



AILG Plenary Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 17, 2022 | Zoom | Meeting called to order at 6:05 by Akil Middleton

In Attendance

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

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

AILG Board: Akil Middleton, Eric Cigan, Tyler Kemp-Benedict, Mary Linton Peters, Cecilia Stuopis,

MIT Administration and Other Guests: Nick Anwalt (IFC), Brad Badgley (FSILG Office), Amy Davis (MITAA), Bob Ferrara, Pam Gannon (DSL), Sarah Gao (Panhel), Tom Holtey, Kim Lesly Hunter (MITAA), Liz Jason (FSILG Office), Scott Klemm (FCI), Patrick McCabe, Jessica Morris (DSL), Tom Stohlman (AILG Facilities), Mark Thompson (FCI), Stan Wulf (AILG Ombuds),

Welcome and Introductions

Akil Middleton convened the meeting at 6:05.

Treasurer's Update and Financial Report

Eric Cigan – The amount under Accounts Receivable represents what AILG has invoiced IRDF to pay for the Facilities Renewal project management. AILG is paying the consulting company directly and then invoicing for reimbursement from IRDF.

The budget for 2021–22 reflects planning for a semester of PVP visits, but those are happening remotely for the first semester after resuming. Independent contractor services are at a much smaller scale than anticipated. There are also still no expenses for meetings, as those are also still being held virtually. Facilities Renewal was added after the budget was approved, but these expenses are all being reimbursed by IRDF. We've paid for the webmaster services for half of the budget year. So we are well above our projected balance at this point in the year, again.

The treasurer has asked committee chairs to propose budgets for next year. We're in a very good cash position, so they can afford to be conservative in their requests. We'll have a proposed budget for review well ahead of the annual meeting.

FSILG Office and Student Council Update

Brad and Liz – Spring semester is going well. MIT has updated its policy to allow food at events, now that case numbers are going down. Thank you all for being so wonderfully cooperative and collaborative throughout the pandemic. Up-to-date information is available at <https://now.mit.edu/>.

Reminder about **GRA subsidies** – for those organizations that have not yet submitted invoices, that reminder will go out soon. Invoices – for \$3,000 per semester or \$6,000 for the academic year – should be addressed to fsilg-office@mit.edu, which reaches all the FSILG staff.

The in-person **student leadership retreat** on February 5, for newly elected leaders, went well, even though the time was compressed in order to accommodate the restriction on food at events that was still in effect then. About 60–65 student leaders attended, a very good turnout, and they got a lot out of it. The event included three workshops:

- Leadership and Identity (presented by partners in the Student Activities Office and PKG Center)
- And identity focus activity (in conjunction with the Office of Multicultural Programs)
- Restorative justice techniques for handling difficult conversations (IDHR Office)

Brad – **GRA hiring** is in process for houses that are hiring. Contact the FSILG Office if you need information about the GRA situation for your organization.

IFC and Panhel updates (Sarah Gao, new Panhel president; and Nick Anewalt, new IFC vice president; Brad; and Liz) – Spring informal recruitment is underway, and students are starting to decide where they will live next year. It's going well, as it has throughout the pandemic. More IFC organizations are doing spring recruitment than in the past (~14 this year), with lots of engagement. They are planning for CPW and using social media to promote events. Panhel and IFC are organizing together to foster joint community and share information. The IFC's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) committee is being re-established and is organizing programming including a large-scale lecture series with small talk-back sessions. Their Sexual Health and Relationship Education (SHARE) committee is focusing on sexual assault prevention programming, soliciting feedback from students as they develop content for the following year, and working on condom distribution programs for the fraternity houses.

Student leaders from both IFC and Panhel are going to the Northeast Greek Leadership Association (NGLA) conference for networking and educational sessions this weekend. About half are going in-person and half will participate remotely.

The current group of students will be leading during the transition back to fully in-person engagement, with IFC and Panhel doing a lot of joint organizing.

ILG update (Jess) – The student ILG representative is working with DSL to revive the LGC council, recreating bylaws, gathering the leaders. They are also working on CPW planning with Admissions, which should be good for building the community.

Summer (Brad and Pam) – We anticipate (pending official approval) that summer boarders will be allowed again this year. As in previous years, boarders would have to be students, even if not at MIT. Policies would have to be aligned with MIT policy, but each house can decide how broad or restrictive you want to be within that. The FSILG Office will have an agreement that all boarders will need to sign (including agreeing to adhere to MIT Covid policies). We will be able to share more information soon.

FSILG Office news – Brad has accepted a new role outside of MIT, working for a non-profit. He leaves his role at MIT after almost seven years and expressed his deep appreciation for those he has worked with in the AILG community. Liz Jason has accepted the offer to fill role of Associate Dean and FSILG Director, as Brad's successor. The FSILG Office will conduct a search to fill Liz's current role as Assistant Dean.

Akil and Pam – Congratulations to both Liz and Brad on their new roles. There was previously a lot of turnover in the FSILG Office, but since Brad came in 2015, he has done an incredible job in that role. He brought a high degree of professionalism and team spirit. He has helped make sure that DSL staff and MIT administrators keep the FSILG community in their thoughts. This was particularly important during the pandemic. Pam will deliver a farewell and thank-you gift to Brad from the AILG.

Amy Davis joins this meeting to share the resources and support MITAA offers AILG alums and students. ([See slide presentation here](#))

The MITAA Alumni Directory is the MIT alumni database of record. (Go to alum.mit.edu, click Alumni Directory, log in with your Infinite Connection account, and click “Advanced Search” for access to more refined search options.) It can be used 1) to find people in the Alumni Directory (no assistance needed, you can search by name, living group, location, etc.); 2) to use and update email Listservs (for which current students can be editors – please use these lists! and respond to MITAA outreach to make sure the right people are assigned as editors), and 3) to request data sets from MITAA staff. Because of privacy concerns, MITAA limits what information may be shared in response to a data request. Only information that is required to meet the needs for the request will be provided. (For example, phone numbers are not shared for a virtual event; mailing addresses would be provided for a mailing.) Donor information is not made available even if your organization is doing a capital campaign, but MITAA can facilitate compiling lists that include information from third-party vendors such as Elevate or Pennington. If you’ve previously unsubscribed from MIT lists, that flags you not to be contacted by MIT, so MITAA can help remove duplicates and identify everyone who is still interested in being included. They can also track which alumni are deceased.

Fundraising assistance – MITAA can provide assistance with capital campaigns in partnership with Annual Giving, offer general education about capital campaigns, and help with access to MIT’s Outreach Management Tool (OMT) for contacting donors. They can loop Pam in for campaigns involving IRDF funding. They also provide support for the MIT 24-hour Challenge (happening March 10th this year).

For **chapter events**, MITAA can provide a Zoom webinar license, build a registration page, email folks, help run the Zoom and deal with technical details. They can help if you’re starting to think about planning in-person events, including getting space on campus.

Hopefully, you all saw the recent email reminder about **Tech Reunions**, May 27–29, suggesting FSILGs schedule events for the Friday afternoon to avoid competing with other events.

Future plans, Upcoming projects

No prize money is being awarded for the Weedon Awards this year, in the interest of allowing students to focus on their peers, rather than big alumni events. \$1K grants are still available on a rolling basis.

But in the coming months and in the fall, we want to reach out to IFC and Panhel about how they can use the Weedon Grant money for alumni programming.

There are lots of opportunities to volunteer, and MITAA encourages building the alumni leadership pipeline. Please reach out if you’re thinking about what you want to do next as an MIT alumni [sic].

Bob – Asks if a list of alums registered for reunions, from a particular FSILG org, can be made available.

Amy – Yes, that kind of explicit request is helpful. There have not been in-person reunions in the last couple of years, so if there are services you might expect based on previous years, please ask! The current MITAA staff may not have all possible past services on their radar.

For people who missed their in-person reunions during the pandemic, MITAA can put you in touch with the reunion chairs who are planning this year’s events.

Contact Amy at amydavis@mit.edu.

Facilities Renewal Update

Pam – ([See slides](#)) All organizations have received their reports following the Phase 1 egress survey by the consultant. Slides from a February 7 community meeting about the project are posted on the AILG website. For a link to view the recording, please email Pam (pmgannon@mit.edu).

The three pilot houses – Theta Chi, Beta Theta Pi, and Sigma Kappa – will soon be getting bids for the work and then completing their egress improvement projects. (Fenway House was part of the initial group who helped us work out the report structure.)

Some data: the average estimated cost per house (for both Priority 1 and Priority 2, inclusive) was ~\$22,000. The range is wide, from a low of \$2300 to a high of ~\$100K. The cost to each house will be 25%, as IRDF is covering 75%. Houses should start reviewing their reports, identifying questions and which repairs and improvements they choose to have done.

Please contact anyone from the Renewal Committee with questions.

Introducing the AILG Nominations Committee

Akil – The AILG Board voted this month to approve Bob Ferrara as Chair of this committee, which was already in the AILG bylaws (as the Nominations and Credentials Committee) but has been inactive for a long time.

Bob – ([See slides](#)) Steve Baker (incoming MITAA president, former AILG president) and Pam Gannon have agreed to help.

The group will formalize a process that has been run informally for the last few years. It will check with currently serving Board members about their plans, identify potential new candidates, and describe the parameters of the positions for which they will suggest nominees. Serving on the AILG Board and its committees can be extremely rewarding and can help the entire community.

The goal of the Nominations Committee is not to replace the election process, but to find enough candidates who know what they're getting into. We hope some of you will be interested in taking on some more responsibility.

Akil – If you are interested in running or serving, you can bring names to the Board, but it's more appropriate now to bring them to this committee.

Steve – If you have questions about the Board or its committees, reach out to any of the three:

- Bob Ferrara rferrara@mit.edu
- Pam Gannon pmgannon@mit.edu
- Steve Baker sbaker@alum.mit.edu

This information will also be shared on the AILG website.

Peer Visit Program Update

ML Peters – <https://ailg.mit.edu/committees/peer-visit-program-committee>

PVP has drafted a questionnaire to guide the visits and outlined a process. Two pilot houses are going through this process this month. In the fall 2021 term, all of our members were focusing very appropriately on the return to campus, so we deferred. Now we do want to encourage houses to get back onto a 2-year schedule of visits for guided self-evaluation and information-sharing.

Scheduling is still a challenge, but the meetings are remote. All materials we're using are available on the AILG website, if you're curious about the changes. Anyone can comment on the documents.

If you've been involved in the Accreditation process in the past, or if you're new to it but interested in participating on a "visit" committee, please let us know! If you would like to volunteer as a reviewer, or advocate for your FSILG to participate earlier in the schedule, or simply want more information, please contact either of the Committee Co-Chairs Roy Russell and Mary Linton Peters: roy@alum.mit.edu and mlbt@alum.mit.edu.

Annual Meeting / Bob Ferrara Leadership Retreat

We had the first FSILG Alumni Leadership Retreat in honor of Bob Ferrara '67, informally known as the "Bob Retreat," in May 2019 at Endicott House. It was intended to be an annual event, but the pandemic got in the way. For this year, we intend to resume in-person but thought multiple in-person events might be too much. We are considering combining the annual meeting and this retreat into a one-day event. We are requesting feedback: Is this a good idea/bad idea? Any pitfalls we can anticipate and avoid?

Eric – Could people maybe attend part and not all?

Akil – We envision the combined event having three parts: the retreat is for people interested in learning; the social hour is for anyone (we can invite people from throughout MIT); and the annual meeting is for people voting on behalf of our organizations.

There are no comments, which we will interpret as "People don't hate it!" The Board and Pam will continue exploring options. It will probably be held on campus to simplify logistics. For the retreat, we will probably try to incorporate a virtual option, if we can make that work in a good way.

Announcements/Other Business

Announcements:

- Scott Klemm (for FCI) on lodging licenses – The license renewal process for Boston is just starting. Whoever filled out the form for your organization last year – and ONLY that person – will be contacted. FCI cannot fulfill that role anymore. So please be on the lookout, and email Scott (sklemm@fsilg.coop) to let FCI know when you hear from the city. Some organizations in Boston still have not received their licenses for last year, so there are still some issues to straighten out in this cycle.
- Scott Klemm and Stan Wulf on insurance – We don't anticipate big changes in insurance when it renews in March/April.
- Scott – The FCI website has been updated. Please let us know if something is not working!
- Pam Gannon and Scott Klemm (as IRDF Administrator) – The IRDF Grant Advisory Board (GAB) voted that EOGs are *canceled* for calendar year 2021, since those expenses were reimbursed by MIT. Two categories of expenses that were *not* included in the MIT reimbursement are 1) roof and building envelope maintenance, and 2) educational space and equipment. If your house had expenditures during 2021 in those areas, you can contact Scott Klemm, the IRDF Administrator. In addition, regarding deductions for the fiber and wireless installation (which were being deducted from EOGs), we have forgiven all those fees. IRDF will be implementing new policies for 2022 and is also working to support the Facilities Renewal program. If you have questions, please contact GAB members Pam Gannon, Tom Holtey, and Sara Wilmer.
- The MIT 24-hr challenge is coming up on March 10. Alums of SAE have made a generous \$25K challenge offer. You can use those handy MITAA lists to ask for donations on behalf of the IRDF.
- Please tell Pam if your officer list has changed, so the AILG alumni leadership directory can be updated. You can request that directory at any time.
- Please tell Scott if your contacts for purchasing and the SLI locker have changed, so FCI can update its contact lists. Please help trim out the people who are no longer involved.
- Akil – Appreciation to departing Associate Dean and FSILG Director Brad Badgley! And congratulations to his successor, Liz Jason, on the promotion!
- The next AILG Board meeting will be Thursday, March 3. We will be in touch about dates for other events later this spring.

Adjournment – 7:09 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Tyler Kemp-Benedict, AILG Secretary

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	Fraternalities, Sororities and Independent Living Groups
GRA	Graduate Resident Advisor
IDHR	Institute Discrimination & Harassment Response Office
IFC	Interfraternity Council
ILGs	Independent Living Groups
IRDF	Independent Residence Development Fund
LGC	Living Group Council
Panhel	Panhellenic Association
PKG	Priscilla King Gray Public Service Center
SLI	Safety, Licensing and Inspection Program