A Short History of the AILG
and
Some Thoughts on Today’s Challenges

Bob Ferrara ’67
rferrara@mit.edu
January 28, 2023
MIT Endicott House
A Few Historic Dates

- 1915 – Undergraduate IFC appears in The Tech
- 1973 – AIFC recognized – Glenn Strehle ‘58 chair
- 1976 – WILG founded, becomes AIFC member
- 1984 – Alpha Phi sorority chartered, later joins AIFC
- 2000 – AILG created – Steve Stuntz ‘67 first chair
- 2005 – Susan Woodmansee ‘97 (WILG) leads AILG
- 2008 – AILG Incorporated and granted 501(c)4 status
- 2019 – Pandemic upends everything
- 2023 – Transition to a “new normal”
The Mission Has Been Consistent All Along

The Association of Independent Living Groups at MIT (AILG) will:

- Assist our member FSILGs to teach values and life skills that are complementary to the MIT educational curriculum.
- Be a presence at MIT, to represent and be a voice for the FSILG system and its alumni.
- Provide tools to improve our FSILG member groups.
- Promote diversity of choice of residence for students within the FSILG community.
- Promote FSILG group responsibility and accountability.
Key Weaknesses/Threats to the AILG and the FSILGs

- Adverse publicity
  - Vulnerability to single local incident
  - National stereotypes
- Aging buildings
- Dormitories constantly improving
- Students and alums lives are busier, more mobile
- ??? Your insights
Key Strengths/Opportunities of the AILG and the FSILGs

- MIT Support – best in the nation
  - DSL leadership and involvement
  - Direct support during pandemic
  - IRDF since 1964
- Alumni/ae support
- Exceptional students
- (Mostly) Good neighbor relations
- Partners – FCI, Alumni Association, Elevate, Pennington
- Survival in past crises – Fiji, freshmen on campus, etc.
Where are FSILGs located?