

IMSA PAC MEETING MINUTES

October 18, 2003

President Cathy Barnes called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. Roll call was taken. There was a quorum. Susan Larsen Flannery moved for approval of the September minutes. Jan Siemens seconded. Motion passed.

President's Report

Cathy Barnes noted that the Chicago Sun-Times published a very favorable article about IMSA on October 5th, 2003. She also distributed a handout to PAC members soliciting suggestions for speakers after the PAC meetings.

Vice President's Report

Lorna Ruddy asked for volunteers for Information Day sessions, which will take place around the state from 10/29/03 thru 1/20/04.

She also asked for volunteers for the VIP Days on November 23rd (Sunday) and January 31st (Sunday). Volunteers would assist throughout the afternoon programs.

Treasurer's Report

Susan Larsen Flannery stated that she will submit a preliminary 2003-04 budget to the Executive Board this week and the budget will be presented to the PAC for approval at the next meeting.

Secretary's Report

Don Driscoll reported that the PAC still needs representatives for Regions 3 (sophomore and senior) and 10 (sophomore and junior)

Downstate Coordinator

Jan Siemens reported that the November downstate meeting will take place at U of I at 10 a.m. at the College of Veterinary Medicine. After the PAC meeting, guest speaker Amanda Cuevas (Coordinator of Medical Scholars Program at U of I) will make a presentation. The meeting will end at approximately 11:45 a.m.

During the PAC meeting, students will have the option of taking a campus tour led by IMSA alumni or they can attend the Saturday Physics lecture that is part of an honors program.

Everyone will be done by 11:45 and parents can make arrangements to meet their students for lunch. Students should return by 1:15 to the bus site for 1:30 departure.

IMSA Administration Comments

Eric McLaren reported that the Intersession catalog is out and students must turn in their top three choices by 10/27. There are about 60 different sessions and there will be an addendum later this week with additional sessions. All students have the catalog and it will soon be on the IMSA webpage.

He asked for feedback on the draft 2004-05 calendar, particularly with regard to the proposed start date, end

date and extended weekends. The start of the school has been pushed back one full week (8/23/04). Winter break starts a bit earlier (12/22) rather than Friday (12/24). Graduation is still the Saturday after Memorial Day (6/4/05).

The first quarter ended Friday (10/17) and grades will be sent out at the end of the week of October 27th.

Eric reported the following information on behalf of the CAC (College and Academic Counseling) staff:

- 1) CAC recently completed and hand-delivered 175 University of Illinois applications to a U of I rep who was on campus for the last college mini-fair.
- 2) Every college application processed by the CAC during the year will contain a copy of the IMSA school profile. That school profile will soon be available on the webpage.
- 3) Next mini-college fair is Tuesday (10/21).

Bob Hernandez reported that the van rides to Cub Foods (started after Eagles closed) are in operation on Sunday thru Thursday at 8 pm and 9 pm.

Homecoming was one of the best after the events of skit night. Pep rally was very enthusiastic. Homecoming Dance in the old cafeteria was the best-decorated event in history of IMSA.

Sophomore parents should be aware that sophomores will soon be given an opportunity to nominate an educator who has been influential in their life on Recognition Night (3/19/03). Students and parents will soon receive information about the event. Parents should encourage their students to nominate an educator and are invited to attend the recognition event as well.

Jim Gerry stated

- 1) Sophomore IRN permission forms will come out with the grade reports. He stated that IRN is not necessarily required (despite student statements to the contrary) and parents should decide for themselves whether it will be a distraction or a useful tool. The permission forms will come out with the grade reports and Jim comments that parents should take the grades into consideration in making their decision regarding IRN permission. For those sophomores signing up for IRN, a new procedure will be to have sophomores bring their computers in to have anti-virus software installed.
- 2) Wireless networking will be rolled out in the near future in the academic building. It will eventually be installed in the residential halls. Parents of sophomores (and possibly juniors) should take this into account when purchasing a new computer for their students.
- 3) IMSA is purchasing an ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) system which is an integrated system for all the software utilized at IMSA. Financial, admissions, HR, course selection, residential life, CAC, etc. will be part of this system. One goal is to provide students and parents with the ability to register for courses online next year.

Rob Flot (Multi-Cultural Coordinator) will make a full presentation in December or January regarding his plans for the successful recruitment and retention of minority students. He is also responsible for the development of multi-cultural courses at IMSA. Parents are welcome to provide him any input, suggestions or questions at rflot@imsa.edu

Student Council Report

Brittany Andres reported on the following on behalf of Student Council:

-- Student Council is attempting to bring in more restaurant choices for school events (e.g., Roly Poly, Portillos and Panera Bread).

- n 50 clubs have applied for funding thus far and Student Council is currently considering those requests

- n The pool will be open at every Friday Fest from 7 to 10 p.m.
- n There will six haunted house trips before Halloween
- n Trick or treating to the administration staff will occur on 10/30-31.

Academic Committee

Weiren Chou reported that 27 parents signed up for the committee. The PAC monthly newsletter will set forth future meeting information. This year's sophomore parents seem particularly active on the committee based on today's meeting on the science curriculum.

Fund Raising

Sandy Hamman presented a synopsis of the plan for fundraising efforts this year. Last year almost \$58,000 was raised. However, there was a significant number of unfunded pledges which decreased the percentage of parent participation. Parent participation directly impacts corporate fundraising efforts. Sandy noted that a significant portion of the funds raised goes directly to the PAC which, for example, paid for fitness equipment last year.

This year's fundraising letter will be sent out at the end of October. All pledges should be turned in by 12/31/03. In particular, parents who wish to claim the contribution as a charitable deduction on their taxes must send in their pledge dollars by that date. After the first of the year, regional volunteers will call those who have not responded to the solicitation mailing.

Eric McLaren noted that IMSA still has less funding than it did two years ago and depends significantly on this fundraising effort to make up this shortfall. Jim Gerry also mentioned that need for funding at IMSA is as great or greater than in the past. Those funds have been used in the past to hire IMSA students and alumni to help out in the summer in the CNS work service. Due to reduced funding, there were less hires this past summer.

Student Life

Kay Landers reported on the following Student Life projects and activities:

- n the air hockey table is now operational and is in the Student Union. The pool tables have also been resurfaced.
- n Parents are encouraged to volunteer at Friday Fests. The next Friday fest is 10/24 (theme is Halloween). The theme for the 11/7 Friday Fest is Pasta Blast – bring some pasta!
- n Kay mentioned that Steve Zant should be copied on all Parent Partner communications with the RCs.
- n Student Life is attempting to convince Harris Bank to provide an ATM on campus.
- n New Horizons (grief counseling) is a confidential service that is available to students. Interested students should contact Chris Nelson (dewey@imsa.edu).

Senior Banquet

Theresa Taff still needs baby photos of some seniors. She also requested that ideas for themes be emailed to her at ttaff435@aol.com

Announcements

The next PAC meeting is at University of Illinois at 10 a.m. on November 15th. See details above.

Kim Fassbinder moved the meeting be adjourned. Janet Lumsden seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,
Don Driscoll and Naomi Knappenberger
PAC Co-Secretaries