

IMSA PAC MEETING MINUTES  
February 21, 2003

President Cathy Barnes called the meeting to order at 10:14 a.m. Roll call was taken. There was a quorum. Cathy requested that the January minutes be approved. Jan Siemens moved for approval of the minutes and Yaw Ofosu seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**IMSA Administration Comments**

Principal Eric McLaren reported on several issues:

- The Aurora water problem was handled remarkably well, largely due to the generous donations of water from parents and Meyer's Store. IMSA also got a good deal from Water Options in St. Charles. Eric commended the maintenance and kitchen staff, who cleaned every aerator on every faucet and sink on campus (over 700!).
- IMSA's chess team placed fourth in the state, up from seventh last year.
- There is a mold concern in the construction area but there is a control plan and post-construction testing plan in place. The tests regarding the type of mold are not yet back.
- IMSA has set out a three year plan with both short-term and long-term objectives. Eric hosted a discussion of those objectives after the PAC meeting.
- IMSA has been seeking a new vending contract with snack and beverage machines in residence halls and main building. However, there is a current house bill (sponsor Tom Cross) to remove all vending machines by 1/1/05. IMSA has postponed the bid package for the vending contract for at least the present time and potentially until this outstanding bill is resolved. Note that this bill may be defeated on the grounds of local control and vendor lobbying.
- In response to House Bill 0202 (sponsor Monique Davis) for a graduated fee scale based on family income, the IMSA administration has come up with its own fee scale which will be voted on by the IMSA Board on March 11, 2004. The range of fees will be \$250 to \$2000 based on the family gross income and number of children in household (scale based on 4 per household). This will represent a fee decrease for approximately one-third of the IMSA families and a 33% increase for approximately two-fifths of the IMSA families. IMSA will also assess how often this fee scale will increase. The idea of promising no increase from the initial fee charged to incoming sophomores was considered but that would likely result in unnecessarily large initial fees because IMSA would have to hedge against potential future costs. A small number of randomly selected families will be asked to submit additional information to verify the reported incomes.

Bob Hernandez reported that the Student/Parent handbook is currently being reviewed and revised, with substantial student input. Parents with comments and suggestions should email Bob (hernandi@imsa.edu) by March 1, 2004.

Wednesday (2/25) is Sophomore Navigation and will be an all-day event (9 am to 3 pm) focusing on multi-cultural awareness.

On March 29, 2004, Laurie Andrews will present the Horowitz Lecture. Ms. Andrews is the Assistant Vice Principal of Kent Law School. Parents are welcome to attend but should inform Bob ahead of time to assure seating.

Sophomore's Care to Challenge is Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. Parents are welcome to attend.

Gretchen Stauder (College and Academic Counseling) reported on the following:

- Sophomores and juniors are currently working on course selection for the 2004-05 school year. They will be meeting with their CAC advisor for fifteen minutes each, as well as getting assistance from their SIC teachers.
- Sophomores will have a class meeting on March 31<sup>st</sup> to overview college selection issues, where they are in the process, what they can expect, tips on what to ask colleges at the April 24 College Fair, etc.. She noted that sometimes the College Fair representatives are the same individuals who will be reading the students' applications so it might assist students if they spent some time talking to those representatives at the College Fair, specifically for those colleges that they are particularly interested in.
- Gretchen stated that this is a busy time for juniors and their parents. CAC hosted the college selection kickoff meeting this past week (i.e., how colleges evaluate applicants). On Monday the college selection guide will be on the web. She noted that juniors must to complete three documents (resume, self-assessment and autobiography) before meeting with their CAC advisor.
- IMSA will host the ACT on April 3rd (during spring break) and the SAT on May 1st. If students who wish to take the ACT cannot take it at IMSA during spring break, they should schedule at their local school on another day. She noted that although juniors don't have to take both tests, they should take at least one of them in the spring.
- University of Illinois acceptances are running late this year due to an increase in overall applications. Several IMSA students still have not heard results from U of I but Gretchen is not concerned about that due to the heavy volume of applications that U of I has to deal with this year. By January 1, the university had already more applications than it had for the entire prior year. The trend is for even more applications next year.
- For seniors and their parents, Gretchen reminded them that "Patience is a virtue." Seniors will receive decisions from the colleges from mid-March thru April 15<sup>th</sup>. She urged parents to push their seniors to continue to work hard during this final semester.

David Abler reported that three IMSA teachers (David Workman, Diane Hinterlong and Branson Lawrence) recently went to the NIU Engineering College to start a partnering relationship for an Applied Engineering course for next year. NIU is deeply involved in nanotechnology, sound compression and cutting edge engineering technology, and the facilities at NIU are first-rate. This will be a great advantage for IMSA and its students since there will be no cost for the technology or expertise at NIU. IMSA will bus students in the Applied Engineering course to NIU about eight times during the semester to take advantage of those facilities.

Jim Gerry reported on the following issues:

- (1) IRN – CNS is making progress with a larger crew than ever before. There is an IRN student for every residence hall, plus four extra students. Problem halls are 03 and 06, so he is directing his student workforce to those halls.
- (2) ACRUX software has been purchased and will be installed. Parents will have a password to obtain access to current student records (grades, attendance, etc). Teachers will be taking attendance online during first 15 minutes of class. ACRUX has been installed in Admissions and they are now working on Scheduling.
- (3) Strategic Framework – Jim’s task is to put IMSA on the leading edge for technology and learning. This will be a thrust of the framework, which includes cost issues. For example, he will be looking at whether every student and teacher should have a computer and/or laptop.
- (4) Jim recently toured Argonne Laboratories to see the Access Grid which uses grid component technology to permit videoconferencing (plus data) via web connections. Members of the Access Grid can utilize the computers at Argonne Laboratories. IMSA should be a member of this system and will start working on access node.

### **President’s Report**

Cathy reported that the election for Executive Council for 2004-05 will occur at the March 20, 2004 PAC meeting. The current candidates are as follows:

President	Lorna Ruddy
Vice President	Mitch Roth
Co-Secretary	Naomi Knappenberger and Don Driscoll
Co-Treasurer	Janet Lumsden and Susan Larson Flannery
Downstate	Jan Siemens
Metro	Jody Bogdan

She also noted that there are several openings for committee chairs that need to be filled (Multi-Cultural, Academics, CAC, Parent Partner, Fund Raising and Senior Banquet). The Senior Banquet committee is a new committee effective next year.

Finally, Cathy stated that the PAC will host an Appreciation Luncheon at noon after the College Fair on April 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **Treasurer’s Report**

Susan Larsen Flannery reported that there were discretionary funds in the budget for gifts from the PAC to the IMSA community. Last year, the PAC purchased a big screen TV for the student union, and fitness equipment the prior year. The PAC has at least \$1,000 and is looking for suggestions. Two suggestions generated at the meeting were to spend the money on a heavy-duty Foosball table or to replace dorm furniture on an annual basis.

Susan also stated that there were several expenses last month that had to be paid (Friday Fest, preliminary costs for Senior Banquet, etc.).

### **Student Council Report**

Treasurer Tim Wing reported that the Academic Committee just completed Quality of Life surveys regarding student perceptions of residential and academic aspects of IMSA. Those results will be compiled over the next few weeks.

The Student Council is reviewing the “cars on campus” issue at other similar residential schools across the country.

The course evaluation guides produced by the Council are available online at [students.imsa.edu/org/sc](http://students.imsa.edu/org/sc)

Finally, the Student Council is seeking to include student input in IMSA formal disciplinary process.

### **Academic Committee**

Weiren Chou reported that the Committee recently met with the English teachers to discuss how they intend to assist students to prepare for the new SAT.

### **Student Life**

Kay Landers reported that March 5<sup>th</sup> and March 20<sup>th</sup> are next Friday Fests and volunteers are needed.

She also noted that interested donors could send a monetary donation to Chelsea Bayer through Bob Hernandez at IMSA. Chelsea lost her parents in an auto accident over Christmas.

Therese Taff reported that Senior Banquet invitations were being mailed out and that they should be returned no later than March 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **Fundraising**

Sandy Hammon asked for volunteers for the Phoneathon which will take place at IMSA on the evenings of April 27<sup>th</sup> through 29<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are also sought to make “thank you” calls from their homes.

She noted that next year’s fundraising efforts will be earlier based on a schedule set up by Michelle Whetstone, IMSA’s new fundraising person. Michelle’s email is [Giving@imsa.edu](mailto:Giving@imsa.edu)

### **CAC**

Nancy Delich reported that there will be a college fair on April 24<sup>th</sup> for interested students and parents. She also noted that course selection for the 2004-05 school year must be turned in by February 26<sup>th</sup> to the CAC office.

**Announcements**

The next PAC Meeting will be held on March 20th at 10 a.m. at IMSA.

Prior to the general meeting, there will be meetings for the Academic Committee (room A150), Executive Council, Student Life (room A148), Technology Committee (room A147) and Communication Committee (room A149) at 9 a.m.

Jan Seimens moved the meeting be adjourned. Yaw Ofosu seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Don Driscoll  
PAC Co-Secretary