

IMSA PAC MEETING MINUTES

October 19, 2002

President Jeri Hagiwara called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. Roll call was taken. There was a quorum. Janis Fanning moved the approval of the September minutes. Jackie Poulsen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

President's Report

Jeri stated that she is very pleased at how the committees are working together. The committee members are dedicating a tremendous amount of time and effort to their activities. For example, for the first time in years, there is a Parent Partner for every wing.

She reminded attendees that there would be a IRN discussion with Eric McLaren and Pierre Maloka after the PAC meeting. The focus would be the process by which parents and students can request 24-hour access.

Vice President's Report

Cathy Barnes reported that the November meeting will be in Champaign/Urbana at University High School, which has free parking. Students should contact Bob Hernandez for transport to U of I via van or bus. While the PAC meeting is going on, IMSA alumni will be providing tours of the campus to the students. At 11 am, a U of I rep will talk about the Honors Program. At noon, there will be lunch available at Illini Tower for \$5 per person. Cathy needs people to sign up who are interested in lunch. Parents who are interested in carpooling should contact Cathy for information.

Treasurer's Report

Navreet Kang reported that there is currently \$3,879 in the PAC budget, due to a transfer of \$3,000 from the IMSA fund to PAC in September. Navreet also reminded everyone seeking reimbursements that he needs a completed reimbursement form and the receipts in order to issue reimbursement checks.

Secretary's Report

Don Driscoll reported that there would be a phone-tree session immediately after the PAC meeting to complete phone trees for those regions which had not yet sent them in.

He also noted that PAC still needs a Junior and Senior rep for Region 3, as well as a Sophomore rep for Region 10. If anyone knows of an interested parent, they should urge that individual to contact Jeri.

IMSA Administration Comments

Eric McLaren noted that 10/21 is the first day of the second quarter and grades will be mailed the middle of the week of 10/28. In response to a request from Cathy Null, Eric agreed to send out a directory of IMSA offices and teachers to the parents with the 1st quarter grades.

January Intersession catalogs are out and students have them. Preferences are due from the students on 10/25. Eric noted that there is a substantial increase in sessions by IMSA alumni (17 out of 66).

Eric expressed a concern that some organizational posters have been defaced (Black Cafe and Spectrum) which violates IMSA's tradition of respect and free expression.

Eric is seeking parent volunteers to discuss the use of personalized learning plans to commence when students first enter the Academy to guide students in choosing courses, sports, work study, etc. The plans must be adaptable as the student grows through his/her IMSA experience.

Gretchen Stauder thanked parents for their support and noted that the CAC website is updated weekly. The profile that IMSA sends to colleges is also on the website. There will be a fall newsletter regarding CAC issues that will be both mailed out and posted on the website. She intends to copy parents on significant emails to the students. Gretchen noted that there have been 6 college mini-fairs thus far which have been very successful. IMSA will have forty-two colleges at the October 22 mini-fair.

Bob Hernandez asked that, if parents don't receive a response from their RC to an email inquiry, they should send it again after 48 hours but also copy zant@imsa.edu on the email. He asked that all such email inquiries to RCs include "IMSA" in the subject heading so the RCs recognize it as a non-spam email.

Bob also reported that, due to all staff having to take an extra state-mandated 3-day furlough, there will be an additional extended weekend on Martin Luther King Weekend (1/17 to 1/20). Classes will end at 12:45 and halls will reopen at 5 pm. Halls will reopen at 3 p.m. on Monday. Regional reps will have to ensure that the various buses are lined up for that additional weekend. If the additional bus cost is a financial burden, contact Bob Hernandez and he will work with the parents/students involved. Bob suggested that students might want to use that weekend for college visits. The Bowling Tournament for that weekend will be rescheduled.

Jim Gerry stated that they are working with the State of Illinois for a \$1M technology grant. Most of the funds would go for revamp and redesign of website and complete replacement of systems that run the Academy. Other uses for the funds are purchase of scientific equipment, CAD (Computer Assisted Design) software and replacement of the interior lighting system. If IMSA does receive the grant, the funds will start to flow in December or January.

IMSA is in the process of creating an alumni database (with website access) so the alumni can maintain their personal profile and keep it updated. This puts the responsibility back on the alumni. In response to a question, Jim affirmed that IMSA will maintain an email address for its students indefinitely, but it must actually be used. If an alumnus doesn't use his/her email address for a year, IMSA turns it off. He also noted that parents can have an IMSA email address if they wish.

Finally, Jim stated that IMSA is experiencing a tremendous volume of spam email, largely because all of the student and staff email addresses are readily available on the website. They are considering having that area be password-protected.

Student Council Report

Urvi Purohit, Student Council President (and Homecoming Queen!), reported that Homecoming was well attended. Prior to Homecoming, there was a lot of class competition which the Seniors won. Funds from the Homecoming will be used to support student groups.

She noted that Student Council currently has 25 members and four major sub-committees: Residential Life, Community-Wide, Academic and Club/PR. Students interested in participating should contact her.

Academic Committee

Virginia Hess stated that the Academic Committee will focus on the math curriculum during its December 7th meeting in Room 150A at 9 a.m.

Fund Raising

Navreet Kang reported that, as of 10/15, the IMSA Fund had received \$17,683 from 12% of the IMSA parents with an average gift of \$242.

The Phoneathon fundraiser will be held on 10/22-24 (6:30 to 9:00 p.m.) and 10/26 (9 a.m. to noon). He urged that we still need many more volunteers for the Phoneathon in order to have it succeed. In response to a question, he noted that IMSA requires that the Phoneathon be done on campus for legal reasons.

Technology

Pierre Maloka stated that they are updating and modifying the PAC website, including documenting the progress and achievements of the PAC. He will also be setting up a threaded discussion group the various committees.

He encouraged reps and parents to attend the 24-hour IRN discussion immediately after the PAC meeting.

Old Business

Ann Carpenter discussed the proposed bylaw changes. The Communications Committee will be responsible for Parent Communications (working with IMSA Administration and department heads to detail information that should be communicated to parent and the mode of communications) and Parent to Parent Communications which includes providing information to parents via email, and or newsletter.

The Technology Committee responsibilities will now include the investigating the structure of the IMSA web site and maintaining the PAC website. The Technology Chair, Pierre Maloka, and the Communication Chair, Jacki Poulsen said that the changes worked for them.

Cathy Null moved to accept the motion to change the bylaws. Jacki Poulsen seconded. Motion carried with unanimous vote.

New Business

Jeri stated that we are creating an ad hoc committee (to include Mike Doran and Cathy Barnes) to evaluate and recommend improvements for next year's downstate meeting.

Announcements

The next PAC meeting on November 16th is at Champaign/Urbana at University High School at 10 a.m.

Nancee Delich moved the meeting be adjourned. Janis Fanning seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Don Driscoll

PAC Secretary