
OPEN DISCUSSION FROM ROLE OF GRADUATE ASSISTANTS IN THE INDIVIDUAL EVENTS PROGRAM

Discussion centered on the various roles that graduate assistants are required to play in the forensic community. Under the "Suggestions to Departments" items No. 1 and No. 4 were considered to be very important. Varied views were presented concerned with No. 1 under "Suggestions to Forensic Associations." These views ranged from total objection of the position that graduate assistants should not be allowed to judge to the view that graduate assistants may be far more qualified than many other judges. Numerous individuals stated that it would be unfair to stop 1st year graduate assistants from judging at national tournaments. Discussion also centered on the issue that graduate assistants were students and that their academic work should be given first priority in any graduate program. While it was recognized that many graduate assistants serve as the director of a program, the general consensus was that every forensic program should have a "faculty" member in charge in order to ensure the stability and continuation of the program.