

IMSA Parents Association Council Meeting Minutes  
November 10, 2007

The meeting was called to order by Tim Koch at 10:10am. Roll Call was conducted by Vera Koch, (2006 past secretary) as Scott Crawford was unable to attend the meeting. A quorum of 18 was obtained. Copies of the October meeting minutes were available. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Steve Maril, seconded by Ann Iglesias. The motion carried unanimously.

Presidents Report: Tim Koch

Tim attended the Board of Directors meeting on November 6. The meeting focused on a review of Student Life and Student Inquiry and Research (SIR). Formal presentations by both departments were made. Visits to a dorm, engaging interaction between students and the Board at lunch, a tour of the Grainger lab and discussions with students were all highlights of the day. A suggestion was made that the executive summary of this meeting might be made available via the IMSA website for those interested in reading it.

Vice-President's Report: DD McInerney

Reminders that parents are needed at the regional Prospective IMSA Student Informational meetings that are being held throughout the state. Parents are requested to assist at these evening meetings to answer questions from a parent perspective. Grace Walquist has a list of all the upcoming meetings. Please sign up.

Treasurer's Report: Valerie Ogilvie

Budget was available for view. \$11,000 Bus fund is the flow-through money for bus rides during extended weekends. The question was raised regarding bus contracts being a firm, fixed price due to increased fuel cost. The parents are instructed to contact their bus coordinators directly to assess the situation, as each contract is negotiated separately.

Metro-Coordinator: Patricia Davenport

Parent reps are still needed. An updated list is to be published.

Downstate Coordinator: Mark Drummond

Mark is also attempting to recruit parent reps. He is also trying to get parents to attend the regional informational meetings.

Student Council Report: Jonathan Koch, President

Student Council will debut the Student Help desk, available at midday in the Old Café. It will be used as a centralized communication center for information forwarding to the student body, hearing concerns from students and answering frequently asked questions. Based on student use and feedback, this Help Desk will be available continue next year and should especially aid sophomores to rapidly acclimate to the IMSA routine. Jonathan represented the student body at the Board of Trustees meeting. As a result of the small group discussions held at last months large General Assembly meeting, several changes in operations, suggestions for administration review and the Student Help Desk were developed.

Academic Committee: Steve Maril

Steve is in contact with Dr. Abler regarding the best way to communicate with parents and identifying key information to communicate in each academic discipline. Discussion was lengthy and varied regarding the issue of internet access for sophomores, students not getting enough sleep due to increased homework vs. time management issues, or simply choosing not to go to bed. There is a steep learning curve and parents are urged to work with their students individually on this issue. While technology could be used to cut off internet access at a certain time, athletes, students involved in extracurricular activities and students who remain on campus during the weekend may be unduly restricted by this “across the board” solution.

Dr. Matthew Rossi suggested that a subcommittee of students and parents might produce an interactive CD on time management, sleep deprivation, etc. This met with enthusiastic parent support and will be explored.

Communications: Barb Kulbida

This committee will meet after each PAC meeting.

Student Life: Karen Schwerbrock

This committee meets monthly at 9 am in room A148. Items for discussion this month included Friday Fest which will be December 14<sup>th</sup> and feature purchased Sub sandwiches. Parents are requested to provide sides, veggies, desserts and will be contacted via email by Ann Iglesias and Allison Boldridge.

Senior Banquet Committee will meet after the general meeting today. The seniors will be meeting soon to choose a theme for the banquet and a detailed parent information letter will be posted on the IMSA website.

Technology: Bruce Biwer

The PAC website is in the process of being updated by Noble Redmon

A contact management system may be available in January. We may be able to use a student in a workservice assignment to work with website management. The new wireless network might have problems during the ramp up, but access points have been determined to be sufficient to handle the load. It is a dumb router system, meaning that you do not lose your connection when you move from access point to access point on campus.

Old Business

Discussion was lively and lengthy regarding the request to change the current By-Laws to eliminate the suggested Downstate meeting, traditionally held in the spring. This meeting has never attracted a quorum of voting members, therefore negating the ability to conduct business and interfering with the nomination of officers for the coming year. After much discussion, a motion was made and seconded to strike the sentence regarding the Downstate meeting. The motion carried with opposition noted. It was taken under advisement that an informal downstate meeting, with officers and region reps present should continue, but not at the expense of the official meeting held during that month.

Multicultural: Dr. Kazi Joshua

Dr. Joshua visited the meeting today and reminded us of the efforts that are taking place by his department and the entire IMSA administration to make IMSA inclusive for all students.

Administration Report: Dr. Bob Hernandez

Due to multiple meetings being held simultaneously, including IMSA Preview Day, Dr. McLaren and Julia Husen were not available at this time to report .

Julia and CAC staff will meet with the Sophomore class. Parents are encouraged to interact with their students whenever a group meeting such as this occurs, so they can ask how the meeting went, ask about the homework or any follow-up that is needed. 800 transcripts have been sent out for the Seniors college application process thus far. PrepHQ will have information posted regarding interviews as the schedule comes available. The Power Point for the recent financial aid workshop is available on the PrepHQ website.

Parents were notified of the test of the ConnectEd notification system via email. The message went out this past Monday, at 11:12 am. Feedback will be available soon as to number of parents who received the call, etc.

Thanksgiving Break: Halls close at 8:00pm. Please pick up your student! Downstate busses will be running and will leave according to predetermined schedules. Intercession assignments will be known after Thanksgiving break.

Dr. McGee's goals will be posted on the IMSA website. These are Dr. McGee's 1 year goals for this year. Dr. McGee is doing a great job of getting to know the students and developing a relationship with the student body. He has stayed in the residence halls overnight, eats lunch with them, participated in Friday Fest, has taught classes, played dodge ball, chaperoned the Homecoming Dance, etc.

Dr. McLaren did not receive much input from parents regarding Strategic Plan: Strategy One. If anyone still has feedback, please give it to him today.

Dr. Hernandez reported on the Student Life committee lively discussion regarding food. The food committee meets on the first Wednesday of every month (Sodexo, Student Council President, Parent Rep and Student Life staff) at 2:30. Please let Dr. Hernandez know if you would like to attend a meeting.

There will be a stove installed in Kids Institute to be available for intercession cooking classes, Friday Fest, and World Language assignments. A procedure for use of the stove will be issued from Student Life in the near future.

Announcements: Tim Koch

Tim reminded parents of the need for volunteers to join the officers in the Old Café following the meeting to assist in greeting and answering prospective families questions during today's Preview Day.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Kim Schmitt and seconded by Karen Schwerbrock The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vera Koch  
(substitute Secretary)