1 MINUTES

AILG Plenary Meeting Minutes

 Thursday, September 12, 2019 | Alumni Association W98| Meeting called to order at 7:36am by Akil Middleton

# In Attendance

FSILGs attending: Alpha Phi, Beta Theta Pi, Chi Phi, Delta Tau Delta, Epsilon Theta, Kappa Sigma, Lambda Chi Alpha, Phi Beta Epsilon, Phi Delta Theta, Phi Kappa Sigma, Phi Kappa Theta, Pi Lambda Phi, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Sigma Chi, Sigma Kappa, pika, Theta Chi, Theta Tau, Theta Xi, Zeta Beta Tau, Zeta Psi

FSILGs not attending: Alpha Chi Omega, Alpha Delta Phi, Alpha Epsilon Phi, Alpha Epsilon Pi, Alpha Tau Omega, Delta Kappa Epsilon, Delta Phi Epsilon, Fenway House, Kappa Alpha Theta, Nu Delta, Number Six Club, Phi Sigma Kappa, Pi Beta Phi, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Sigma Nu, Student House, Theta Delta Chi, Tau Epsilon Phi, WILG,

AILG Board: Pam Gannon, Akil Middleton, Eric Cigan

MIT Administration and Other Guests: Brad Badgley (FSILG Office), John Covert (Accreditation), Liz Jason (FSILG Office), Scott Klemm (FCI), Karie Allison (Elevate), David Friedrich (DSL), Dennis Collins (DSL), Judy Robinson (DSL)

# Welcome and Introductions

As part of the introduction, Scott Klemm notified attendees that he needs each house corporation to complete and sign a W-9 form and network management agreement.

# Treasurer’s Report

Eric Cigan presented the Treasurer’s Report. The new fiscal year started on July 1st; AILG has sent out invoices for annual funding from MIT DSL and IRDF that supports our SLI, BSF and Accreditation programs. Those are usually collected anywhere from December to April so they are reflected in the balance sheet as accounts receivable. FCI has made a payment of $63,975 to us, which is the amount they collect from FSILGs for AILG member dues and SLI and BSF program support fees, so along with funds retained from previous years we have a total of approximately $104,000 in our bank accounts. As for expenses, most of our spending has been in Facilities – it consists of normal monthly pay for the BSF and fees we pay to FCI, so this is all as expected. By the time of the next plenary, we may start having expenses for setting up the new AILG Peer Visitation Program (previous this was called the AILG Accreditation program).

# FSILG Office Update

Brad Badgley and Liz Jason reported that this last week was the busiest of the year for the FSILG Office, because of recruitment and MIT opening. Yesterday was bid acceptance Wednesday and the IFC’s last day for bids. So far, good recruitment reports. The FSILG Office has sent out the hazing acknowledgement form (required by MA) and the GRA subsidy form (which each House Corporation needs to invoice to the FSILG Office). The GRA subsidy is $3000 per semester and can be invoiced per semester or for the year up front. After work week, many of our houses look good, so encourage students to keep things that way. As we know, facilities and maintenance is one of our biggest challenges. New house manager training happened.

Nationally, many schools are seeing declines in fraternity and sorority recruitment. We have not seen the steep drops that other schools have seen. Some FSILGs are doing better than ever with recruitment. The FSILG Office recommends that groups rethink their recruitment activities, spending less on events and focusing more on values, as that is what today’s incoming students respond to.

# Facilities Renewal Update

Pam Gannon presented a review of the FSILG Facilities Renewal committee, which was created last year after the facilities assessments effort. (Slides are available on the website under Plenary Minutes.) The committee includes membership from MIT DSL, FCI, AILG, etc. David Friedrich, in charge of facilities renewal at MIT, is one of the key people on the committee.

The committee determined that its focus should be on items related to life safety.

* Egress doors and hardware
* Fire alarms
* Sprinklers

The committee developed cost estimates to improve systems. The effort has a working name of the Facilities Life Improvement Project (FLIP).

* Egress – these issues vary considerably by condition of house, with a total amount of <$1million across the entire FSILG system
* Fire alarm upgrades - ~$3 million
* Sprinkler systems - ~$5 million

Pam noted that while there had been hope that MIT would provide funding, the committee has concluded that we must rely on our resources since MIT funding doesn’t look likely. The committee’s working concept is to do the work in three phases, corresponding to the work on egress, fire alarm upgrades and sprinkler systems. Pam noted that all the FSILGs currently have systems now that have been passing inspection, but this work would be updating the systems to higher level. Pam proceeded to go through the committee’s preliminary plan. Central to the plan is the notion of a project manager. The committee considered either having AILG hire a project manager, or having MIT Facilities perform project management, but at this point they will be proposing that AILG would hire a project manager to coordinate work.

Pam discussed the phase 1 work concept for improving egress. She expects it would rely on a combination of IRDF funding and payments from FSILGs. They are considering a tiered system to bill FSILGs so that organizations that have done work aren’t paying more than their share. She went on to discuss phases 2 and 3, qualifying her comments by noting that plans are very preliminary. Her expectation is that MIT would not be providing grants to support these phases, so the work would be paid for by a combination of IRDF funding and payments from FSILGs.

Discussed process for Phase 1 (concept)

Draft timeline: would hire project manager in November timeline. Pam commented on next steps:

* Need to verify funding, verify that AILG would hire project manager, need to work out collaboration with Facilities Committee
* Need to determine approval process. Akil emphasized that AILG community needs to have a voice in approving this work, but we haven’t yet determined whether the AILG Board or AILG membership would be voting on it.

# Overview of the AILG Peer Visitation Program

Akil presented slides about the successor to the previous AILG Accreditation Program. (Slides are available on the website under Plenary Minutes.)

New version would maintain visiting committee with three differences

* More open discussion in meetings rather than the flag-and-discuss format centered around the BDF
* More focused on the chapter as the audience for the program rather than MIT DSL.
* More formalized process of setting goals and having regular follow up to achieve higher standards

Timeline: Started last Sept by suspending visits, focus group sessions, survey, design teams in April-June. Akil thanked the members of the design team.

Major changes

* No more BDF: instead it will be open ended questions, guiding questions for conversation during visit
* More emphasis on alumni, alumni-student relations: the old Accreditation process increasingly overlapped with the work that FSILG office now does, so we were often reporting information that the FSILG Office staff was already very familiar with. The new program will focus on what office doesn’t do, such as a focus on alumni matters
* Also topics like how groups get along with their nationals

Akil went through a series of example questions .We need to finalize the new program’s name – several attendees remarked that they liked the name, which had been proposed by Herman. Hope to schedule the first visits later this semester

# Review of Alumni Association Offerings

Elena Byrne ebyrne@mit.edu 617-252-1143 is the point person for AILG at MIT Alumni Association (MITAA). They maintain an alumni directory/database and email listservs for each house. Member lists are available by request (best to ask close to when they are needed, to get the most up-to-date info). Other available services: event support, including registration and collecting payments; information about alumni awards; guidance on how to organize/publicize alum events; monthly list of deceased alums (available by opt-in to list). Please tell the AILG board if there are other needs you think MITAA could help meet.

# AILG Summer Retreat and Goals

On 8/23, the current AILG board and a few advisors met to consider ideas and potential goals for the coming year – high-level topics. New areas of interest for 2019/20: outreach to students and young alums via career-related info sessions; repurpose the best parts of the CARMA (risk management) program; continue to help our alum volunteers understand today’s students; investigate the feasibility of opt-in house management plans; look into increasing the GRA stipend.

# Reintroduction of AILG Committees

AILG committees are currently: Accreditation (Peer Review); Education/Outreach and Community Relations (newly combined); Facilities; Finance (Insurance functions now under this umbrella); Information Technology.

# News from Nationals

NIC (North American Interfraternity Conference) has new rules banning alcohol products above 15% ABV in fraternity houses (not only at events). MIT has its own set of rules for social events, and does not enforce the rules of the NIC. Houses should be aware that their insurance may be become null and void if a chapter/organization of an NIC-member national is found to be in violation of the NIC rules regarding alcohol products (or other issues).

# Announcements/Other Business

* FSILG Alumni/ae Social 9/28 at 6pm at PBE, light appetizers, drinks. Invitations are being sent to the ~115 AILG-affiliated attendees of the Alumni Leadership Council; any alums with AILG affiliation are welcome, but please RSVP.
* News from FCI:
	+ A new FCI employee will start 9/24. If new business can wait until the following week, that would be better.
	+ FCI annual meeting 10/17 at 7pm at W98 Alumni Association building
	+ Please update contact lists — remind students!
	+ Backup batteries for the network are in the process of installation. About half of the houses need a simple follow-up visit, and the rest need more significant work to complete installation.
	+ The physical FCI office closed 9/12–9/23. No change to any payment deadlines.
	+ For every house, a house corporation member needs to sign a Network Management Program form (available at the plenary meeting).
* Speaker suggestions for future plenaries – please submit suggestions to Akil
* MIT Career Fair: 9/20
* MIT Family Weekend: 10/25-26 – FSILG member houses are strongly encouraged to hold events over MIT Family Weekend 10/25-26. Parents are increasingly involved stakeholders.
* Next Board meeting: Thursday 10/3 at 6pm
* Next Plenary: Wednesday 11/13 at 6:30pm

# Adjournment

The plenary meeting adjourned at 8:56am.

# Abbreviations

AILG Association of Independent Living Groups

BSF Building Safety Facilitation

CPW Campus Preview Weekend

DSL Division of Student Life

FCI FSILG Cooperative, Inc.

FSILGs Fraternities, Sororities and Independent Living Groups

GRA Graduate Resident Advisor

IFC Interfraternity Council

ILGs Independent Living Groups

IRDF Independent Residence Development Fund

LGC Living Group Council

Panhel Panhellenic Association

SLI Safety, Licensing and Inspection Program