

A Short History of the AILG

and

Some Thoughts on Today's Challenges

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Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Association of Independent Living Groups

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?

