

Debates

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Wireback argued in favor of the resolution “The United States should take steps to significantly strengthen the system of checks and balances among the two or more branches of the federal government.” Opposing them on the negative were Stanislas Foucqueteau and Michael Spradlin.

Foucqueteau and Spradlin repeatedly poked holes into their opponents’ argument, but as two of the judges noted, they were not able to construct plausible links to the affirmative case.

Judges for the debate were Chief District Judge Robert Cilley, attorney Shelton Jones, and Joe McGuire, chair of the Brevard College Board of Trustees. All three judges complimented the debaters for their performance, both in their preparation and in their ability to present their argument.

The judges voted for the affirmative in a 2-1 decision.

“This is the first time that the affirmative side has won in the six years that we have had formal academic debate tournaments,” said Ralph Hamlett, instructor of COM 380, Argumentation & Debate. In an academic debate, the affirmative side is generally the harder one to win, since the negative side constitutes the status quo—and the affirmative therefore has more to prove.

Earlier in the evening, the affirmative also won by a 10-7 vote in an informal forum debate on whether the United States “should take steps to prevent Iran from becoming ‘the’ leading political/military power in the Middle East.”

Jason Mitchell argued in the affirmative, while the negative case was made by Matthew White—who agreed to argue the case just hours before the debate when the scheduled speaker backed out.

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DEADLINE: Ads must be in by Tuesday at 5 p.m. in order to make it in that week's paper.



photo by J. Billingsley

Jason Martin argues the affirmative during Tuesday's open forum debate. Seated are Mathew White Zach Christy, who argued the negative.