



AILG Board Meeting

Thursday, February 3, 2022 | Zoom | Meeting called to order at 6:06 pm by Akil Middleton

In Attendance

Board: Akil Middleton (ZP), Eric Cigan (LCA), Tyler Kemp-Benedict (pika), Mary Linton Peters (KAT)

Administration, Staff, Vendors: Brad Badgley (FSILG Office), Pam Gannon (AP/DSL), Liz Jason (FSILG Office), Scott Klemm (FCI), Jessica Morris (FSILG Office)

Other Alumni/ae: Steve Baker (TX), Bob Ferrara (TC), Herman Marshall (Beta), Patrick McCabe (TT), Alex Pina (DTD), Larry Stabile (TDC), Tom Stohlman (KS), Mark Thompson (ADP), Bill Tsacoyeanes (SC), Stan Wulf (PDT, AILG Ombuds)

Review of Minutes

Minutes of the December 9th Board meeting were approved, pending minor edits.

Treasurer's Update and Financial Report

Eric Cigan presented the Treasurer's report. We have received and paid invoices from Coast and Harbor for their work from August to the end of December 2021 on facilities renewal. MIT IRDF has reimbursed AILG for that work through the end of October and has just recently been invoiced for November and December as well, so that's why we're seeing two months' worth (\$14,700) in Accounts Receivable.

Our spending is still lower than in pre-pandemic years. PVP is still all virtual, and board meetings and plenaries are still being held remotely, so there have been no space or catering expenses.

The Facilities expense category reflects billing by FCI for SLI/BSF services every month as usual. There's been no change under administrative expenses (tax prep, etc.), and half of the anticipated web services expenses for the fiscal year has been paid out. The 1099 has been issued for webmaster services paid for in calendar year 2021.

FSILG Office and Council Update & MIT/Covid Update

Informal announcement: After nearly seven years, Brad will be leaving MIT soon to begin a new role with a nonprofit. He is working on transition plans for his interim successor, and the FSILG Office will additionally still be able to rely on the very capable assistant deans, Liz and Jessica.

As the second-longest serving Associate Dean/Director of FSILGs, Brad has contributed a lot to the stability and legitimacy of the role.

Several attendees offered their congratulations, appreciation, and thanks for Brad's service to the AILG community and expressed how much they have enjoyed working with him.

Updates

Brad – Omicron caused a fair amount of disruption over IAP, but numbers are going down, this is the first week of classes, and things are going well so far. The FSILG Office will send reminders soon for house corporations to invoice for GRA subsidies if they have not already. Houses can invoice for each semester at \$3,000, or for the whole academic year at \$6,000. Please send to fsilg-office@mit.edu, rather than to an individual email address.

The annual student leadership retreat for newly elected student presidents, VPs, and council leaders will take place Saturday, February 5, in-person in the Sandberg Center. It has been scheduled for the afternoon between mealtimes, because there are still some public health-related restrictions around food.

Spring informal recruitment is ongoing. (Formal Rush takes place in the fall.)

GRA recruitment is going well for the next academic year, with FSILG interviewing candidates and working with the houses.

Jessica – Although a GRA search is sometimes less than smooth when plans change that can disrupt a hire, last year was particularly affected by Covid, and a couple of houses had to conduct multiple searches. DSL is prepared, and the houses should have student hiring committees ready to handle the process this year.

Liz – MIT policy restricting food at social events and gatherings is affecting recruitment events a lot. No events or gatherings, whether of students, staff or faculty, can have food or drink, indoors or outdoors. We think this restriction will be lifted soon (maybe by end of February), an anticipated change that is at the top of student priority lists.

Pam – The same policy is in place for alumni events. But planning for Tech Reunions and Commencement is proceeding under the assumption that they will happen in-person. Amy Davis from MITAA can help alums coordinate with current MIT policies.

Brad – Alums have been very collaborative around these policies. And it will be good for the system when we are able to gather in person again.

Information on MIT Covid policy is available and continually updated at <https://now.mit.edu/>

Recap of IAP items

Akil – The Omicron wave interfered with several AILG plans for IAP.

IRDF and Finance Seminars

Pam – All MIT summer reimbursements have to be complete before EOGs can happen, and only about a third of houses have complete, approved reimbursements. As a result, the Grant Advisory Board has deferred the IRDF seminar that had been planned for IAP, in favor of a workshop-style session optimized for houses as they fill out their EOG applications. That will probably be postponed for another month, depending on when the reimbursements are finished.

Planning for the intended seminar on Finance best practices was another casualty of Omicron. That may be a natural fit with the restarting of PVP, so we may collaborate.

Facilities Renewal Community Meeting

All the houses have received their Facilities Renewal reports (for the egress phase). We expect to learn a lot as the three initial pilot houses – Beta, Sigma Kappa, and Theta Chi – review the spreadsheets provided to them of suggested repairs and improvements, and ask questions. We'll have a community meeting about this on Monday, February 7th at 7pm, which will be recorded. (Contact Pam if you'd like the link.)

Akil – Some of these things we had hoped to cover during IAP could be discussed at the retreat, or at future plenaries.

House Walk-throughs

Tom S. – Originally, we were going to have a big Zoom for everybody and then schedule house walk-throughs. But we think it might be more effective to group houses that are either in a similar neighborhood and have similar challenges, in smaller meetings, in order to better target the needs of houses that don't typically send representatives to AILG meetings (which can correlate with having facilities issues). We're planning now to hold Zoom meetings with ~5–6 houses at a time, and then follow up and schedule a walk-through if a house feels it's worthwhile for them.

Akil – We could all benefit from ideas like this to help reach organizations that don't usually send representatives to AILG meetings.

New Chancellor

Akil will reach out to the new Chancellor, through Suzy's office.

Please let Akil know if anything was left off.

Starting the Nominations Committee

Akil – In recent years, we have found ourselves looking at the last minute for Board candidates at the annual meeting. We'd like to form a group to compile a slate of candidates beforehand.

Eric – There is already such a standing committee in our bylaws, although it has been moribund.

Bob Ferrara accepts nomination as chair of this Nominations Committee and is approved by vote of the Board. Pam Gannon and Steve Baker volunteer to help.

Bob is empowered to recruit others to serve on this committee and to seek potential new Board members (in time for the annual meeting) and identify candidates for the committee chairs (by the fall). The committee will reach out to potential candidates and check in with anyone who is up for renewal.

Steve thinks no current Board members should be on this committee. Akil agrees. (Zeta Psi National asks former presidents to serve on a similar type of committee.) It should be entirely separate from currently serving Board members to avoid any appearance of conflict or inappropriate influence. Bob agrees to follow that guidance.

The full name from the AILG bylaws is the Nominations and Credentials Committee. (We have never had to refer a challenge of anyone's credentials to this committee.)

Annual Meeting and Annual Bob Ferrara Alumni/ae Retreat

Akil – It looks likely we'll be able to hold the annual meeting in-person, on-campus (in May or June). We would also like to have the *"FSILG Alumni Leadership Retreat in honor of Bob Ferrara '67"*, informally known as the *"Bob Retreat."* Could we combine these two events on one day?

In recent years, for the annual meetings at the MIT Museum, we've had a social hour, followed by speaker, annual report, dinner, and meeting with elections. This proposal for a combined event would replace the social hour with retreat sessions.

Pam – We would probably look for some on-campus space. One possible configuration for this proposal is a three-part event, with 1) retreat for our member organizations; 2) social event open to many people, including our campus partners; and 3) annual meeting, which must include the annual report and elections.

Akil – We can consider what order makes the most sense, for connecting those events on the same day.

Considerations:

- This year, there will be multiple reunion ceremonies, multiple commencement ceremonies at the same time. Is there a benefit to combining our two events, or not?
- In the past, we've invited people from MIT whom we wanted to thank, to the social component of the annual meeting.
- Virtual events during the pandemic have had much higher participation rates. Could there be a virtual meeting and in-person retreat, or a hybrid of either or both?
- Pairing the retreat – where younger folks are learning and gaining skills – with the annual meeting may be a way to draw new members into the AILG alum community, where they might be engaged and kept in the loop about other plans and activities.
- We have multiple audiences. Some retreat sessions could be for new volunteers and people trying to revitalize their organizations (not necessarily the leaders of their organizations). The social event is for everyone. The annual meeting is for voting representatives of our member organizations.
- Historically, the annual meeting has been on a weekday evening, but a longer event with retreat sessions would probably work better on a weekend. The last ABFAR was held on a Saturday morning at Endicott House, with continental breakfast before, and lunch after the sessions. (Note: there was a social event after an Alumni Leadership Conference at PBE.)
- It may be harder for MIT employees to attend on a weekend.
- The FSILG Office provided funding for the last ABFAR at Endicott House (which is relatively expensive). Judy is supportive, and this may be possible again, if that's something AILG wants.
- AILG is in a strong financial position. (For example, we would have spent ~\$10,000 on the two annual meetings we were not able to hold because of the pandemic.) We can certainly contribute to the cost.
- Younger alums are less likely to have cars, but if they'd be interested and available to attend, rides can be arranged. Please let Pam know.
- If the event is off-campus, such as at Endicott House, the simplest way for MIT to fund transportation for individuals who need it is by reimbursing for an Uber/rideshare.
- Regarding timing, we should decide by March for a May event. But it could happen as late as June. Reunion weekend has been moved to the end of May this year. When past AILG events were held shortly before Commencement in order to make it easier for students to attend, they did not. Just after Commencement, things are much less busy, and schedules are more flexible.
- By June, the weather is likely to be nicer, and the Covid situation may be better (we hope).

Pam will start looking at options. Akil will float the idea of a combined event at the plenary.

Pam – Please consider the possibilities and let us know what you think.

Committee Updates — Facilities

Akil – There are two Facilities Committee (FC) items: 1) a new occupancy request for DTD's roof deck, which requires a Board vote; and 2) the FC clarified the roof deck policy/process in detail – thank you!

Tom S – The Board should read the new documentation from the FC carefully. If it is at odds with Board members' understanding, then it can be updated. This document represents the best effort of the FC at

making the current policy clear, and it was passed unanimously by the committee. It should be a living document, and the Board can update it if necessary.

Eric volunteers to work with the FC to help get rid of redundancy in the documentation.

Tom S – Regarding the required signage, each house can make its own sign. We (the FC) felt it was important that the students understood what their limitations were on a deck. Every house can put up a different sign, but as a minimum, the sign should have a) the number (the casual-use capacity, vetted by the AILG Board and the Facilities Committee), b) the wording that “Social Events are Strictly Prohibited” (that is a something that the City of Boston made abundantly clear – they do NOT want students having parties on the roof decks); and c) make clear that the posted restrictions are coming from the facility owner/House Corporation, in compliance with AILG and DSL policy. Other language can be added – for example, Theta Chi has a prohibition on open flames – but these three points are the minimum required wording.

Akil – Thanks to the FC for doing that work to clarify the documentation. Eric has suggestions, and anyone on the Board may suggest edits. We will get those suggestions to Tom for the FC, and then we can formally vote on it at a later Board meeting. For now, we have the new occupancy request.

Tom S. – The FC recommends a “casual use” capacity (number of students on deck) of 24 for DTD. The code expert demonstrated to the majority of those voting [in the FC], that that increase – from 20 to 24 – was fine. Tom noted that DTD also requested a [higher] number for their special house event, which was discussed at length in the Facilities Committee. But no member of the committee who was at the meeting was willing to offer a motion to set the special house event capacity to the requested number of 41.

The AILG Board approves the increase of the roof deck casual-use capacity for DTD from 20 to 24, as recommended by the Facilities Committee. (Eric moved, ML seconded, and the Board voted to approve the motion.)

Akil – We should revisit the Special Events discussion at a later meeting.

Plenary Planning (for Feb 17)

Possible plenary agenda items:

- ML – summary of PVP, discuss its rollout in the spring term
- Akil – proposed idea of a combined annual meeting and retreat
- Alex – reunions; Pam – Amy Davis from MIT AA will attend
- Bob – Nominating Committee

Bob – Usually insurance renews on April 1. Is there anything new we should anticipate?

Stan – The process has started. There’s some advance paperwork that the broker requires. It usually takes some time to compile the list of students. We don’t expect anything special.

Scott Klemm – There’s been no discussion so far of rate changes. That’s not a guarantee, but we would usually hear something before a big change. We won’t know the actual new rates, though, until a week or two before the policies and bills come out. We’ll build out an estimate in March based on last year’s numbers, to make sure we have the money on hand to pay the bill when it arrives.

Please send any other items to Akil.

Other Business

- Randall Albright from the Charlesgate Alliance contacted the Board – with Beacon Street students in mind – about a planned Spring cleanup on April 23rd and a park activation on Saturday, October 1st. Akil will connect Albright with student council leaders via Brad and can also announce this opportunity for community service at the February plenary.
- Akil (and Pam) – It is a good time (as always?!) to work on an email newsletter. That could include dates for the retreat and annual mtg, if possible.
- After much aggravation, the City of Cambridge got inspections done, and lodging licenses were renewed before the end of December.

Scott – Some Cambridge FSILGs were inspected three times last year. The city promises that next year will be better. We hope. **Boston organizations, when you get your renewal or inspection notices from the City of Boston, please respond promptly.** Now that the process is online, the FCI office is not really in the loop and can't do much to help.

- Steve Baker is now president-select of the Alumni Association (for a term beginning July 1). Steve extended his thanks, after working with AILG for 20 years. He will continue to work with us but has to step back to prioritize his new responsibilities. The last two years has been difficult, but this group has done a terrific job. Kudos especially to Akil.

Other Business and Announcements

The next plenary meeting will be February 17th at 6pm (via Zoom)

The next monthly board meeting we be the first Thursday, March 3rd at 6pm (via Zoom)

Tech Reunion will be May 27–29. It's planned to be in-person.

Adjournment – 7:20pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Tyler Kemp-Benedict, AILG Secretary

Abbreviations

ABFAR	Annual Bob Ferrara Alumni/ae Retreat
AILG	Association of Independent Living Groups
BSF	Building Safety Facilitator
CPW	Campus Preview Weekend
DSL	Division of Student Life
EOGs	Educational Operating Grants (IRDF)
FCI	FSILG Cooperative, Inc.
FSILGs	Fraternities, Sororities and Independent Living Groups
IFC	Interfraternity Council
ILGs	Independent Living Groups
IRDF	Independent Residence Development Fund
IS&T	Information Systems & Technology
LGC	Living Group Council
MITAA	MIT Alumni Association
NIC	North American Interfraternity Conference
NPC	National Panhellenic Conference
Panhel	Panhellenic Association

PVP Peer Visit Program
SLI Safety, Licensing, and Inspections