AILG Board Meeting

Thursday, February 2, 2017 | MIT W59-237 | Meeting called to order at 6:32pm by Steve Baker

In Attendance

Board: Steve Baker (TX), Akil Middleton (ZP), Eric Cigan (LCA), Pam Gannon (AP), Dick Larson (PBE), Alice Leung (ET)

Staff and Vendors: Bob Ferrara (DSL/TC), Brad Badgley (FSILG Office), Scott Klemm (FSILG Cooperative, Inc.),

Alumni: Tom Holtey (CP), David Lawrence (TEP), Patrick McCabe (TCAA), Tom Stohlman (KS), Stan Wulf (PDT)

Students: Ayomide Fatunde (Panhel), Robert Binkowski (IFC), Pravina Samaratunga (LGC)

Approval of Minutes (Pam Gannon)

The Board voted to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2016 Board Meeting.

Review of Finances (Eric Cigan)

Eric Cigan noted that overall finances are in good shape. He presented the Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actuals.

FSILG Office Update (Brad Badgley)

FSILG Leadership Retreat: Brad Badgley reminded everyone that the FSILG Leadership Retreat takes place on Saturday, Feb 4 at Endicott House.

Brad noted that he had had some interest from NPHC (National Pan-Hellenic Council) organizations in being recognized by the FSILG Office. These are non-residential, historically African-American fraternities and sororities. Some MIT students are part of Boston-wide chapters.

IFC Recognition Policy: Brad said that the Recognition Policy is currently being reviewed by legal counsel and will go next to Suzy Nelson.

Notices have been sent out to remind students about assembly numbers and advisories from MIT and Boston Police regarding the Super Bowl.

Student Council Updates (Pravina Samaratunga, Ayomide Fatunde, Robert Binkowski)

LGC: Pravina Samaratunga noted that Fenway and ET will be doing spring rush.

Panhel: Ayo Fatunde noted that APhiE, DPhiE and PiPhi are doing informal recruitment, and Panhel is planning events for CPW. Ayo said that the two undergraduates are affected by the US travel ban, which include Panhel VP Niki Ramati, are working with MIT to get back to the US. She appreciated the statement of support from the AILG.

IFC: Robert Binkowski said that the IFC will be adopting a constitutional amendment to resolve conflicts with the new recognition policy. He said that it would take a ¾ vote to change the period of time to accept Theta Tau into the
IFC to be shorter than 9 months. The IFC is reviewing the REX/Recruitment schedule, and planning for CPW. The IFC JudCom is in place.

Preparation for February 4 FSILG Leadership Retreat (Brad Badgley)

Brad Badgley said that all groups except two will be attending the retreat. The FSILG Office will be conducting activities with the Panhel, IFC and LGC focusing on: what do we want our communities to look like? Brad hopes to make this retreat an annual event. A survey will be used after the retreat to get feedback from the attendees. Pam, Akil, and Bob will present on behalf of the AILG.

Preparation of Agenda for February 8 Plenary (Steve Baker)

Steve reviewed the draft agenda. Additions are: IT Committee – David Lawrence 10 min, Recruitment Study – Akil Middleton 10 min, West Campus Village – Pam Gannon 5 min. Announcements will be made for the IRDF and Insurance Committee. Steve Baker noted that he is trying to encourage committees to submit summaries in writing for the Plenary.

Recruitment Study Update (Akil Middleton)

Akil said that 21 chapters have agreed to release their BDF data; 5 chapters had not responded to his request; and 1 was pending due to talking to their board.

He is planning a presentation and update on the study for the Plenary.

Marijuana Policies (Stan Wulf, Scott Klemm)

Stan Wulf had questions about whether there were implications for FSILGs and MIT students because of the change in Massachusetts law legalizing recreational marijuana. Brad Badgley said that there is no change in the MIT policy, which is listed in the Mind and Handbook: II (2) (B). Other Drug Policy (Prohibited Substances), and was updated to reflect the changes in Massachusetts. MIT abides by federal law and marijuana is prohibited on campus, in student residences, including FSILGs, and at MIT-sponsored activities. Stan noted that there is no insurance coverage for incidents involving marijuana use. Brad said that VP of Student Life Suzy Nelson sent a note out to all students about the MIT policy in December. There was some discussion about whether the AILG should publish a statement about the Marijuana policy and the overall decision was no, since the students were already informed.

West Campus Village Update (Pam Gannon, Steve Baker)

Pam Gannon summarized:

Benchmarking Working Group Report - Co-chairs Bob Ferrara, Courtney Diamond, and Jack Gordon

- The work of the Benchmarking group is complete and the final report, appendices, and image gallery are posted on the AILG web site.
- The group interviewed and researched 22 colleges/universities that have undertaken construction projects for Greek organizations
- Pam thanked to the whole committee and especially Brad for setting up many of the connections and Walter Colby who conducted the interviews.

Meeting with Cindy Barnhart and Suzy Nelson – January 17, attended by Steve Baker, Stephen DeFalco, Pam Gannon and Bob Ferrara. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an update on our progress and to start a dialog about next steps.
In summary, Suzy Nelson and Cindy Barnhart:

- Are very positive about the creation of the West Campus Village
- Are open to different ownership models
- Would like to get the Committee’s report and recommendations soon
- Would like to know which organizations are potentially interested
- Would like more information on the financial health of the system

2nd Student Design Workshop – held Saturday, Jan 21 (Pam Gannon, Steve Baker, Robert Binkowski)

- The Workshop was run by Steve Baker and Tom Stohlman; other attendees were Bob Ferrara, Pam Gannon, Walter Colby and Brad Badgley.
- The workshop was attended by 28 students, with a good cross-section from the FSILGs.
- Gabriel Kozlowski and Roi Salgueiro Barrio from the Center for Advanced Urbanism presented visuals depicting major concept plans for the West Campus.
- Bob gave a quick overview of the Benchmarking Group study
- Tom asked students to brainstorm about spaces that they like to hang out in their FSILG or at MIT.
- Steve Baker shared a program statement, gave a sample plot of land (along Vassar Street to the west of Simmons Hall), and reviewed Cambridge zoning constraints.
- Students broke into groups to create a design for the sample site.
- Pam thanked Tom Stohlman and Steve Baker for facilitating the workshop

Several themes emerged:

- A desire for independence
- A home-like space that does not feel like a dorm
- Individual buildings that are not accessible to each other from within the structure
- Cooking and eating meals together in individual residences was very important.
- Differences between sororities and fraternities in terms of management models.
- Students desired to replicate the Back Bay brownstones model, which they saw as working well for their groups.
- All groups came up with a similar plan: several row houses, green space, a dorm/student center with flexibility for FSILGs to use for apartments, and shared amenities in the dorm/student center that include a gym, coffee shop, parking, and large meeting rooms.
- All materials and notes from the workshop are posted on the AILG web site.

The West Village Steering Committee set up an email address to submit comments and suggestions to the committee as we move forward: west-village-feedback@mit.edu.

The committee is planning to provide a final report in March.

Committee Reports

**Web Site Migration Team** (Pam Gannon, Bob Ferrara, Alice Leung)

- Pam conducted a content and structure assessment
- Changes planned: make news articles more prominent; make the IRDF and FSILG donors more prominent; incorporate FSILG history and other information currently on the MITAA site
- Committee Chairs should review their information and let the team know if they want to make any changes
- Timeline – structure skeleton in January, begin migration in February, go live on March 30
- A suggestion was made to add photos to the new site

**Facilities** (Patrick McCabe) – Patrick reported that the SLI (Safety, Licensing and Inspection) program is underway.
**Parent Outreach** (Pam Gannon) – CPW is on April 7-8; according to MIT Admissions, 700-1000 parents typically attend. The IFC and Panhel are planning presentations and the FSILG Office is planning a panel presentation with Brad, Bob and Pam.

**IRDF** (Bob Ferrara) - Bob has been approached by the MIT Annual Fund whether the AILG would like to participate in the MIT Day of Giving on Pi Day. The campaign is aimed at small donors and there are already some matching incentives in place. Bob proposed that the AILG could participate in the effort and direct donations to the IRDF. He suggested that the Board might consider an incentive matching gift or AILG Challenge gift to encourage donations.

A **Motion** was made by Pam Gannon, seconded by Dick Larson: That the AILG endorses the MIT Annual Fund’s new tradition of Giving Day on March 14 in support of the IRDF. The Motion passed unanimously.

Board members and friends who are interested in making a challenge gift to incentivize others to participate can contact Bob. He will send follow up information to the Board-Plus email list.

**IT Committee** – David Lawrence announced that he will be retiring as chair of the IT Committee after this year. The committee is also looking for new members.

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**Mentoring Committee Discussion (Brad Badgley)**

Brad Badgley said that he and Mike Feinstein, Chair of the Mentoring Committee have been talking about the future of the mentoring committee’s work. Mike proposes that the work be brought under the umbrella of the FSILG Office. Brad agreed that this is appropriate. He noted that the RISE program is working well for groups and that they would like to provide a toolbox of support, not one size fits all.

A **Motion** was made by Eric Cigan, seconded by Akil Middleton: To thank the members of the Mentoring Committee for their work and to disband the Mentoring Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Brad recognized how much work Mike Feinstein had put into the effort.

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**Other Business**

Dick Larson announced that this would be his last semester on the Board. He recommended having an MIT faculty member on the Board. Pam and Bob had pulled a list of MIT faculty who are affiliated with MIT FSILGs. Pam will send Dick a copy to look for Board candidates. The Board thanked Dick for his service.

Steve Baker announced that he will be stepping down as Board Chair after this year.

Akil Middleton updated the Board on the state of the Zeta Psi lease negotiations: the chapter is meeting with MITIMCO regularly and progress is being made. The chapter wants to stay at their current location.

Bob Ferrara announced that the Annual Dinner and Meeting will be held on May 31 at the MIT Museum. The cost will be the same as last year, with DSL contributing additional funding. MIT Provost Marty Schmidt will be the featured speaker.

Alice Leung’s term will also be up at the end of this year. The Board expressed the hope that Alice would continue to serve or that someone else could be found to represent the ILGs on the Board.

Brad Badgley said that GRA hiring process is underway for next year. There are 13-14 vacancies. He noted that the FSILG Office is fully staffed and has dedicated administrative support.

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**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:13pm.