

Shortly before the awards ceremony for the 2019 TFA State tournament, the Executive Council was informed of a concern with CX Debate. At that time, the information communicated to the EC indicated that the final round of CX Debate would not start until midnight, and that we didn't know if the host school would stay open for us. Thus, a motion was made to declare co-champions in CX Debate. The motion was seconded. After a few questions were asked, there was a perception among some members of the EC that the coaches in question had agreed to the idea of declaring co-champions. Based on the information that was communicated at the time, the EC agreed to the motion, and voted to declare co-champions in CX.

Unfortunately, the information upon which the vote was based was incorrect on both counts. The host school was willing to remain open until the conclusion of CX, and not all coaches in question had agreed to the idea of declaring co-champions. As a result, though by no fault of their own, students that were ready and willing to culminate a phenomenal performance at TFA state with one final debate did not have the opportunity of debating in a TFA State final round.

Upon reflection of all the events that led to the EC's decision to declare co-champions, as well as the possible harms of reversing this decision, the EC has voted to uphold its decision to declare co-champions. Through much discussion, we felt that forcing the two parties to hold the debate now would compound that harm caused by the original vote in two ways: First, the teams would be forced to debate in a completely different set of circumstances than would have been present the final night of TFA state. Second, a forced final round at this point would strip one team of a state championship that had already been awarded. We felt that the second harm would be especially grievous.

As an Executive Council we would like to unanimously extend a formal apology to all parties affected by this vote. Through miscommunication, a vote was taken that left members of our community upset and both students and coaches feeling aggrieved. We recognize the excellence of all the students that earned a spot in the TFA State finals of CX Debate, and we congratulate the coaches of these students for the outstanding culmination of all their dedicated work to guide their students to this success. These students and coaches are worthy of our enthusiastic applause. We also recognize the sting of disappointment that the parties involved experienced as a result of this final round not taking place.

The EC takes full responsibility for our error. We pledge to the parties involved, and to the entire state community to work fervently to ensure that an error of this magnitude does not happen again. Thank you for your work to better this community, and for your patience as you awaited final word from the EC.