

Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy®

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

IMSA Board of Trustees Regular Meeting November 14, 2012

**IMSA, Horwitz Conference Room
and
University of Illinois College of Education, Room 192,
1310 South Sixth Street, Champaign, IL 61820**

Minutes

Call to Order

Chairman Griffin called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Roll Call

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

Members Present: Sheila Griffin, Jay Budzik, Kathy He, Mary Kalantzis at University of Illinois, Jack McEachern and Erin Roche

Members Absent: Steven Isoye, Luis Núñez, Paula Olszewski-Kubilius, Marsha Rosner, Harry Berman, Christopher Koch, Geoffrey Obrzut and James Rydland

Closed Session

A motion was made by Trustee Roche and seconded by Trustee McEachern to go into closed session to review the September 10 and September 17, 2012 closed session minutes and discuss employment, performance and compensation of specific employees. Voting aye were Trustees Griffin, Budzik, He, Kalantzis, McEachern and Roche. The motion passed by a vote of 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Closed Session Held

Reconvene in Open Session

The Board reconvened in open session at 9:20 a.m.

Roll Call

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

Members Present: Sheila Griffin, Jay Budzik, Kathy He, Mary Kalantzis at University of Illinois, Jack McEachern, Erin Roche and James Rydland

Members Absent: Steven Isoye, Luis Núñez, Paula Olszewski-Kubilius, Marsha Rosner, Harry Berman, Christopher Koch and Geoffrey Obrzut

Liaisons Present: Melvin Bacani for IMSA Alumni Association, Dan Gleason for Faculty, and Kevin Zhang for Student Council

Liaisons Absent: Stephanie Pace Marshall for IMSA Fund Board of Directors and Ron Kimberling for IMSA Parents Association Council

Chairman's Remarks

New Trustee

Chairman Griffin welcomed new Trustee Kathy He, a successful pharmaceutical and medical device executive and founder of Vivregen LLC, a biotech company focusing on development and commercialization of regenerative therapies to improve health. Trustee He, appointed to the Board by Governor Quinn, also is the parent of IMSA senior Summer Wu.

Trustee He expressed her appreciation of being on the IMSA Board calling this “a dream come true” and said she welcomes the opportunity to serve and give back.

Good News Items

Chairman Griffin reported on several “good news” items:

- 1) The birth of Trustee Jay Budzik and his wife Anna Testa's first child, Aron.
- 2) IMSA alumni accomplishments including Sam Yagan's ('95) recent appointment as CEO of Match, Inc.; The Honorable Kristine Gerhard Baker's ('89) commission as U.S. District Court Judge, Eastern District of Arkansas; and Ryan Littrell's ('92) first published book, Reunion: A Search for Ancestors.
- 3) The publication of two recent books featuring IMSA, Impacts of Teacher Evaluation and Professional Development on Student Outcomes with chapters authored by Dr. Max McGee and Chris Kolar on IMSA's CADRE system, and Exam Schools: Inside America's Most Selective Public High Schools by Chester Finn and Jessica Hockett, which includes a chapter on IMSA have been published.
- 4) ComEd's continuing support of IMSA's Energy Center
- 5) Plans to open IMSA's relocated Field Office in Chicago at Edward Beasley Elementary Magnet Academic Center at 5255 S. State Street.

Board Business – Action Item

Minutes September 10, 2012 and September 17, 2012 Board Meeting Closed Session

A motion was made by Trustee McEachern and seconded by Trustee Roche to approve the closed session minutes from the September 10, 2012 and September 17, 2012 Board meetings as presented in today's closed session. Voting aye were Trustees Griffin, Budzik, He, Kalantzis, McEachern and Roche. The motion passed by a vote of 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Reports of Liaisons

Faculty

Dan Gleason spoke of “personalized plans of study” and cited two key Intersession programs, one from Math and one from Science, designed to help struggling students improve in the spring and beyond. He emphasized the differences in the programs noting these interventions exhibit institutional commitment to ensuring that all students demonstrate competency in the requirements

of the “core,” and will help students achieve greater heights in the future. Trustees expressed their interest in receiving feedback regarding how these are working and an analysis of why they are successful.

Student Council

Kevin Zhang reviewed the results of the students' mock election held by the Information Resource Center, the opportunity for students to visit 1871 this Friday to meet with leaders of the Thiel Fellowship, which provides \$200,000 for young visionaries to accomplish an “ambitious idea or project,” and Diwali which showcased Indian culture on campus for two nights.

Parents Association Council

Margaret Hernandez reported for Ron Kimberling that 263 parent households (40% of all parents) have made donations to the IMSA Fund totaling \$49,129 -- 45% of the annual goal; Paul Milano made a special presentation about the mission and goals of the IMSA Fund at PAC's October meeting; Ipsita Mahapatra has been named chairperson of the Multicultural Committee; and the Academic Committee helped recruit parent volunteers for the IMSA Preview Day on November 10th.

Alumni

Melvin Bacani said seven alumni and 18 students partnered to raise just under \$3000 for the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago by climbing and volunteering at the Sky Rise Chicago Event in honor of the McLaren Family; the Alumni Mentor Program is being revamped; the first College, Career and Choices forum will be held on Nov. 28; 32 alumni will be teaching an Intersession course in January and 8% of alumni have committed to donating this fiscal year.

IMSA Fund

Chairman Griffin mentioned that a written report for the Fund would be sent to Trustees soon.

Report of the Treasurer

Patrick Furlong said reallocation of appropriations for FY13 will enable IMSA to reposition its spending pattern and following Board action later in the meeting, IMSA will submit its request to the Board of Higher Education in time for its December 4 meeting.

Mr. Furlong briefly reviewed a new draft report that has been developed to re-categorize IMSA's budget, revenue and expenses according to programmatic areas. He said the report will continue to be refined to address suggestions from Trustee Budzik and others making it more useful to determine where to invest, identify which areas need additional revenue and to show how everything ties back to the net bottom line of the Academy. He pointed out that EAF will be “0” every year, the Special Trust Fund tends towards “0,” however the Income and Locally Held Funds are different; he noted that IMSA is actually budgeted to spend more this year than it will generate, which is not a sustainable pattern.

Trustees discussed breaking out the report further by individual programs, including adding more details, identifying revenue sources, making the report as user friendly as possible, showing costs of classes and return on investments. Mr. Furlong noted these are aggregations of the budget and the same data can be applied to individual budgets/programs but once it gets lower it becomes “more of an art than a science” because every decision can be questioned, “poked at” and refined in different ways. He noted that adding classes would be

judgmental and return on investment is non-quantifiable. He asked the Board to contact him with any additional comments or suggestions regarding the report.

Trustee He asked if there were any surprises. Mr. Furlong responded that it isolates the net loss that IMSA is incurring which is \$170,000 this year, "eating into our reserves." He said the report will be tweaked further but the Academy did not have the capacity at this time to include more precise data.

Action Item

IMSA Appropriation Reallocation Request FY13

A motion was made by Trustee Roche and seconded by Trustee McEachern to approve IMSA's Appropriations Reallocation Request for FY13 as presented in the Financial Highlights. Voting aye were Trustees Griffin, Budzik, He, Kalantzis, McEachern and Roche. The motion passed by a vote of 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Report of the President

Dr. McGee introduced the new Director for Online Teaching and Learning, Frank Tomsic, calling him a "strategic thinker" who has already made "great contributions." He said Mr. Tomsic and Jacki Naughton are working with teachers on new modules.

Dr. McGee noted the election outcomes commenting that many of IMSA's supporters were still in office; however, the State of Illinois is in a dire financial situation.

Dr. Rushi said there are 39 new legislators with one party having a super majority and correspondence will be sent in January to the new legislators with congratulations going to those who were re-elected. Chairman Griffin mentioned joining Senator Lightford during her visit to IMSA on November 9 and said she was extremely supportive.

Dr. McGee reported on IMSA visits by four Singapore students and a faculty member who are working on projects with IMSA Faculty and Emeritus Faculty Dr. Workman, the December 5 Facebook regional alumni event in California, and the "Thanksgiving dinner" sponsored by Sodexo.

Action Items

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Trustee Roche and seconded by Trustee McEachern to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Voting aye were Trustees Griffin, Budzik, He, Kalantzis, McEachern and Roche. The motion passed by a vote of 6 ayes, 0 nays.

The following Consent Agenda Items were approved.

Minutes

September 10, 2012 Board Meeting
September 17, 2012 Board Meeting

Personnel Items

Resignations

Jessica M. Ehmler, Chevonne Totten-Garner, Tracy C. Miller

New Staff

Full Time/Part Time

Frank C. Tomsic, Jeanette M. Clark

Seasonal/Temporary

*Chelsea H. Becker, Gregory R. Dzuricsko, Gregory R. Frederick, Janet T. Geiger,
Joy E. Inouye, Allan P. Loek, Theodore F. Mikrut Jr., Timothy C. Omerod, Shannon C. Day*

Featured Agenda Item

Student Inquiry and Research (SIR)

Dr. Judy Scheppler summarized the SIR Program Review completed in April 2012 by Dr. Janice DeCosmo from the University of Washington and Anne-Barrie Hunter from the University of Colorado along with their findings. She said there were four recommendations, with two being the focus for the Board's discussion.

1) Formal and full integration of the SIR experience into IMSA core requirements and curriculum

The Board discussed potential SIR graduation requirements, personalized learning, elective credits, embedded inquiry, and the potential to create a lucrative online teaching and learning market internationally. Dr. Scheppler pointed out that 75% of student investigations are in STEM. She spoke to the options of more fully integrating the SIR experience through a credit elective, which may or may not replace another credit, or making SIR a graduation requirement. Melvin Bacani noted the importance of SIR when applying to colleges, with some asking if a student participates and if not, why not.

Chairman Griffin wondered about the impact on student motivations if SIR is credited or required. Trustee Kalantzis suggested that electives could be more SIR-like, "the platform for inquiry in the order of SIR." Trustee McEachern recommended a value analysis: "Is SIR more valuable than current electives?" Trustee He said that National Merits see SIR as a "takeaway for competitive admissions" and wondered about the benefits vs. risks of changing when 90% of students are already choosing SIR. Trustee McEachern asked if perceptions of colleges change if SIR is required.

Dr. McGee said recommendations for integrating SIR will be brought back to the Board probably in March after meetings with Curriculum and Assessment Leaders, humanities faculty and others. Mrs. Veal noted that graduation requirements usually are published when a class is recruited and if changes are anticipated, this should be noted during recruitment.

2) Creation of two or three different "levels of engagement" in SIR for students who wish for a more intensive experience or who need to limit their time in SIR due to other conflicting commitments.

Dr. Scheppler cited exploring alternate SIR models and different levels of engagement such as implementing summer SIR, holding SIR two days a week or half days, working out the amount of time students need to physically meet with advisors, especially new advisors, and considerations such as travel costs. She said there is an online SIR course being piloted by Jacki Naughton. Trustee Rydland asked about the process needed to get students in the program; Dr. McGee said Ms. Naughton will speak more about the program at a future Board meeting. Trustee He said it was good to open up options and recommended consideration of weekend models. Trustee Budzik expressed interested in hybrid models (on site, off site, online).

Trustees and staff discussed connections between SIR and TALENT vis-à-vis liability and proprietary interests of mentors' organizations.

Chairman Griffin encouraged Dr. McGee and staff to work on a timeline for debate and decisions.

Information and Discussion Items

Admissions Policy – Proposed Revisions – 1st Reading

Barbara Miller traced the application process which includes multiple steps such as determining eligibility, qualifications and considerations such as SAT M/SAT CR as well as showing demonstrated high achievement or passion for MST. She pointed out that Review Committee scores are based on essays and teacher evaluations, not SAT.

Ms. Miller reviewed the rationale for the proposed revisions to the Admissions Policy:

- discontinue the self-deferral option for 8th graders who are offered admission
- clarify applicants qualified for consideration and applicants qualified for admission
- specify a date for receipt of appeals

She said the current option for 8th grade self-deferral is creating difficulties in the selection process due to the fact that more and more 8th graders selected are deferring. She discussed the SEAMS 8th grade summer program for underrepresented and underresourced students, noting IMSA will still have the option to defer, but the student would not.

Ms. Veal said the proposed changes also make clear for internal and external audiences the important difference between “qualified for consideration” and “qualified for admission” as they are not the same.

Chairman Griffin pointed out that the self-deferral option was a policy addition recommended by staff and approved by the Board in recent years, wondering if this was a mistake. Ms. Veal said there was rationale at the time but information on how this actually played out suggested the need to change course now.

Dr. McGee said this will be an action item at the January Board meeting.

Trustee Kalantzis left the meeting at 11:15 am.

Personnel Policies – 1st Reading

Mary Spreitzer presented a new *Unpaid Leave of Absence* Policy which will eliminate the appeal to the Board and replace two current policies, *Extended Leave - Personal* and *Extended Leave - Professional*, both of which will be rescinded. She also presented proposed revisions to the Holidays Policy which were developed to make it flow better and to incorporate the intent of the *Religious Holiday Observance/Absence Policy* which will also be rescinded.

These recommendations will be included on the January consent agenda.

Adjournment

Chairman Griffin thanked the Board for a very productive morning and said the next meeting will be held on Friday morning, 1/18/2013. The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila MB Griffin
Chairman

Catherine C. Veal
Secretary