

## IMSA PAC MEETING MINUTES

February 24, 2007

(<http://parents.imsa.edu>)

Co-President Kim Schmitt called the meeting to order at 10:05am. Roll call was taken. A quorum was present (thanks to all who came, especially from a distance, despite the threat of inclement weather). The January meeting minutes were approved as written, later in the meeting, after a motion by Ann Iglesias, with a second by Don Driscoll.

### **President's Report**

Co-President Barb Kulbida began the meeting with a request that parents be respectful of several IMSA policies. There appears to be increasing lack of respect towards the policies and a reminder email will be sent out via region reps and parent mailings in an attempt to improve compliance.

Parents are expected to sign in and sign out at the main desk when entering the main building, every time they enter. This is a matter of safety and accountability of who is in the building at all times.

Parents are expected to pick up their students by the time the dorm closes on extended weekends. If there is an emergency, they are expected to contact the RC and let them know of the difficulty and make arrangements.

Parents who come into the dormitory wings are expected to make contact with the R/C on duty. Students have been reminded not to open the doors for adults they do not know.

Parents are expected to pick up their students and remove them from the dorm in a timely fashion when their student is ill. When students live in such close proximity to each other, illness can spread rapidly.

The Executive Board with input from Parent reps be writing an email to address these issues and others. Several suggestions were discussed; including a parent ID that would be issued at the same time students acquire their ID at check in for the year. A possible parent contract with specific IMSA policy that tends to be problematic, year after year, such as discussed above may be developed and included in the packet of information and forms that parents read, agree to, and sign at the beginning of each school year.

### **Vice-President's Report**

The Downstate PAC meeting will be held on the University of Illinois at Champaign Granger Engineering Library at 2:15 on March 10, 2007.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Gary Dittmer presented a printed copy of the Financial report. There had been 2 transactions for meeting expenses and to the Secretary of State's office to complete our tax-exempt status. The balance is \$15,368.92

### **Downstate Report**

Noble Redmon reported that things are lining up nicely for the new Downstate Coordinator for next year. Summer Picnics should be getting scheduled and bus procedures are in place. Parent reps were asked to encourage parents to attend the Downstate meeting.

### **Metro Coordinator**

It was reported by Kim that Pat is in the process of contacting metro region reps for continuing in their roles for next year.

### **Student Council**

John Li reported that the annual Clash of the Halls would take place the next week. Monday would be a Pep Rally and games, Tuesday was a Game Show night, Wednesday would be a Talent Show with each hall submitting 2 acts with faculty judges, Thursday would be Oscar Night with 8 minute videos produced by the each hall. LORAX was promoting an energy conservation effort, pitting the halls against each other to see who would do the best that week. LEAD was sponsoring a Penny Walk as well.

Jonathan Koch reported on the recent trip that 5 Student Council members made to the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics during the extended weekend. This was a Consortium Conference of the Student Government and Student Councils that belong to the NCSSSMST. It is an opportunity for students from residential Mathematics and Science Academies across the nation to exchange ideas. From this meeting, a new organization was formed: The Association of Consortium Student Governments (ACSG). A constitution was written and officers were elected. Jonathan Koch was elected President of this new organization for the coming school year. The students hope to continue an active exchange of ideas, create a newsletter and develop ideas to promote math and science education in their respective states.

### **Academic Presentation**

Dr. Hancock from the English Department and Dr. Skinner, from the History Department presented information regarding the pilot program that is in operation for the first time this year, for all sophomores. The English Curriculum and History Curriculum, via American Studies have been using literature to support historical arguments this year. It has always been difficult to determine how people "felt" during a particular period of history and by using the literature written during a particular time in history, students have been making this connection. For example, when the students learned about World War I in American in 1919, they read Winesburg, Ohio and the Spoon River Anthology in their respective English classes. Materials are used jointly to support instruction in both classes. Projects are derived from the respective perspectives of each department. Students seem to appreciate the fact that much of their reading covers both classes. The approach is working so well that the departments would like to explore expanding this pilot to the Juniors if details can be worked out.

There is an ongoing search for a replacement faculty member in the English Department due to the retirement of Dana Goodman after 21 years of teaching.

The English Department will have several new course electives next year including Gender Studies and IMSATube.

The History Department will offer new courses as well, including: Women in Power and History of Technology. Dr. Skinner gave a provocative presentation as to his vision for the course. He would like our students to become well acquainted with the influence that machines have made

in the course of civilization and apply that insight when they are in the process of decision-making or design of the technology of the future.

## **Committee Reports**

### **CAC**

Dr. Bob Hernandez reported for Julia Huson. Pass/Fail option deadline was fast approaching. Meetings for rising Seniors will begin soon, to prepare them for the upcoming College Fair. They must fill out several documents before their individual meetings and these can be found at PrepHQ. Advanced Placement tests will be in May. Registration for these tests must be completed by March 9. We were encouraged to support the College Fair on April 21. Volunteers will be needed to assist in many ways.

### **Communication**

Barb is still looking for someone to take this job for next year.

### **Multicultural**

No report.

### **Student Life**

Marsha Carter reported that students are doing a much better job of interfacing with SODEXHO. The positive comment cards have increased. The quality of food is also improving. Good food is being served (nutritional choices are available at every meal), but it is the students responsibility to make good choices. Students are encouraged to check out [bodymindsoul.com](http://bodymindsoul.com) for nutritional information. Marsha has enjoyed being the chairman of the Student Life committee this year and encouraged someone to please take this job for next year.

Ann Igelsias reported on Friday Fest. She thanked the parents for all the contributions for the Super Bowl Chili fest. March 16 will be the India-themed meal. The remaining Friday Fest dates will be April 20 and May 28. The May 28<sup>th</sup> fest will be a barbeque from 4pm-7pm and Finals will start the next day.

### **Senior Banquet**

Linda Dittmer reported that details for the evening are still moving along quite well. Invitations will be mailed soon, the program is being finalized, the entrée for the meal has been chosen, etc.

### **Technology**

Bruce Biwer reported on a number of items. The City of Aurora will institute a 24/7 city-wide wireless access network soon. One of the connections will be at Sullivan and Randall Roads. This means students will have internet access available 24 hours per day while on campus. IMSA will continue the network firewall.

For the fall, IMSA will be supporting Wireless G cards only.

IMSA is now a part of a Great Lakes Consortium via the University of Illinois computer center, giving us Pasqual Computing Capability, again enlarging the opportunities for our students and faculty in many research areas.

There is still not a firm recommendation regarding PC's for incoming Sophomores. Data is still being reviewed from several ongoing student/faculty use initiatives.

We will have an opportunity to try the Moodle/IMSA website soon and feedback from parents to the Tech committee will be important.

The robot has been shipped for the Robotics team competition at the UIC Pavilion on March 16-17, 2007. Thanks to all who helped make this happen.

### **Discipline**

Don Driscoll reported he and Tim Koch met with Keith McIntosh that morning and discussed the revisions that had been sent out via email regarding mitigating circumstances for the current Discipline Policies. A motion regarding a non-binding resolution to support these minor changes in policy was requested. The motion was made by Tim Koch and seconded by Noble Redmon. Comments were entertained from the floor. Dr. Hernandez expressed his thoughts and support for the changes. It was noted by Tim Koch that during the meeting with Keith McIntosh, Mr. McIntosh felt that 80% of the time, the policy enables just consequences to be handed out and about 20% of the time there is no flexibility so some decisions have been difficult to make. Mr. McIntosh and Dr. Hernandez both felt that these new, minor changes would enhance the policies currently in place.

A voice vote of the representatives was taken and the motion carried.

### **Administration Report**

Dr. Hernandez reported this month. Dr. McLaren was in Boston for an Alumni event. He had visited MIT on Friday and would be meeting with 60 Alumni on Saturday night. These events have been sponsored by the Alumni in connection with IMSA20 Celebrations this year. An Alumni event is being planned in the St. Louis area sometime in March, as well.

The position reported last month (Assistant Director of Enrollment Management/Coordinator of Multicultural Development) has been renamed Coordinator of Enrollment for Cultural Development. The job has been posted and is being heavily recruited at this time.

IMSALoquium (formerly known as Presentation Day) will be held Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. This is being held on the Thursday that concludes with the start of an extended weekend in hopes that more parents will take the opportunity to attend.

IMSA students have continued to perform well in outside events. Nora Xu has been named as an Intel Finalist this year. Upcoming events featuring IMSA students include the Junior Academy of Science and Science Olympiad.

The administration was pleased to support the Student Council in their participation in the previously mentioned visit to North Carolina and the formation of the ACSG.

### **Old Business**

PAC nominations for officers for 2007-2008 continue to be solicited. At this time, the following slate is presented for consideration:

Co-Presidents: Noble Redmon and Tim Koch

Vice President: DD McInerney

Secretary: Scott and Marci Crawford

Treasurer: TBA

Downstate Coordinator: Mark Drummond

Metro Coordinator: Pat Davenport

Several committees, including Student Life, Senior Banquet, Parent Partners, etc were firming up their chairmanships for next year. These will be announced in the future.

A full slate of officers that will require a vote by the Region Reps at the April meeting will be sent by email to all region representatives for their consideration in March.

Carolyn Johnson spoke on behalf the IMSA fund. She was happy to report that 16 parents had volunteered to make phone calls for the Phone –a-Thon. Information packets were to be distributed after the meeting. Numbers have not increased much from last month, increasing to 23.3% participation from 22.2%. Carolyn did mention that the St. Louis Alumni event was going to expand to include parents of past and present students as well and more information would be available in the future.

### **New Business**

A by-law revision was presented for consideration. It was proposed that the Student Life committee absorb the Discipline Committee since the Discipline Committee was an Ad Hoc committee formed due to major revisions in the Discipline Code. While the committee has been very active in the past, including conduction and compilation of the parent surveys, it was felt by some that the Committee could dissolve, with the provision of resurrecting such committee on an as needed basis, via the Student Life committee.

The revision was presented as **#4. Discipline Code Review. Review the discipline code as requested by the Student Life Department,** under Section H. STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE.

A motion to accept this revision was made by Marsha Carter and seconded by Noble Redmon. Discussion ensued regarding issues such as times that the code would be reviewed, did the revision give enough direction to the Discipline Committee to know how to proceed if enough time elapsed between instances that the committee would be called to action that no one on the committee would understand the history of the committee, etc. Due to the many questions raised, the motion was tabled to the April meeting and a new proposal will be developed for presentation at that time.

### **Announcements**

Kim asked that as many as possible attend the Downstate meeting in March.

She also asked us to contact her if we had any suggestions for the Parent Contract, especially in the area of sick kids.

Volunteers will be needed for the College Fair. Please email Allison Schmitt:

([ag953@comcast.net](mailto:ag953@comcast.net)) if you can help.

The April meeting after the College Fair will include an appreciation luncheon for the Parent Reps. Please email Kim ( [kimberlyschmitt@aol.com](mailto:kimberlyschmitt@aol.com)) if you are planning to attend.

At the conclusion of the announcements, David Jordan moved that the meeting be adjourned and Mary Jordan seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Vera Koch

Secretary