

IMSA PAC MEETING MINUTES
January 15, 2005 (approved 2/12/05)

President Lorna Ruddy called the meeting to order at 10:08 AM. Roll call was taken. There was a quorum. Lorna requested that the December minutes be approved. Jan Siemens moved for approval of the minutes and Herb Sharpless seconded the motion. Motion passed.

IMSA Administration Comments

Principal Eric McLaren reported on the following topics:

- Grades were mailed out on January 13, 2005. Students and resident counselors have already received the grades.
- It appears that no member of the IMSA community was directly effected by the tsunami since Eric received no responses to his inquiry email.
- Resident Scholar Leon Letterman is spearheading the Deans and Directors Series for various professions to work with IMSA students. On January 27, the Dean of the Middell College of Journalism will be on campus to discuss a career in journalism.
- Eric showed a 6-minute video regarding campus security. A nonuniformed security officer from Aurora Central Catholic was videotaped while attempting to gain access to the main building on multiple occasions. All staff members refused access but students did allow him access to the building. The video will be shown to all students on Wednesday (1/19) to remind them of the importance of campus security.
- Intersessions, which included significant alumni participation, went very well. Some of the highlights included a program on space mission design/analysis and poetry writing.
- The IMSA board has approved the 2005-06 calendar which was mailed out to parents this past week and will also be posted on website. The most notable changes take place in November – there will be school on Veterans Day (11/11) but, unlike prior years, there will be no school on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Students will be dismissed on that Tuesday (11/22) after a full school day. Students who live far away will be able to get special permission to leave earlier.

Gretchen Stauder reported that all of the college applications (a total of 1600!) have been sent out to 196 different colleges. 300 invitations for College Day were also sent out this week to various colleges. Student schedules were also distributed this past week for the second semester. Gretchen also provided information on the many CAC duties leading up to College Day on April 23rd.

David Abler stated that new courses have been approved. The new course offerings will be distributed to the students in early February, as well as posted on the website.

Student Council Report

Codi Kuhlemeier reported that the Clash of Halls will take place during the week of January 24th. She also referenced a host of other events planned by Student Council, including the following: Pep Rally, Roly Poly, Singled Out, Matchmaker, Dress Up Days, Battle of the Bands and Spring Fling.

Fundraiser sent out over winter break to each student to hopefully raise \$35 each but the response has been weak thus far. She asked parents to encourage their students.

Student Counsel will also distribute a survey on classes in the near future. Finally, they are working with Disciplinary Committee to try to define specific punishments for specific offenses.

President's Report

Lorna Ruddy asked for parent volunteers for the last VIP Day, which is Saturday, January 29th. This is traditionally the largest VIP Day, with over 900 parents of prospective students showing up at last year's event. Volunteers will meet at 1:30 in old cafeteria.

She thanked parents for their support at the first VIP day, as well as assistance at the information meetings that occurred throughout the state.

Lorna also announced that there will be a Bylaws Work Session at 10 am on January 29th for interested PAC members.

Secretary's Report

Don Driscoll asked that everyone review the bylaws that apply to their respective position and make recommendations for changes or confirm that no changes are deemed necessary. This includes identifying items in the procedural guidelines that should be moved to the bylaws. Everyone's input is due by Monday, January 24th. All updates or confirmations that no changes are recommended should be sent directly to Don Driscoll (don_driscoll@rlicorp.com). All changes will be taken into consideration and the amendments will be voted on in the spring. Both the procedural guidelines and the bylaws are on the PAC website (<http://parents.imsa.edu>).

Treasurer's Report

Janet Lumsden reported the PAC treasury has a balance of \$7,393, which is well within budget. Friday Fests are the biggest expenses of the year.

Janet noted that the IMSA Fund Coordinator has requested that the PAC provide a \$500 speaker honorarium to Lloyd Thacker, author of College Unranked, who will be the keynote speaker on College Day on April 23rd. The request was unanimously approved.

Downstate Coordinator

Jan Siemens reported that work still continues on coordinating and improving the downstate bussing.

Committee Updates

Academic

Sherry Kwei reported that the committee met this morning with Gretchen Stauder regarding course selection. Another meeting would occur regarding Student Inquiry with Dr. Judith Scheppler immediately after the PAC meeting.

Student Life

Patrice Onyiego reported on the following issues:

- The Student Life Committee has received additional funds for activities which will be earmarked for weekend programming activities. A survey will be sent out to students seeking suggestions for weekend activities.
- Head Counselors will receive training on substance abuse issues this upcoming week.
- A Wellness Committee, spearheaded by John Martin, was established in order to focus on nutrition and

fitness. The committee will also work on improving students' sleep habits.

- Student Life will establish a bulletin board for weekend rides. They are currently trying to determine the best place to physically locate the bulletin board. The ride information will also be posted on the IMSA website.
- There will be a Superbowl Fest on February 6th starting at 5 pm. The Union will open a half hour prior to the game. Student Life seeks volunteers to assist during the Superbowl Fest.
- The air hockey table and foosball table in the Union will be replaced. It is probable Dance Dance Revolution pads will also be purchased for the Union.
- Patrice asked for parent volunteers to assist in the monitoring the swimming pool. The training is easy and there are no lifeguard duties involved.

Gina Zager noted that the food contract with Arbor expires this year. The Nutrition Committee has been working on developing the final specifications. They would like to include incentives in the contract to maintain a high quality and variety of food. Specific improvements would be a Cook to Order program on the weekends and point of service software to better track what food is being selected and what food is not. Once finalized, the specifications must be submitted to the state for approval before going out for competitive bids from interested vendors. Gina noted that the bids will be evaluated on a scale basis to ensure that the lowest bidder will not get the contract unless it also meets the quality conditions.

One parent asked about the availability of vegetarian meals. Gina stated that Arbor does currently offer a vegetarian dish with each meal and that it will certainly be part of the bidding requirements. Gina also stated that Arbor is willing to work with individual students who have unique dietary needs, including storing a student's food for them.

Herb Sharpless reported that they are working on the invitation design for Senior Banquet. The theme will be "Really Great Friends are Hard to Find." However, the committee has only received half of the senior pictures even though the deadline has passed. He strongly encouraged the remaining parents to quickly send the photos. Electronic versions are preferred and should be sent to Janet Lumsden.

Old Business

Lorna stated that recommendations and input on downstate bussing issues should be sent to Jan Siemens or herself.

New Business

Lorna announced that nominations for the 2005-06 PAC executive officers will be taken at the February 12th meeting. The election will take place at the March 12th meeting.

Janet Lumsden sought ideas for expenditures of the PAC budget to enhance student life on campus. Ideas should be sent to Janet or Michelle Whetstone.

- One parent asked about the distribution of the PAC Newsletter. Since Barbara Kulbida wasn't available, Janet responded to the inquiry. She explained that it was decided last year that the newsletter would be posted on the PAC website (<http://parents.imsa.edu>) but not emailed out individually. One problem had been that the newsletter attachment was too large for some parents' email capacity.

One parent asked who students should discuss issues regarding Mentorship or Inquiry. David Abler stated that Mentorship questions should be directed to Dr. Peggy Connolly and Inquiry questions should be directed to Dr. Judy Shepler.

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Announcements

The next PAC Meeting will be held on February 12, 2005. Executive Meeting 8:30 AM. General Meeting 10:00 AM.

Laurie Hayes moved that the meeting be adjourned. Jan Siemens seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Don Driscoll
PAC Co-Secretary
(<http://parents.imsa.edu>)