AILG Board Meeting

Thursday, November 1, 2018 | W59 | Meeting called to order at 6:30pm by Akil Middleton

In Attendance

Board: Cody Chamberlin (PKS), Pam Gannon (AP), Akil Middleton (ZP), Cecilia Stuopis (AXO) (by phone), Eric Cigan (LCA), Alice Leung (ET)

Administration, Staff, Vendors: Bob Ferrara (DSL,TC), Brad Badgley (FSILG Office), Scott Klemm (FCI)

Other Alumni/ae: Tom Stohlman, Tom Holtey, Larry Stabile, Patrick McCabe, Herman Marshall, John Covert, Steve Baker, Kim Hunter

Review of Minutes

Minutes of the 9/06/18 and 10/04/2018 AILG Board meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.

Treasurer’s Update and Financial Report

Eric Cigan, Treasurer reviewed the financial update and report. A savings account has been opened.

FSILG Office and Student Council Updates

Brad Badgley reported that at the last IFC meeting, Theta Tau was voted Associate Member and Phi Sigma Rho interest group was voted Probationary Member. PSR is a sorority that is not part of National Panhel. The interest group will need to be approved by DSL as the next step. The students have been meeting with Brad, and both Panhel and IFC have been involved in discussions. IFC and Panhel elections are coming up. No LGC update. The Multi-Cultural Greek Council continues to meet with Brad. The number of MIT students involved in those groups is relatively small, but this is sustainable because they are city-wide chapters.

Brad Badgley reported that the FSILG Office is organizing the Emerging Leaders Retreat this coming Sunday; a few more recent alums could volunteer to participate. There will be an external review of the FSILG Office as part of the DSL review process. They will meet with stakeholders, including alums and students. The Social Events Policy Committee is meeting tomorrow. Groups have been responding to the email about winter/IAP preparations. A fraternity was cited by Boston for an incident; JudCom hearing is tomorrow.

Facilities Assessment Status

Pam Gannon reported that the new FSILG Facilities Renewal Steering Committee, which was endorsed by the AILG Board at the September meeting, has outlined priorities for the year and has proposed a charge for the committee. The committee would like to focus on sprinkler, fire alarm, and egress issues. They would like to bring in a construction project estimator and get estimates for 2-3 sample houses by the end
of January. The committee would meet every other week, and would take charge of things like asking MIT for fire/safety funding, and holding seminars each semester to help houses with fundraising and other needs around addressing the Facilities Assessment issues. It would be an ad-hoc committee focused on the implementation of the Facilities Assessment.

The AILG Board passed the motion: The ad-hoc FSILG Facilities Renewal Steering Committee’s charge is to promote and support implementation of the physical renewal of the Fraternities, Sororities and Independent Living Groups (FSILGs) to ensure they remain vital and vibrant resources to MIT by implementing the recommendations of the 2018 Facilities Assessment.

Accreditation Status

Herman Marshall, chair of the Accreditation committee, reviewed the plans for re-envisioning the program. The initial data gathering has begun, with a community meeting that was well attended. Next, the committee will deploy surveys and hold focus groups. John Covert will recruit participants for January focus groups, including alums who have been reviewers, alums who have been reviewed, recent alums, student leaders, and FSILG Office staff. By the end of April, the committee will hold a few practice review sessions (similar to alpha tests or a pilot test) using the new review methods with FSILGs that have volunteered to help be testers. The fall 2019 visits are also anticipated to be using a still-evolving review method (similar to beta tests).

Review of other AILG Goals

Akil Middleton reviewed progress toward AILG goals (other than the Facilities Assessment Phase 2). In support of the goal to support campus-wide programs on sexual assault awareness & prevention, we could have a presentation from MIT staff involved in Title IX and VPR at the February AILG Plenary. In support of the goal of improving alumni/student interactions, we could work with the FSILG Office to use the IAP President’s retreat as a place to get input from students about the gap between alumni and student perceptions. To clean up the AILG by-laws, Eric Cigan is beginning to mark up the current version and will send around links. The goals is to have a version that can be voted on in May.

Future Plenary Planning

Akil Middleton reviewed plans to have a significant topic of discussion at each Plenary. The November meeting will have information about the MITAA Affinity Group and what services FSILGs can access. It will also have updates from the Facilities Renewal Steering Committee, Accreditation, and the FCI. We could have Title IX/VPR in February, and also address some aspect of alumni/student perception gap. In April, there could be a report about the Accreditation methods and upcoming pilot test.

Committee Updates

Pam Gannon thanks all FSILGs that held parent events at the recent Family Weekend. Bob Ferrara reported that the Back Bay Community BBQ could be moved to a spring Sunday between CPW and finals.

Scott Klemm reported that the FCI Annual Meeting happened, and there is a 6 person board now. New initiatives this year are inspired by last year’s re-imagining effort and the recent Facilities Assessment. The FCI is considering long term facilities management, using outside vendors or a semi-cooperative vendors.
They are looking at whether it would be feasible to have a facilities manager that is shared among up to 10 groups. They will be offering a City Inspection readiness plan, and Owner’s Representative services for renovation projects. They served as ZBT’s Owner’s Representative during recent repairs and this worked well for everyone. Last year, FCI was profitable. Oscar is leaving and they will be looking for a new person to join staff.

Announcements

Bob Ferrara will have a retirement party sometime in January.

The next Plenary is 11/14, in the evening, in a different location than normal.

The next Board meeting on 12/6 will have the Holiday Social. It will be in the Ashdown Hulsizer Room.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alice Leung, AILG Board

Abbreviations

AILG Association of Independent Living Groups
BSF Building Safety Facilitator
DSL Division of Student Life
FCI FSILG Cooperative, Inc.
FSILGs Fraternities, Sororities and Independent Living Groups
IFC Interfraternity Council
ILGs Independent Living Groups
IRDF Independent Residence Development Fund
LGC Living Group Council
MITAA MIT Alumni Association
Panhel Panhellenic Association
SLI Safety, Licensing, and Inspections