

Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy®

igniting and nurturing creative, ethical, scientific minds that advance the human condition

IMSA Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes January 20, 2012

Call to Order

Chairman Isoye called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

Roll Call

Ms. Veal called the roll. A quorum was present.

Members Present: Steven Isoye, Jay Budzik, Sheila Griffin, Jack McEachern, Jacklyn Naughton, Luis Núñez, Paula Olszewski-Kubilius (intermittently via Adobe Connect and teleconference) and Marsha Rosner

Members Absent: Mary Kalantzis, Erin Roche, Christopher Koch, Geoffrey Obrzut, George Reid and James Rydland

Closed Session

A motion was made by Trustee Naughton and seconded by Trustee McEachern to go into closed session to discuss closed session minutes and employment, performance and compensation of specific employees. Voting aye were Trustees Isoye, Budzik, Griffin, McEachern, Naughton, Núñez and Rosner. The motion passed by a vote of 7 ayes to 0 nays.

Closed Session Held

Reconvene in Open Session

The Board reconvened in open session at 9:35 a.m.

Roll Call

Ms. Veal called the roll. A quorum was present.

Members Present: Steven Isoye, Jerome Budzik, Sheila Griffin, Mary Kalantzis, Jack McEachern, Jacklyn Naughton, Luis Núñez, Paula Olszewski-Kubilius (intermittently via Adobe Connect and teleconference), and Marsha Rosner

Members Absent: Erin Roche, Christopher Koch, Geoffrey Obrzut, George Reid and James Rydland

Liaisons Present: Stephanie Pace Marshall for IMSA Fund Board of Directors, Stuart Bloom for IMSA Parents Association Council, and Melvin Bacani for IMSA Alumni Association

Chairman's Remarks

Eric McLaren Endowment for Integrative Learning and Ethical Leadership

Chairman Isoye announced the IMSA Fund's establishment of the Eric McLaren Endowment for Integrative Learning and Ethical Leadership, calling it a "wonderful recognition of Dr. McLaren's leadership." Dr. McGee commented on Dr. McLaren's integrity and "success at every level" leadership. He said the endowment will support authentic and rigorous advanced study including student research and inquiry and projects on creative, critical and ethical thinking.

Cathy Veal read a statement from IMSA alumni Jessica Droste Yagan '95 and Sam Yagan '95 who seeded this endowed fund with a major gift to the IMSA Fund:

"We are honored to support the Eric McLaren Endowment for Integrative Learning and Ethical Leadership. We have both been extraordinarily fortunate to benefit from the 'IMSA way' of learning and recognize Eric's unique role in creating and nurturing this special environment. With the support of Kim and his family, he has given generously of his heart and mind to IMSA for more than 25 years. It is a debt we cannot repay to him but we hope that others will join us in following his example to invest in future generations of IMSA community members who like him, will use their talent and compassion to advance the human condition."

Chairman Isoye and Trustee McEachern asked Dr. McGee and Ms. Veal to relay the Board's appreciation to the Yagans and Dr. McLaren.

Reports of Liaisons

Faculty

Dr. Dan Gleason highlighted faculty work to develop online learning platforms for Scientific Inquiries Biology, addressing initiatives based on Freeman Hrabowski's findings that without remediation, most students who struggle in an introductory class will continue to struggle in more advanced study and on-line problem sets for Math (Strategy 2 and Strategy 3).

Parents

Stuart Bloom reported that FY12 parents' donations to the IMSA Fund are at 36% participation, one unexpectedly large donation was received, the contribution total to date is \$92,843, and they are working with development staff on the spring campaign.

Alumni

Melvin Bacani reported that 26 alumni volunteered during Intersession cumulatively giving more than 500 hours of their time and talent, the IMSA Alumni Association partnered with the Student Committee for IMSA Advancement to hold the first IMSA Alumni Career Fair, and individual grassroots campaigns to increase alumni giving to the IMSA Fund will begin in February.

IMSA Fund Board

Dr. Stephanie Pace Marshall recognized Paul Milano for the expertise he has brought to the development team. She reviewed financial data, spoke of generous gifts from parents and alumni

Jessica Droste Yagan and Sam Yagan, setting development goals, and voting on new members at the Fund's February meeting. She announced that the new Chairman of the Finance Committee is Jordan Koss '89.

Chairman Isoye congratulated the Board of Trustees on reaching its goal of 100% participation by the end of the calendar year. This earlier completion date enables fundraising staff and volunteers to carry the message of 100% Board participation during the second half of the FY12 annual fund appeal.

Students

Reporting for Aadi Tolappa, Margaret Hernandez spoke of students' travel to Spain and China during Intersession and service projects for Habitat for Humanity and Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos in Americus, Georgia and Peru. She said several IMSA seniors were honored as semi-finalists in the Intel Science Talent Search Competition and the Siemens Competition in Math, Science and Technology including: Grace Cao, Rose Sloan, Adam Kalinich, Sruthi Doniparthi, Nilesh Kavthekar, Emil Khabibouline, Peter Lu, and Nish Reddy, noting that many of their projects were conducted through IMSA's Student Inquiry and Research program.

Report of the Treasurer

Patrick Furlong discussed submitting procurement requests earlier, monitoring and shepherding significant purchases that are working their way through the system and starting the "sweeps" process earlier, all part of multiple efforts to fully utilize FY12 EAF appropriations despite ongoing procurement challenges. He said IMSA hopes to get the same exemptions that universities were granted in the fall.

ACTION ITEM

Mr. Furlong requested approval to reallocate 2% of IMSA's EAF budget to enable IMSA to increase capacity, improve the performance of its virtual environment, expand IMSA's online learning presence and deliver additional services to both residential and outreach constituents, consistent with the Strategic Plan including the recent online learning design charrette. He said the Board of Higher Education had been alerted that this request was coming and noted it would also require the Governor's approval. The request:

<u>\$ Amount</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
67,600	Contractual Services	EDP Equipment
16,400	Telecommunications	EDP Equipment
<u>10,900</u>	Employee Travel	EDP Equipment
94,900	Total	

A motion was made by Trustee McEachern and seconded by Trustee Griffin to approve the FY 12 appropriation reallocation request as presented. Voting aye were Trustees Isoye, Budzik, Griffin, Kalantzis, McEachern, Naughton, Núñez and Rosner. The motion passed by a vote of 8 ayes to 0 nays.

Report of the President

REFLECTIONS AND OBSERVATIONS

Dr. McGee commented on the students' participation in Habitat for Humanity during Intersession, Dan Gleason's recent National Board Teacher Certification, and students' awards from Intel and the Siemens mathematics projects. He congratulated Mr. Furlong, Kimberly Corrao and their team for IMSA's "perfect audit," and noted the IMSA Fund audit was also clean. He briefly reviewed his recent trip to China with students for research and partnership purposes. He said six teachers from China will visit IMSA next week for professional development while 25 others will come during the summer. The Board discussed China's educational system, cultural differences, the "fight for the value of creativity and innovation," partnerships and outreach in other countries such as Russia and Finland. Dr. McGee said Illinois and the United States must invest more in talent development.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda

Dr. McGee recommended approval of the Consent Agenda noting the following change in IMSA Learning Opportunities/Courses-New Offerings for Methods of Mathematics Inquiry based on the Curriculum and Assessment Leaders' feedback and endorsement:

"In **Methods of Mathematical Inquiry**, students are introduced to professional mathematical research. Through journal reading, frequent presentations, written projects, attending and presenting at conferences, and preparing results for publication, students will get a genuine feel for mathematical research. The seminar style of the course requires participants to be highly motivated, self-directed, and genuinely interested in learning about mathematics as a discipline."

A motion was made by Trustee Naughton and seconded by Trustee Núñez to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with the one change noted. Voting aye were Trustees Isoye, Budzik, Griffin, Kalantzis, McEachern, Naughton, Núñez and Rosner. The motion passed by a vote of 8 ayes to 0 nays. The following items were approved:

Minutes

November 16, 2011 Regular Board Meeting

Personnel Items

New Staff

Santino Caringella, George W. Held, Mary L. Spreitzer

Change of Status

Daniel Wallace Gleason

Part-time Staff

a. Admissions

Ed Caster, Anita Connors White, Minerva Juarez, Vincent J. Matsko, Aracelys Rios

b. Athletic/Co-Curricular/Sponsor

Brenda Bazan, Gwen M. Isola, Darlene L. Lauson, James Linden, Sharon K. McMurray, Larry Petersen, Minda Smith

Athletic - Stipends

Quintin Backstrom, Jessica Ehmler, Lani Gordon, Thomas Hinkel, John Kazmierczak, Daidra Marano, Keith McIntosh, Allison Miner, Vicki Morrow, Kevin Satler, Brad Snead, Matthew Triplett, Jakendra Williams

Co-Curricular/Sponsor - Stipends

Phyllis Chesnut, James Gerry, Vantenia Kelley, James Miller, David Wallis

c. Business Office

Christine E. Nelson

d. Custodial/Maintenance

Bradley Brandenburg, Shane Holl

e. Facilities

Robert E. Houston

f. Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Robert Flemming

g. President's Office – Stipend

Lee W. Eysturlid

h. Professional Field Services

Michael Hoehn

Policies – Minor Revisions

- Copyright Policy
- Board of Trustees Rules for Conducting Business

IMSA Learning Opportunities/Courses-New Offerings

- **Biology Core Courses.**
- **Scientific Inquiries - Biology**
- **Organisms and Ecosystems**
- **Molecular Genetics**
- **Computational Science**
- **United States Government and the Constitution**
- **Robotics Programming**
- **Music Theory**
- **Methods of Mathematical Inquiry**

Featured Agenda Items

Strategic Plan - Strategy 4

Dan Gleason, Jami Breslin, Arnold Carter and Peter Dong reviewed Strategy 4 progress, addressing work on the scholarship repository, informal and formal data collection, recommendations for encouraging/requiring participation by faculty and staff, a proposed template for documenting scholarship and research, training needs, evidence and data, behavioral incentives and flexibility. Dr. Gleason invited Board feedback on the proposed documentation template.

Examples of comments included:

- Trustee Kalantzis observed that content knowledge and transferable knowledge are missing; she suggested using different calculation methods that would translate from one project to another.
- Trustee Rosner advised assigning the responsibility for gathering research data to one person.
- Trustee McEachern expressed the importance of encouraging or requiring participation in scholarship and helping employees understand that what we are asking them to participate in will make them better staff members. He said the Board needed to supply tools for this to be accomplished.
- Dr. McGee indicated that time for scholarship is a major consideration, and it could be made a requirement for faculty through CADRE.
- Trustee Budzik spoke about commonality and comparable metrics, strategic goals and successes/failures in various initiatives noting that program metrics could be tied to some of the overarching goals. He pointed out the importance of establishing, at a minimum, the student learnings staff want to document. Regarding financial metrics, he said it is important to establish what return on investment (ROI) means and what high level metrics should be identified.
- Trustee Rosner noted that labs have failures. She suggested having two tiers and being exploratory, like clinical trials, which gives the chance for failures.
- Trustee Kalantzis commented on metrics, strategic plans and identity. She wondered why IMSA was talking about a culture change when the teachers are the best and cautioned that 26 metrics were not going to “bring us to where we want to be.” Trustee Rosner agreed, advising to take the metrics of a particular question and make them as simple as possible.
- Trustee Naughton suggested having testable questions. She commented on her school's electronic Individual Learning Plan (ILP) that includes students' goals, extracurricular service, clubs, etc. which is a nice portfolio of what the students do that she can access.

Chairman Isoye asked Trustees to send any additional ideas to Dr. McGee or Ms. Veal. Dr. Max McGee recognized Jean Bigger and Paula Garrett as drivers of the Digital Commons.

Data Reporting: Professional Field Services

Michelle Kolar reviewed the Professional Field Services Annual Report, outward and internal perspectives, data collection challenges, and the need for a new data management system. She pointed out that more multi-day events are spent with teachers, and as a result of feedback from the Executive Committee, time is being quantified into hours. She said the data shows that 185 teachers were involved in FUSION last year and they receive 32 professional development hours per year plus 64 hours of instructional implementation practices; this year 71% of FUSION teachers are returning educators and 21% have been in the program for five years or more. Ms. Kolar spoke of effective capacity management, periodic analysis of budgets, scaling and staffing levels for customers served. She said approximately 11,000 people were served in FY11 with internal resources of 28 staff, and

the fiscal data relative to learners served demonstrates that the staff salaries to learners ratio averages about \$117.00 per learner per year.

Debra Gerdes remarked on Problem-Based Learning's (PBL) evaluation by Mary McNabb at Learning Gauge, Inc., 2011, which focused on two different schools -- one in Illinois and one in Ohio. She said the Illinois school scored in a range between 98 – 100% and the Ohio school in the lower 90% range which is the highest in the city and higher than the state average. She said they give a lot of credit to PBL and teachers' use of PBL strategies. Trustee Budzik advised highlighting the benefits of PBL for transfer and likened it to "preparing a prospectus" for an investor (the State and other funders), for example, "we need to say this is the best place to funnel your money because it is the most efficient, has the best outcomes, PBL only spends X amount per learner and you get these outcomes." Ms. Kolar agreed that we need to look at alternative measurements for learner outcomes and discussed hiring someone who is not biased to do more research. Trustee Naughton commented on transferability to other units pointing out she has done research with PBL using business and other tests she borrowed and gave herself to see how well students who were and were not in PBL approach solving problems.

Ms. Breslin spoke of IMSA FUSION's goals, outcomes and evidence, looking at standardized assessments in conjunction with IMSA's Standards of Significant Learning, critical thinking skills, and addressing the needs of school principals, which are factors to make FUSION successful and sustainable. She commented on problems with student retention noting concerns with safety, transportation and extracurricular activities, and stressed that the greatest indicators of success are effective teachers, strong curriculum, board support, parent involvement and IMSA's reputation. Ms. Breslin mentioned that principals want high tech courses and she discussed imbedding FUSION during the school day which would lead to questions regarding class coverage, structural changes and grading. Trustee Rosner asked if IMSA might take advantage of the new Chicago initiative for a longer school day. Ms. Kolar responded that it would depend on how the schools use that time, noting some will not choose after school programs because it will make the day too long.

The themes for all the PFS programs were outcomes, data and evidence, exportability, and return on investment.

Information Items for Discussion

Student Expression Policy, 1st Reading

Dr. Robert Hernandez reviewed proposed modifications to the policy including changing student expression to be consistent with IMSA's Information Technology Services policy, updating wording regarding harassing or bullying statements as suggested by legal counsel, and other minor modifications based on feedback from the Board's Executive Committee. Chairman Isoye said this policy will be presented for a second reading and vote in March.

Grievance Procedure Policy, 1st Reading

Mary Spreitzer reviewed the definition of a grievance, what it is and what it is not. She said the changes have removed the appeal to the Board section giving the President the last word, and if the grievance is that the President is misapplying policy, then going to Human Resources is referenced in Section 1. This policy will be presented for a second reading and approval at the March Board meeting.

Intellectual Property Policy

Ms. Veal thanked the Board and especially Trustee Budzik for previous counsel. She said a new draft was recently received from the attorney and she will send it to the Board prior to the March meeting when Trustees' approval will be requested. She asked the Board if it supported the recommendation of a 50/50 revenue split (after deducting expenses); Trustees concurred.

Program Reviews

Curriculum and Assessment Leaders summarized key points from their presentations and entertained questions and comments from Trustees. For Wellness, Mary Meyers spoke to the reviewer's recommendations for continued program success and improvement including use of the Hellison model out of the University of Chicago and common experiences/assessments. Trustee Rosner suggested having experts in each field who could potentially sit on a committee to review and advise academic teams.

In World Languages, Trustees asked about the types of opportunities the students have to use their language skills and to focus the experience into work. Michelle Cheng mentioned students speaking with their peers and instructors both inside and outside of class, several exchange and community programs, a visit to a Chicago elementary school and research projects with the Chinese, possibly one with a Russian teacher and one between a Spanish teacher and a chemistry teacher. She commented on the use of technology including podcasts but stressed the need to have face-to-face communications to be proficient in a language.

Clay Sewell represented Fine Arts and said the team found the report to be positive and supportive without any substantive surprises, pointing out that they have no control over the physical plant or technology. Trustee McEachern asked about graduation requirements and Mr. Sewell responded one semester is required, though the reviewers felt that was not enough. The complete Program Review video can be viewed at <http://vimeo.com/33725393>.

Adjournment

With no further business, a motion was made by Trustee Naughton and seconded by Trustee Núñez to adjourn the regular business meeting. Voting aye were Trustees Isoye, Budzik, Griffin, Kalantzis, McEachern, Naughton, Núñez and Rosner. The motion passed by a vote of 8 ayes to 0 nays.

The regular business meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven T. Isoye
Chairman

Catherine C. Veal
Secretary