

**Diploma General Membership Meeting**  
**Florida League of IB Schools**  
**Sept. 18, 2015**  
**TradeWinds Resort, St Pete Beach, FL**

<b>In attendance</b>	
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>Call to order</b>	Colleen Wade, 8:30 a.m.
<b>Introductions</b>	By each coordinator
<b>Secretary Report</b>	Kelly L. George, Secretary. Minutes approved as submitted.
<b>Attendance</b>	Attendance sheet was circulated for attendees to sign. DP Board asks IBCs to list any type of additional information, topics, speakers on the attendance sheet. Also note if you have an examiner in your school, please let us now. In the last two columns, let us know if you would like to be a mentor or mentee, let us know.
<b>School and College Relations Committee</b>	<p>Three college reps: Katy Fulton, Northeastern; Rick Shaw, Stanford; FSU, Laurie Hamilton.</p> <p>Paul Gallagher introduced the speakers and distributed the questions they would address.</p> <p>Joe Williams of the SCRC asked first question:</p> <p><b>Highlights of your university:</b></p> <p>Northeastern: Embodies experiential learning, notably through Co-op model. A big change has been to adjust core curriculum to reflect on that approach. In 2016, they are going to a competency based program. Another change, beside construction, is that they are opening an interdisciplinary learning center.</p> <p>Northeastern adopted Early Decision program as well as Early Action and regular decision.</p> <p>Stanford: Project based learning, encouraging students to pursue double emphasis, promoting integrated learning in the liberal arts, Way of Thinking/Ways of Doing class; there are a lot of cross disciplinary teaching, they have done a lot of studies on the outcome of IB and have found that they are advanced learners, they believe being full diploma prepares students the very best for work at Stanford. Powerful financial aid programs.</p> <p>FSU: Longstanding director retired (Janice Finney), new director is Hega Ferguson. SSAR requires ALL courses ever taken for credit. CARE program serves F/R population, now an easier way to apply. These students won't submit a SSAR. English 1102 is given credit for elective.</p> <p><b>How can IBCs and counselors make admissions job easier?</b></p> <p>Stanford: Provide with as much clear information as possible. Make sure students choose words wisely, don't waste words. Have a good, informative profile. Be clear but give credit to our school. Always value a great letter of rec.</p> <p>Stanford says the profile is a most important factor. It is easy not to have a clear picture. They evaluate in context—do not compare one high school to another. We need to celebrate the fact that there are so many good choices for students.</p>

	<p>FSU thinks we already make the job easier. She talks about good fit for student, too.</p> <p>All agreed that our transcripts are difficult. We need to lobby for a two-page document that lists courses with Honors, IB, AP, DE taken for high school credit.</p> <p><b>Really, who should be applying? How can we counsel them where they fit?</b></p> <p>FSU says no does not mean no forever. If the goal is to graduate from FSU, we can make that happen.</p> <p>Stanford. Be honest with kids. Our admissions rate is 5%. We are looking for the strongest kids from your school. It's not test score driven, they try to get to know the kid in context. They look at national norms of the SAT and ACT, including socioeconomic and ethnic factors. They have one of the most diverse campuses in the nation.</p> <p>Northeastern is also selective. Academically prepared students are a given. The best applicants are those who are excited by Northeastern's philosophy. The IB program does align very well. Let them know what opportunities students have and DON'T have. You may need to explain why something happened.</p> <p><b>What percentage of your applicant pool is IB and what percent do you accept?</b></p> <p>FSU does not have those figures. Diploma candidates are stronger.</p> <p>Stanford: Probably most of the IB kids we are looking at get 6 with a sprinkling of 5s on their exams. We are trying to get a sense of who the student is. They want a sense for their passion for learning. Who are they? What are their passions? Have they taken the IB and gone beyond with it?</p> <p>Northeastern sees more international IB applicants.</p> <p>Do you distinguish between full diploma and certificate? Why do you ask if student is a diploma candidate?</p> <p>Northeastern does look at what rigor a student has pursued. The Diploma student is certainly more rigorous. It will be part of our comprehensive evaluation.</p> <p>Stanford says that the IB Diploma is the most rigorous curriculum in the world. The hybrid combinations are much more problematic. The education is not being delivered in a coherent continuum. Explain your IB curriculum. If you were to take DE courses, we don't allow it. We give a total of six units. You are going to stay 4 years. We want kids to have the full university experience, stay in the high school curriculum.</p> <p>FSU agrees. We press FSU to articulate how they compare AP, IB, AICE, DE? They have to look at it the same in the application process, but we all know how strong IB is.</p> <p><b>How do you compare courses, especially if a student is a full diploma student?</b></p> <p>Northeastern looks for full diploma, then look at the individual courses. They do look at math courses and language HL or SL.</p> <p><b>We understand you are looking to create a community. How do you do that?</b></p> <p>Diversity in the broadest definition.</p> <p>Are you familiar with the IB Career Certificate program and if so, how do you look at it?</p> <p>FSU—No difference.</p> <p>Stanford—we'll need to look at it. It seems our mission differs from the IB</p>
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Career certificate. We might not be the perfect fit. We will watch it as it grows.

Northeastern—a good fit for us.

**How do you feel about online courses?**

Northeastern—if they are taking an online course they can't get elsewhere, that is great. Ensuring the quality of those courses, that is the million dollar question.

FSU—we are mostly a traditional institution, but we know that students are taking some courses online.

Stanford has an online high school that is taught by Stanford faculty. Taking an advanced course online that is not available to them would be favorable.

Can we get some guidance on how to counsel our students as to what school to apply to for what major?

FSU says we can look at the Board of Governor's web site.

**NE and Stanford: what do you see as areas of strength or areas of concern for our Florida schools?**

Stanford—we're quite aware of what's going on here. We don't get predicted grades from our US schools. He wants the whole diploma.

NE—She will look at this year's pool of applicants and try to give us constructive feedback.

**What online college search resources do you recommend?**

Stanford—Big Future on College Board. Rankings are so misleading and what is the difference between 10 and 18 in class rank? It's about the fit for the student.

NE—Nothing can replace being on campus, but that is costly. More institutions are trying to make their web sites more comprehensive. Yes, they are a marketing tool.

**What is your opinion on College Score Card?**

Stanford—there are inaccuracies. The concept isn't a bad thing, but I don't think it's ready. I wouldn't jump on that as being the whole truth, but I hope they do develop it further.

**Do you have any data on the retention of IB students at your schools?**

NE—we have an overall 92 percent fresh to soph year retention. We have programs that give a common thread to students, such as living themes.

Stanford—our 4-year retention rate is close to 97%. IB World Schools are great kids, they are used to engagement.

FSU—they have a whole retention office.

**Some schools use different GPA weighted scales. How do you evaluate a transcript?**

FSU—State mandates how they weight it. They weight grades on a 4.0 scale.

Stanford—We adapt

NE—They weight SL courses like honors courses, and HL courses like AP courses.

**How do you treat class rank?**

Stanford—this is a dying area.

NE—The student being an IB student is more important than rank.

FSU—It is a small part of the evaluation.

	<p><b>What is the hierarchy of the things you consider?</b> Stanford—all of the above. No one factor will keep them in or take them out. We start by looking at rigor and grades. So, if there are lower grades, that could be the end of the evaluation.</p> <p><b>How should we deal with the proliferation of professional college counselors?</b> Stanford—we do not engage with professional counselors ever. They are not permitted to advocate for their students. The vast majority are not qualified. We work with <i>you</i> [IBCs]. NE—we do work with community based organizations, esp in urban areas. FSU noted that they do rescind about 75 admissions. Stanford noted that they can read between the lines. NE suggests using “call me” if there are things you don’t want to put in writing. Do you envision a time when there are not standardized tests such as SAT and ACT? Stanford—we think the more information we have, the better. I think generally tests are here to stay. NE—they correlate tests to student success and find a strong correlation, so they are in favor of tests.</p>
<p><b>Karen Brown, legislative liaison.</b></p> <p><b>Workshop Manager</b></p>	<p>Karen distributed a handout for the Advocacy Links. These are links to legislation about IB graduation, funding, etc. Legislative update for 2015/16—Committees are in session now. John Cerra, lobbyist for FLIBS, will join us in December. Good news is that Pam Stewart’s proposed budget is for \$83 more per student. Of course, still needs to be approved. Changes to Handbook for Counseling for Future Education. Changes to CCD have been made Pre IB Theatre 1 and 2 have been added. Still waiting on Physics. She asked that schools who need Pre IB Physics added to speak to district science coordinator so they can advocate for it. Appendix L is the directory that the state gives districts to code exams for school grades. There were some old course codes and it had to be changed. The Appendix L should be correct now. Because there is no Visual Arts Option B anymore, everyone should use the Visual Arts A option course code numbers. Karen will have it changed to just Visual Arts for next year. She will provide the cross over. Karen reminds everyone that her email is now <a href="mailto:Karen.Brown@flibs.org">Karen.Brown@flibs.org</a>. Phone: 850 624 4501 or 850 597 0673 Many people are registered, we have wait lists for multiple subjects (all the expected ones). Karen directs us to the FLIBS handout that lists workshop subjects. They are also on the web site. Training in “Understanding Leadership” in Dec. 2016 and then a second leadership PD will also be offered. Cat 3 we are offering include Approaches to Learning for DP, EE, Evaluating the DP, ToK Across the Curriculum, Category 3 for IA Biology all in June 2016.</p>
<p><b>Give Kids the World</b></p>	<p>The FLIBS Executive Board has adopted a charity: Give Kids the World. Lauren Zimmiski addressed the general membership. Located in Kissimmee. Fulfill wishes of kids with life threatening illnesses. Meeting Mickey, being a Princess, etc.</p>

	<p>The kids come to a week long stay at the resort with their entire family. They have a restaurant on premises and a castle and an ice cream palace. Everything is wheelchair accessible, including the pool. The food allergies are observed. They also provide the families with tickets to 3 days at Disney, 2 at Universal, 1 at SeaWorld. Then there are special events: Monday is Halloween, Thursday is Winter Wonderland. 144 villas on property. There is a gift fairy who delivers gifts while the family is at the park. Last year they served 7474 families. Go on to Charitynavigator.org. They are a top rated charity. Kids come from 75 different countries including the US. All 50 states. How IB Schools can help:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Spread the word about the charity.</li> <li>2. Students can fund raise. Online fundraising. Penny wars. Pie the teacher.</li> <li>3. Volunteer opportunities on site. Serving breakfast and dinner, helping with entertainment parties. They would go online to apply. From age 16 and up, they do not require a parent to come with them.</li> <li>4. Work projects on site.</li> <li>5. Send projects to the school.</li> </ol> <p>Lauren noted that you can't sponsor specific children/families. If your students want to do a fund raiser then go to property for a tour, we could do that.</p>
<p><b>Executive Board Report</b></p>	<p>Joe Williams.  Board added a Personnel Committee, which performs a review of the ED and seeks to fill vacant spots on the Board.  Board is considering revision of Grants and Scholarships. Is seeking input from both of those committee members on how to make it more equitable among the three programs.  Web site: Schools in good standing can post job vacancies, job seekers can post their information.  Constitutional Amendments—Please make sure that each school casts one vote.  Budget—Board approved budget for upcoming year. We made more money than we spent last year.  New Chair Elect—Nicole Deuter, MYP Chair is the chair elect. Derrick Buettner is the current chair.</p>
<p><b>Scholarship Committee</b></p>	<p>Roger Tangney. Going to readjust scholarship tiers somewhat:  \$4,000 for merit and need  \$2,000 (three each for both categories)  \$1,000 (four each for both categories)  Deadline for Scholarships: Jan. 22 post mark for hard copies.  Online: Jan. 22, 2016  You can go with either way.  Going to invite Managebac to December meeting to give us in-service.</p>

<b>College Relations Committee</b>	<p>Krystal Culpepper. We hope that the university forum was helpful.</p> <p>Survey. They got fewer responses than last year.</p> <p>This year's survey will be about college you want to hear from.</p>
<b>Grants Committee</b>	<p>The Committee worked hard to make the application for each kind of grant (Excellence and PD). As soon as the committee reviews the applications, it will be on the web site. The deadline will be in January 2016.</p>
Adjournment	<p>Noon. Before adjournment, Colleen introduced the DP Board and reminded everyone to submit their ballots to vote on the FLIBS Constitutional changes.</p>