the debate, 30 point scale in 10th's with no ties. No flipping coins and assigning high points; if we think no debate has occurred we will average or give zero speaker points at our discretion. Judges are also required to render a decision in accordance with the aforementioned criteria no more than 150 minutes beyond the designated start time of any debate that they are assigned by the tab room to adjudicate, with an extra 15 minutes allotted for elimination debates. Please do not submit judges unable or unwilling to fulfill these requirements.

Judge Conflicts: Judges are expected to disqualify themselves from hearing any team or school with which they may have a personal or professional conflict. Such conflicts include, but are not limited to: former college or high school debate colleagues, former students, students from schools with which you have been associated in the last two to four years, schools with which you have a substantial fiduciary relationship, and students from a school you plan to associate with next year. We urge judges to maintain a high standard of integrity on this question. The tab room reserves the right to restrict a judge's eligible team field based upon our understanding of a judge's past institutional affiliations. We will follow CEDA protocol for team initiated conflicts.

TOPIC:

Students are asked to debate the topic selected for the 2017-18 season by a vote of the Cross Examination Debate Association membership. The precise wording of this year's topic is:

Resolved: The United States Federal Government should establish national health insurance in the United States.

TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES:

We will not break brackets or have side equalization. Hybrid teams are permitted on a case by case basis; the tournament director will refer to the Council of Tournaments Directors and NDT standing rules for guidance. Prior to the tournament, maverick entries are NOT accepted. Once the tournament begins, maverick debaters may or may not be permitted to continue; the tournament director will evaluate maverick situations on a case-by-case basis.

The tournament employs the now traditional 9-3-6 format with ten minutes of preparation time allocated to each team. Eight preliminary rounds are scheduled, followed by an appropriate number of elimination rounds, typically five.

Flipping for sides in elimination rounds: at least one representative for both teams must be present to flip for sides and declare their decision at least 30 minutes before the scheduled starting time of an elimination debate or by a flip time published by the tabroom. If a representative is not present to flip and declare a side, that team forfeits their right to flip and the team that is present gets to declare sides for the debate.

Texas teams may compete in the tournament; they are eligible to receive speaker awards and to compete in elimination rounds, and judge assignments for Texas teams will be assigned by the computer and changed only by the option of an external tabroom manager.

We subscribe to CEDA's policies against Sexual Harassment and Discrimination, and will follow as allowed by laws and procedures governing the University of Texas, its employees, students, and visitors to campus.

On matters not listed here or in the Kinky Book for Participants, for guidance we will refer to the Council of Tournament Directors Best Practices.

CASELIST AND SCOUTING:

Participating teams and schools are expected to contribute to <http://opencaselist.paperlessdebate.com/bin/view/Main/> and should provide their most recent affirmative and negative information by the Tuesday before the tournament at latest.

INTERNET ACCESS:

On the UT campus, internet access will be provided through AT&T. A conference code will be available to all registered competitors and coaches. AT&T and the University of Texas ITS promises to deal aggressively with DCMA violators.

At the hotel, Wireless access will be available to guests of the hotel and to all participants in the conference rooms used for competition.

SMOKING POLICY:

Don't smoke on campus. If you must, cross the street to non-University property. On April 9, 2012, The University of Texas at Austin became a tobacco-free campus. The use of any tobacco products is prohibited in university buildings and on university grounds within the state of Texas, including parking areas and structures, sidewalks, walkways, and university owned buildings. The full text of the policy including the definition for tobacco products and approved exceptions is available on the University Policies website. FAQs:

<http://www.utexas.edu/tobaccofree/faq.php>

We truly look forward to having you here in the ATX,

Joel, Kate, Kiki, Dhruv, Nooch, Barlow, Kev, Lipton, Stroud, and the UT debaters

If you have any further questions, please e-mail Joel at jd.rollins@utexas.edu