Friends and Colleagues,

 The University of Georgia Debate Union is pleased to invite you to the Seventeenth Annual Bulldog Debates that will be held in Athens, Georgia, on January 15th through January 17th, 2016. We wish to make this year’s Bulldog Debates an enjoyable and educational experience. Last year, our tournament drew 100 teams from the Southeast. We are a TOC Qualifier in policy debate at the Semi-Final level.

 There will be six (6) preliminary rounds of open and novice, policy debate, followed by an appropriate number of elimination rounds for each division. Last year both divisions cleared to the Octafinals. The national policy resolution will be used in both open and novice team debate (Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially curtail its domestic surveillance.) Entry fees will be $50.00 per team. We expect to have a very small pool of hired judges available. Many of our students will be traveling to college tournaments of their own during our tournament and their judging will be limited.

 We will have distinct Open and Novice policy debate divisions. Coaches will still be able to enter novice teams in the open division if they choose to do so. Such a decision will preclude a team from receiving awards designated for the novice division. The Novice policy division will NOT utilize the Georgia novice evidence packet. High School students will be allowed to judge the Novice Division. There will be a limited preference system used in assigning judges in the Open division.

 We look forward to seeing old friends and welcoming new ones to our campus. Please call us if we can provide you with any additional information. We hope to adhere to the tentative schedule listed below. With the change in date, the size of the entry may result in an amendment of this schedule when we get closer to the tournament date.

Sincerely,

Logan Gramzinski Hays Watson

Tournament Director Director of Debate

770-344-7179 434.509.3896

email: gramlp13@uga.edu http://www.georgiadebate.org

 email: whwatson@gmail.com

Tournament Details

FEES AND REGISTRATION

Registration for the Bulldog Debate Tournament will be handled through the Tabroom website. All entries and fees will be managed through the website as well. Final registration fees will be assessed as of Monday January 11, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. **Schools that register, but do not show, will be billed.** Check-in and fee payment will be held between 12:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Friday, January 15th in Tate Hall at the University of Georgia. If a team has not checked in by 3:00, either in person or by phone, on January 15th, 2016 they **will not** be paired for Round 1.

CHANGES

Because alterations to teams’ original entries have the habit of occurring, we request that you record changes to entries on the Tabroom websitepromptly. If the registration period has ended, please notify Hays Watson of your changes **as soon as possible**. An email to whwatson@gmail.com is preferable, but Hays may also be reached at 434-509-3896 if late changes are necessary. You may also notify us of any changes via fax at 706-542-3245. *Please do not contact the tournament director unless the registration period on the Tabroom website has expired.*

TEAM LIMITS

Presently, we are limiting entries from one school to six teams in varsity and four teams in novice. If it is logistically possible, we will to remove this cap. In the past, we have been able to accommodate teams above the cap. **Please add your teams to the wait list on the registration website**, and we will inform you when we make final decisions about entry limits. If there is room for additional teams, schools on the waiting list will be notified after 4:00 p.m. on January 11, 2016. We define a debate team as two individuals debating together. Individuals who must debate alone because of last-minute changes will not be eligible to qualify for elimination rounds.

PREFERENCES

We will continue the practice of using a preference system for the Open Policy division this year. The preference system will be administered through Tabroom and requires that judging commitments be firmly established as of the registration deadline of January 11, 2016 at 4:00 pm.

AWARDS

Permanent trophies will be presented to all teams reaching the elimination rounds. Speaker awards will be given on the basis of the number of entries.

VIDEO RECORDINGS

Debate rounds may only be filmed or recorded after the permission of all participants (debaters and the judge) has been received. JUDGES

Each school is responsible for providing three rounds of judging for every two debaters in the tournament, or six rounds for every four debaters entered. The University of Georgia has a limited number of hired judges available at a fee of $20.00 per round for team debate. Schools needing to hire judges are encouraged to register early. All judging fees will be assessed as of January 11, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. Schools needing to hire judges after January 11th will be placed on a waiting list. When we exhaust the available supply of UGA judges we will attempt to match schools with interested judges. Schools will be expected to pay these contracted judges directly.

TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS QUALIFIER

Based upon last year’s tournament, the 2016 Bulldog Debates will be a TOC Qualifier. Teams in the Open semi-final rounds will receive a leg for the TOC to be held at the University of Kentucky in May of 2016. Qualifying teams will need to report their entry before leaving Athens. We must have that information to the TOC by March 6th.

HOUSING

The rooms blocked for the tournament are at the Holiday Inn Express (**be sure to ask for the Bulldog high school debate tournament rate)**.

Holiday Inn Express- $92

\*In order to receive the block rate for our tournament, the hotel requires reservations to be made by 12/25/2015 (Calling and explicitly requesting the block rate for the debate tournament is also required).

Address: 513 W. Broad St., GA 30601

Phone:(706) 546-8122

Here is a list of other area hotels listed in the order of proximity to campus. We have not made any arrangements with these hotels.

Courtyard, 166 Finley Street 706-369-7000

Comfort Suites Downtown, 255 North Ave, 706-995-4000

Best Western, 170 N Milledge Ave, 706-546-7311

Foundry Inn, 295 E. Dougherty Street 706-425-9700

Hampton Inn, 2220 W. Broad Street 706-546-8122

Hilton Garden Inn, 390 E. Washington Street 706-353-6800

Howard Johnson Inn, 2465 W. Broad Street 1-800-456-4656 or 706-548-1111

Holiday Inn, 197 E. Broad Street 706-549-4433

Microtel Inn, 1050 Ultimate Drive (Atlanta Hwy.) 706-548-5676

DIRECTIONS

Athens is 66 miles east of Atlanta. From the South and West take Highway 316 from Interstate 85 North from Atlanta. Highway 316 will become Epps Bridge Road at Athens Loop Route 10. Continue going straight on what is now Epps Bridge Road which will become Atlanta Highway/Broad Street as you come off the Epps Bridge ramp. At the edge of downtown Athens take a right onto South Lumpkin Street. The Journalism building is located at the corner of Baldwin Street and Sanford Drive.

Tentative Schedule

|  |
| --- |
| ***UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA******BULLDOG DEBATES***January 15-January 17, 2016 |
| ***Friday, January 15, 2016***Registration Tate HallOpening Assembly/PairingsRound I Round II  | 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.4:30 p.m.5:00 – 7:00 p.m.7:00 – 9:00 p.m. |
| ***Saturday, January 16, 2016***Breakfast and Pairings – Tate AtriumRound IIILunch (Provided by UGA)Round IV Round V Dinner (Provided by UGA)Round VIClearing Teams and Elim Judges PostedTabroom | 8:15 a.m.9:00 – 11:00 a.m.11:00 - Noon12:15 – 2:30 p.m.3:15 – 5:15 p.m.5:15 – 6:15 p.m.6:30 - 8:30 p.m.10:00 pm |
| ***Sunday, January 17, 2016***Breakfast and Pairings – Tate AtriumElimination Rounds  | 7:45 am8:30am – 5:00 pm |
|  |  |