

IMSA PAC MEETING MINUTES  
November 10, 2001

President Jana Fitting called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. Roll Call was taken. She noted that 16 eligible voters were present, which did not represent a quorum.

The October 20, 2001 minutes were presented. Jana stated that the President's Report incorrectly stated that the junior and senior regional reps were to be identified by December – the actual deadline is the March meeting. However, new committee chairs still must be identified by December. Corrections to name spellings were also made regarding Gretchen Stauder and Mattie Kang in the report. Janelle Cornell moved the minutes be approved. Janis Fanning seconded the motion. Vote taken. Motion passed.

**IMSA Administration Report**

Principal Eric McLaren stated that parents should have received first quarter report cards by now. A few report cards had teachers' comments attributed to the incorrect teacher, but that is being corrected. He noted that quarter grades do not go on the final transcript, which is one of the reasons that language grades are not given in the first quarter.

He warned that the 4 weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas can be very hard on students, particularly sophomores, because of being away from home during the holiday preparations, winter weather starting up and exam pressure before winter break.

The Great Minds Program which takes place on Wednesday, November 14 (1 to 3 PM) will focus on the recent publication of a hardcover book by IMSA students entitled "Stories of a Scientist". Thirteen IMSA students interviewed scientists and their essays have been collected into the book, edited by Leon Letterman. The November 14 program will feature two of those authors. Eric stated that the book could make an excellent Christmas present for IMSA students and is available for \$25 to \$30 through regular bookstore channels.

Eric reported that the IMSA mail room staff has been trained to monitor for anthrax issues. No problems thus far.

IMSA's College and academic counselors are going to perform regional programs for IMSA parents. The Springfield program will be on December 10 (7 to 8:15 pm) at the SIU School of Medicine. Peoria and Carbondale programs are currently being planned for January, with specific dates to be announced at the next meeting.

Amy Conger, Coordinator of Admissions, has mailed out information regarding regional meetings to recruit prospective IMSA students. She is asking current IMSA parents to participate in these meetings. Jana Fitting asked that parents recommend IMSA to eligible students. Parents are also encouraged to attend the regional meetings and bring back information for their home school. Eric noted that they have reduced the number of regional meetings from 48 to 17, and will focus more on one-on-one followup with interested students. IMSA will also devote more funds to more print advertising.

The IMSA administration is also planning 10 regional receptions for community leaders, business leaders, school administrators, etc. Parents should let Dr. LeAnn Smith know about prospective attendees for these meetings.

Cheryl Widman asked if there would be any opportunity for prospective students to attend IMSA for a trial day. Eric McLaren stated that this is and has been permitted, but only downstate prospective students would be eligible for overnight stays. Cheryl stated that people were unaware of this option and it should be

recommended at the regional meetings.

Bob Hernandez of Student Life reported that March 5 is Senior Ethics Lecture, and Dr. Marty Martin will be the speaker. Parents who are interested in attending the lecture should contact Student Life to confirm seating.

March 15 is Teacher Recognition Day for sophomores. Sophomore parents are asked to encourage their students to participate and nominate a teacher or adult who was important in their life by the January 14 deadline. The Student Life staff will then invite all of the teachers/adults to the March 15 afternoon reception. Parents who are interested in attending the reception should contact Student Life to confirm seating.

### **President's Report**

Jana Fitting, PAC President, reported that over 70 people (including 14 IMSA alumni who now attend U of I) attended the reception on Friday evening. The IMSA alumni were very enthusiastic about the reception and answered many questions of current IMSA students. Both current students and parents stated that it was very informative. The reception lasted past midnight due to the interest of the IMSA alumni and current students.

Jana thanked Cheryl Widman and Cathy Barnes for coordinating the Holiday Inn program, bus schedule, U of I speakers, etc. It was a great opportunity for downstate parents who otherwise have a hard time attending IMSA events. We also confirmed that IMSA alumni are very supportive of current IMSA students. Holiday Inn was very helpful throughout the process. Since the initial legwork has been completed, next year's program should be very easy to schedule.

Jana also discussed with the U of I honors program administrator that it might be misleading to restrict the admission of IMSA students by identifying them as all coming from Aurora. Since IMSA students come from all over the state, the admissions office should be looking at the students' home addresses rather than IMSA Aurora address.

Annual fund donations are starting to come in. About 60 have come in thus far. We are looking for 100% participation by IMSA parents, even if it's only a \$5 contribution. If parents don't RSVP their fund donation by the first week of December, they will be called during the phoneathon during that week.

Jana thanked Eric McLaren and the IMSA administration for being proactive in meeting with parents and cooperating with the PAC.

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

Fred Hines, Vice President, reiterated to sophomore parents that they need to encourage their children to nominate former teachers. Nominated teachers in the past have truly enjoyed the experience. Parents should also make every effort to attend.

Fred stated that the Communications committee is posting more information on the PAC website. The parent newsletter will be mailed out this week. The newsletter and minutes are now being posted on the IMSA website on a timely basis. CAC activities will start being posted on the website.

Bob Hernandez mentioned that the IMSA administration distributes both weekly and monthly calendars of activities at IMSA. Fred Hines stated that he would have that information posted on the PAC website as well. Jana is also working with IMSA administration to mail out music and athletic activities to parents on a timely basis. Efforts will be made to post that information on the parents' website so parents can encourage their students to attend events.

Scott Johnson volunteered his son Tim to assist in posting information on the PAC website. After the meeting, Don Driscoll confirmed that his son David could also assist.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Don Cooper presented the Treasurer's report. He stated that the initial fund donations are approximately \$1,000, but have not yet cleared the bank.

In reviewing details of his report, he stated:

- 1) The PAC expended significant funds on binders and supplies in an effort to update information for PAC members.
- 2) PAC is paying for two cellphones for RCs while on student activities. Jana asked for any information regarding more inexpensive cellphone contract deals.
- 3) The "subscriptions" referenced in the report are Chicago Tribune subscriptions in the residence halls.

### **Secretary's Report**

Since Ann Carpenter was not available for this meeting, Don Driscoll assumed the responsibility of taking the minutes of this meeting. No Secretary's report given.

### **Committee Reports**

**Academic Committee:** No report.

**College Academic Counseling Committee:** Barbara Decker reported that the committee has been working on improving communications and the next goal is to get that information onto the PAC website. At the March parent meeting, she hopes to have a Q&A panel featuring both parents employed at universities and parents who have gone through the college financial application process. She is also trying to winnow through the massive information available regarding financial aid and post that information on the website in an organized fashion.

Penny Newton asked about college summer programs, such as the University of Missouri engineering program which allows students to work with the teachers on a one-on-one basis. U of I has a similar engineering program. Many schools have these programs and it can make a difference in directing the students' interest, getting college credit, better opportunities for access to an honors program, etc.

**Communications:** See the Vice President's Report above.

**Fundraising:** Cheryl Widman emphasized that the goal of the committee is to raise funds to improve the students' residential life. Funding is also needed to maintain the current status, such as replacing computers every three years and purchase printers and other accessories. Stated that the committee currently only has a few members and she urged parents to volunteer time to organize funding activities, such as a proposed golf outing in the spring.

Pierre Maloka is working with the committee heads and RCs to create a "wish list" of what students need to improve their residential life.

**Student Life:** Penny Newton presented an updated list of Parent Partners and stressed that there are five wings with no parent partners. She urged interested parents to consider becoming a Parent Partner. If none can be found, she will see if any of the current Parent Partners are willing to adopt an additional wing.

Penny stated that the Student Union is running more than 100 students on Friday nights. We have volunteers through December, but need more parent volunteers for the 2002 spring semester.

Penny encouraged students to attend the swimming hours on early Saturday evening which are now available.

**Technology:** No report, but Jana noted that William Blanchard is working on a possible demonstration of Instant Messaging, ICQ numbers, etc. at the December meeting.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Penny Newton thanked the Wellness Team for making a real commitment to supervise the Fitness Center and swimming pool this year, sometimes on an unpaid basis. She presented a proposal to transfer \$700 to \$800 of existing Student Union Funds to subsidize or fully fund (if necessary) the hiring of an individual to supervise the Fitness Center on Sundays from 3:00 to 6:00 PM. These hours were chosen so that students returning to IMSA on Sunday afternoons could also use the pool.

Bob Hernandez noted that PAC would be merely providing the funding to the Wellness Team, who would hire the individual, so that PAC would not retain any liabilities. Penny also noted that this is a limited commitment by the PAC only for this year, to gauge the use by the students. Penny will report back in a month or two regarding the extent to which the students are using these pool hours.

If the proposal is approved, the Wellness Team would initially contact the RCs to see if they have any interest in the additional paid hours since they know the students, the facilities, have had first aid training and have been through the school's security checks. If no RCs are interested, the Wellness Team would then recruit outside the IMSA community. Further details are set forth in the Student Life Fitness Funding Proposal. Jana called for a consensus vote on the motion. Those present unanimously approved the proposal – 0 nays and 0 absentions.

**Parent Forum:** No business

#### **Announcements**

The next PAC meeting is December 8 at 10 am. Committee meetings will begin at 8:30 and 9:00 am.

#### **Adjournment**

Janelle Cornelle moved the meeting be adjourned. Don Driscoll seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.