

PROCEDURE and RULES

FOR THE

SECOND ANNUAL SOUTHEAST REGIONAL ETHICS BOWL

at

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA, ST. PETERSBURG
140 7TH AVENUE SOUTH, DAVIS HALL
ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2006

Sponsored by:



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SCHEDULE

(All rooms listed will be in Davis Hall, unless otherwise noted.)

7:00-8:45 a.m.	Team registration	Lobby
7:30-8:45 a.m.	Continental breakfast for teams and coaches	Café
8:00-8:45 a.m.	Breakfast meeting for judges and moderators	Room 130
8:45-9:15 a.m.	Plenary session	Steidinger Auditorium
9:30-10:45 a.m.	Round #1	Rooms assigned
11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	Round #2	Rooms assigned
12:30-1:45 p.m.	Round #3	Rooms assigned
2:00-2:15 p.m.	Announcement of Semifinalists	Steidinger Auditorium
2:15-3:15 p.m.	Participant lunch	Café
	Judges, moderators & coaches lunch	Room 130
3:15-4:30 p.m.	Semifinals	Rooms assigned
4:45-6:00 p.m.	Finals	Steidinger Auditorium
6:00 p.m.	Trophy presentation	Steidinger Auditorium

PROCEDURE AND RULES

The Second Annual Southeast Regional Ethics Bowl will take place on Saturday, November 18, 2006 at the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg campus. It is being sponsored by University of South Florida, St. Petersburg College, and Eckerd College. At the plenary, to be held at 8:45 a.m. in Steidinger Auditorium, a review of the rules and procedures and distribution of classroom assignments for the morning rounds will occur; classroom assignments will be made through a random impartial process.

Each team will participate in 3 matches in the morning, competing with a different team in each match. Semi-finals are concurrent and will begin at 3:00 p.m.; finals will take place in Steidinger Auditorium at 4:30 p.m. There will be souvenirs for all participants and awards for the winners right after the final round at 5:45 p.m. Semi-finals and the final competition will be videotaped. Participating teams will be provided a copy for future use. Only the first 12 cases will be used.

There are no limits to the resources that may be used in researching the questions prior to the competition. Students are encouraged to consult all resources, including professors to understand the full breadth of the cases, determine their positions, and make the strongest possible presentation.

- 1) Each round will begin with a coin toss. The team that wins the coin toss may elect to present first (to be the team designated as Team A) or to have the other team present first (and thus to be the team designated as Team B).
- 2) Copies of the first case and question will be distributed to the competitors and to the judges. Neither the judges nor the team members will have advance knowledge of which case will be presented or which question will be asked.
- 3) The moderators will then read the question. Scratch paper will also be provided for the competitors to make notes during the round, but outside notes are prohibited.
- 4) Team A will then have up to one minute to confer, after which a single spokesperson for Team A may speak for up to 8 minutes in response to the moderator's question, based on the team's research and critical analysis. This is known as the presentation period.
- 5) Next Team B will have up to one minute to confer, after which Team B may speak for up to 5 minutes in response to Team A's presentation and to the moderator's question. This is known as the commentary period. Any number of team members may contribute to the commentary.
- 6) Team A will then have up to one minute to confer, followed by 5 minutes to respond to Team B's challenge. This is known as the response period. Any number of team members may contribute to the response.
- 7) The judges will then begin their 10 minute question and answer session with Team A. Before asking questions, the judges may confer briefly (no more than 30 seconds).
- 8) At this time, more than one team member may respond to a given judge's question. Team members are not expected to confer for longer than 20 to 30 seconds after a question has been asked.
- 9) Each judge should have time for one question and one follow-up. Judges may ask more questions if time permits. Judges may confer briefly before asking questions (no more than 30 seconds). More than one team member may respond to any judge's questions.

- 10) Each judge will then give Team A a score on a scale of 1 to 15 with 15 being the highest score. They will also give Team B a score on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest score. Judges will base their analyses on the following criteria:
- a. CONSISTENCY
 - b. CLARITY AND INTELLIGIBILITY
 - c. COMPREHENSION OF ETHICALLY RELEVANT FACTORS
 - d. AVOIDANCE OF ETHICALLY IRRELEVANT ISSUES
 - e. COMPLETENESS IN ANALYSIS

The judges are not permitted to discuss their scoring decisions with each other; each judge is to rely on his or her own private judgment.

- 11) After the judges have made their scoring decisions, the moderator will give a second case and question to the same two teams.
- 12) The competition will proceed as above, with the Team B presenting in the second half, Team A offering commentary, Team B responding, and then Team B participating in the judge's question and answer session.
- 13) At the end of the round, the judges will announce the scores for both the first half and for the second half. Thus, in each round, each team will have the opportunity to present one case and to respond to the other team's presentation of another case, for a total of 20 points possible.

The winner of the round will be the team with the greater number of total points. A tie will not count as a win or a loss for either team. Moderators will validate scores with the teams and judges and pass score sheets to the competition coordinator for tallying with scores from the other rounds.

At the end of the third round, the four teams with the greatest number of wins (out of 3 possible) will advance to the semi-finals; in the event that a tie takes place, ties will take precedence over losses. If two teams have the same number of wins, the team with the greatest total point differential will advance. Then teams will advance based on point totals for all three rounds (out of 60 possible). In the event that even further delineation is necessary, the team whose lowest score for any of the three morning rounds is higher than the other team's lowest score for any of the three morning rounds will advance. If the teams are still tied, the team with the higher scores based solely on its own presentations (not commentary to the other team) will advance. If there is no other way of breaking the tie, the winner will be determined by coin toss.

Also, please note that in the unlikely event that a team is unable to attend the competition, certain alternative procedures may be adopted to allow everyone to participate, including the adoption of a "placebo team," usually consisting of students or recent graduates with some prior knowledge of the cases. In such a case, teams pitted against the placebo team may be scored but will not receive a win or loss, and for the purposes of advancement to the finals will be assessed assuming neither a win nor loss (thus, similar to a tie), but special weight added to their performance against actual teams. If you have any questions concerning this process, please inquire.

Semi-final and final rounds will be scored the same way as the morning rounds. Each of these will be a single elimination competition in which the team with the higher score will be declared the winner.

Please note that we need to adhere strictly to the schedule to accomplish the day's agenda in a timely fashion. Deni Elliott, as administrator of this year's competition, will be the final arbiter of any disputes. And remember that the competition is all about having fun and exchanging ideas.