

Diploma General Membership Meeting
Florida League of IB Schools
Sept. 12, 2014
TradeWinds Resort, St Pete Beach, FL

In attendance	
Topic	Action
Call to order	Alan Hamacher, Chair
College Panel, Coordinators in Conjunction with Counselors	<p>Paul Gallagher introduces Krystal Culpepper and Joe Williams facilitate discussion by reps from UM (Jim Sullivan), Vanderbilt (Thomas Golden), BU (John Korhonen) and UCF (Christopher Dahlstrand).</p> <p>Q1: How do colleges look at design technology and environment systems compared to other science courses? BU highlighted that they are looking for physics, especially if they are applying to engineering or health and rehab. They need to take it even if not IB. UM reiterates that stance. They ask for 16 academic units. It depends based on what major they are applying to. For UCF, they said the same thing. For students going into STEM, they need all three sciences and math. It's important for students to meet with academic advisors for proper placement, even if they could have credit through IB.</p> <p>Q2: How does a student/coordinator communicate transdisciplinary or unusual courses? UM takes a holistic approach. It depends on what the student's interest are, what their talents are. We are looking for specific talents. We find out about that through letters of recommendations. They rely heavily on letters of recommendation. The student also lets them know through the essay. UM has just thrown out Gen Ed requirements. BU echoes—in rec letter and in school profile—are they taking the toughest curriculum? How are the classes they took in relation to the rest of the classes at the school? Especially if it's outside the realm of the known realm of classes. UCF says same thing but he clarifies that he does encourage letters of recommendation. They are optional, but they do read them. So, if you have a really exceptional student, bring that student to the admissions office attention through email or letter.</p> <p>Q3: What about students with unusual curricula? You must advocate under exceptional admissions if they don't meet SUS requirements.</p> <p>Q4: What about DE vs IB as affects admission? Vanderbilt (Tom Golden) In situations where a school does offer advanced courses or a student has exhausted advanced courses, then go DE, but otherwise, they want them in school in advanced classes. IB is MUCH preferable and they are probably not going to get credit. The faculty will "evaluate it" and they "may" get credit. The preference is "IB, IB, IB." BU said, "I agree." UCF said, "It's difficult as a public institution to take a stance on this." The credit is going to be accepted because of articulation agreements. What I would say to any student who is considering taking DE is that what you do in that class follows you through college. Some students come in with poor GPA. We love IB and we encourage students to take the most rigorous courses available to them. Follow up question: What does UCF research show? UCF says that research shows that IB students are more successful than DE students at university courses and at earning their</p>

degree. Students who pursue more rigorous curricula are more successful according to the data. UM says don't take DE courses in what you want to study (like if you want to be a doctor, don't take bio DE). Our advice is to explore everything in your high school first. It comes back to a holistic approach.

Q5: What part does rank play? BU says whether they are first or fifth makes no difference. It comes down to curriculum, test scores, activities. Students play the grade grubbing game because that is how they see it. We need to help them understand it's holistic. Vandy says they shy away from the uber driven kids. They don't want the kid who is so competitive they are missing the collaborative thing.

Q6: What is UCF policy on SL classes for credit and what additional weighting does UCF give IB? Yes, UCF does give SL credit. Google UCFknightsourceib will give you what a student will need to earn on an IB exam and what credit they will earn. UCF gives students an extra 1 point of weight (consistent with AP and DE in SUS).

Q7: You say relationships with admissions offices are important. What exactly does that mean? Do we call? Send chocolate? What? UM says you call for the one or two kids who might need an explanation, that's when you pick up the phone. Otherwise, they are not going to know. BU says the same thing. It's about the story you might not want to put in the letter. Vanderbilt notes that 64% of their freshmen come from public schools. When a rep visits the school, pop in and visit for one minute. Just say hello. They have fly-in programs, or you are going through town, call the admissions office.

Q8: Students with AA degrees: at UCF they go in as a kind of freshman with a lot of college course work. And they are not ready to go into their major. They are not coming in and earning their degree in two years. They are not emotionally mature enough (for the most part) to make that decision. They stay three years. BU says for some students that might be the best fit for them. Now, we prefer IB students. An AA degree is not the best path to get into a private school.

Q9: When reviewing applicants, how much does previous students' success affect the decision? BU says that it does make a difference. If they see a student with X GPA has done well at BU, then they know that this student can do well. It reduces the risk factor. Vanderbilt says it makes some difference, but it's also exciting to get someone from a new school. UM echoes those remarks.

Q10: How does AICE Cambridge compare? UM says it's on a par. BU says they don't have a lot of information on it. Vanderbilt says they stress that IB is a program with rigor across the board. That's what they like—the breadth and the depth. BU says they are looking at academics but it is only a part, the IB students tend to have stronger parts such as essays, emails and activities. Vandy looks at students they say no to also, they also look at how they are going to relate to the community.

Q11: IB students are coming in to Coordinator's offices saying that their IB courses are not enough, they are being told that they have to have 4-5 AP courses on top of it. Is this true? UM notes that College Confidential is like TMZ for parents and that is where a lot of it is coming from. It is not true.

	<p>Vanderbilt says if you are doing IB you do not NEED to take AP. Top colleges cap credit anyway. We want you to spend four years in undergrad.</p> <p>Q12: Is there a difference between a full diploma student and a certificate student? Vanderbilt says they have a standard preference for a diploma. All reps agree that they want students to challenge themselves in the tougher courses. Students disadvantage themselves by taking the easier courses. At BU, they look at rigor first, then grades.</p> <p>Q13: Is there a better way to market our students? Like put the transcript on a watermark paper? A sticker? The IB designation on the course and the question on the common app takes care of that.</p> <p>Q14: What part does social media play? BU says have we looked at social media yes? This is the first chance to act like an adult—email addresses, how you are presenting yourself on social media, what your voicemail is. UCF reminds us to tell the students the admissions office is NOT their friend. Don't truncate words or write emails that have bad grammar. Watch what they post. Don't be inappropriate. Vanderbilt does not search out students on social media. UM says he is old school. Call him Mr. Sullivan. Best to go old school.</p> <p>Q15: Doesn't it really come down to SAT scores? The score wasn't quite high enough? Is there a bottom line SAT score? Vandy says it may indeed come down to it, but until that point, it has been read by multiple people. UM says what they do is part art and part science. Most kids are in the middle area and you have to make a decision. BU says SAT is a standardizing factor. They will bend more on tests if a student is in a full diploma program doing well. So we this is when we call and explain the disconnect.</p> <p>Q16: Are there geographical goals: Vanderbilt says no. They want to grow certain areas. UCF says we are a public FL school but we do not discriminate against non-FL. There is a cap of 10% across the board in the SUS. BU says they are looking for diversity in all ways. Their pool of applicants kind of takes care of it. UM says the same is true. We just want the best students. Over the past 15 years, the population of FL residents has decreased by about 10 percent.</p>
Introductions	Alan Hamacher, Chair, and around the room
Attendance	<p>Sheet was circulated. Coordinators asked to check information and note their attendance at today's meeting. In attendance: Carlos Acosta, Kim Barker, Christina Bowman, Gary Brady, Karen Brown, Traci Budmayr, Darrick Buettner, Susan Chance, JoAnna Cochlin, Michael Cook, Many Craven, Krystal Culpepper, Pamela Donehew, Tiffany Ewell, Susan Farias, Shannon Farrell, Susan Ferguson, Trisha Fitzgerald, Kathy Fleig, Theresa Fretterd, Joan Friedrich, Paul Gallagher, Kelly L. George, Cheri Gherst, Kim Hollis, Judy Kane, Carol Kuhn, Robin Laber, Adam Lane, Brad Linville, Susan Lovelace, Mary Luysterburg, Jackie Miglionico, Jeff Morgenstern, Nishira Myers, Laura Nelms, Amanda Newcomer, Lynn Newsom, Brenda O'Connor, Jan Patterson, Robert Russell, Anuj Saran, Roger Tangney, Colleen Wade, Cliff Wagner, Joe Williams, Sasha Williams, Donald Worcester, David Youngman, Michael Matthew, Lanay Biziewski, Joshua Leinweber, Carson Stone.</p>
Mentor Program	New coordinators invited to sign up to be mentored, experienced coordinators invited to sign up to mentor
Secretary's Report	Kelly L. George. Minutes approved as submitted. Kelly reminded members that

	minutes are posted on the FLIBS website.
Executive Board Meeting Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jan Patterson is the current president and Darrick Buettner was elected chair elect. Other DP reps are Alan Hamacher as Chair and Colleen Wade as Chair Elect. • Please register for December Quarterly and register your principal. • Register for December training. Some of the sessions are already full. Do register and get on the wait list so Don the workshop manager can ask to have sessions added. • In December we will also have a dinner to honor Don Driskell. He founded FLIBS in 1987. • Don is retiring as workshop manager. Ralph is hiring someone within the next few weeks. There should be an announcement in the next few weeks. • The executive board will be doing a trial run of online application for the scholarship application this year to see what glitches come up. It is going to be through Managebac. The idea is to make it easier for students and coordinators. Process will be for student to go online and then you verify as coordinator. Students will upload own essay and EE abstract. We will decide after this year whether to go forward. • Executive Board gave each program board \$7,000 for programming for the year. The Boards can spend this money as they see best benefits their program. • Membership dues are due by October 31. You have to go online to pay your dues. If you haven't done so, please do so now. Your school must be in good standing to apply for scholarships and grants. • December Meeting there will be a presentation by Matt Axelrod and Tim Kane on data analysis. Several DPCs saw them at the ARC. • Mike Cook can help with data analysis, too. He says it is very important to look at IA moderation and especially at how much the high ones moved and how far the low ones moved.
Suggestions	Sheets circulated asking for suggestions for programming for future meetings and also for suggestions for topics to be covered at Heads of School Meeting in December.
SCRC	Joe Williams. Survey was sent to schools two years ago with only 16 schools replying. This year, an email went out in early September and only 8 people replied. The committee is going to reopen the survey and resend the email. Just fill out what you can. Suggested that we have students do it on Managebac. That will be looked in to.
Grants Committee	Joan Friedrich. Two kinds of grants up to \$1,000. Two kinds: Excellence and Professional Development. Grant Application will be available online next week. Can apply for more than one but can receive only one. Exemplars will be on the web site. Deadline is January 30, 2015. Application must come from coordinator's email to Joan Friedrich. The rubric is online and they must address the Learner Profile.

<p>Scholarship Committee</p>	<p>Roger Tangney. Hopefully, this will be the last year for the paper application. The committee tried to do a practice run and tried and ran into numerous glitches. Roger would love for everyone to have the opportunity for everyone to have the opportunity to do a run through this year. Stay tuned for more information. Deadline for scholarships is January 20, 2015. This year it is still paper application. October 31, 2015 is dues deadline and you must be a school in good standing (dues paid) to have students apply. Two \$5,000 and eight \$2,500 awards. The Challenge Scholarship will remain at \$2,000.</p>
<p>Legislative Liaison Report</p>	<p>Karen Brown. Karen distributed handouts with links to frequently asked-for links. These will be posted on the FLIBS web site.</p> <p>Legislative Update 2014 Session—If you have any concerns regarding Florida Common Assessments vis a vis IB, let Karen know.</p> <p>Legislative Blog—Karen and Ralph are considering having a legislative blog on the web page. More information in December.</p> <p>New edition of Counseling for Future Education has come out. An important document. Please read.</p> <p>We are submitting requests to add pre IB Physics and Pre IB Theatre.</p> <p>The descriptions of the IB courses are on the OCC.</p> <p>EOC crossover link is on the web site.</p> <p>Appendix L and Corresponding Course/Exam Codes—Districts submit the scores on IB and IB exams in Survey 5 using the codes identified in Appendix L for determining school grades. Did they have a problem with the EE and ToK grades? Did Appendix L have delineated solo and group performance?</p> <p>New High School Diploma Tracks. A very concise document.</p> <p>Question asked: Will the Scholar Designation be used for Bright Futures? At SUS, all admissions officers said no one paid any attention to it. They were open and said that it means nothing.</p>