



AILG Board Meeting

Thursday, September 3, 2020 | Zoom | Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm by Akil Middleton

In Attendance

Board: Cody Chamberlin (PKS), Eric Cigan (LCA), Tyler Kemp-Benedict (pika), Akil Middleton (ZP), Mary Linton Peters (KAT), Cecilia Stuopis (AXO) (by phone)

Administration, Staff, Vendors: Brad Badgley (FSILG Office), Liz Jason (FSILG Office), Jessica Morris (FSILG Office), Madi Clark (FSILG Office), Pam Gannon (DSL), Scott Klemm (FCI), Joshua Schuler (FCI/BSF)

Other Alumni/ae: Sara Wilmer (SK, AILG Ombuds), Alice Leung (ET, Ombuds), Stan Wulf (PDT, AILG Ombuds), Patrick McCabe (TT), Bob Ferrara (TC), Tom Stohlman (KS), Mark Thompson (ADP), Tom Holtey (CP)

Review of Minutes

Minutes of the May, June, and July meetings were deferred to the next meeting.

Treasurer's report

Eric Cigan presented the Treasurer's report. From the balance sheet – the AR balance is the total anticipated receivables for the entire year as invoiced July 1 (includes member dues, SLI and BSF support anticipated coming from the FSILGs, and funding sought from IRDF. All pretty normal for early September. There's an AP that's already in process of payment. P&L – Income has all been booked as actual, though it's still anticipated. Scott reports it has all been invoiced in August this year (instead of July as in a normal year) in deference to Covid and the MIT financial support to the FSILGs, but cash flow is fine. Expenses reflect first payments for SLI and BSF to FCI, plus an admin expense for Quickbooks Online.

Review of Current Actions for Fall

FSILG Office/DSL: Brad Badgley reported it is the first week of classes for the invited students. They are in Q week (quarantine). Self-quarantine is being strictly enforced and pretty well followed so far. (Students are allowed very limited time outdoors, with masks, otherwise mostly staying in their own assigned rooms and facilities). Move-in weekend went very well with seniors retrieving possessions from FSILGs. About 900 undergrads are back living on campus of which about 700+ are seniors. ~250 are FSILG students. The number taking leave of absence is still in process, but ~400 seniors are not on campus. MIT communicated with students living off-campus reinforcing the protocols. GRAs are also providing support. In the plenary next week, we'll address house corporation questions about their student members who are living off-campus.

FSILG Ops Teams: Akil gave an update on the status and future actions:

The several working groups of the FSILG Ops team convened in late spring/early summer to consider responses to COVID-19 have concluded their work for the most part. They were very helpful in informing the decisions MIT made over the summer. Many thanks to those volunteers!

The FSILG Ops Steering Committee, made up of leadership from stakeholders (i.e., IFC, Panhel, AILG, FSILG Office, DSL) will continue as the “FSILG Coordination Team” to enable regular communication, reflection, and strategizing between key stakeholders of the FSILG community. Suzy [Nelson VP and Dean for Student Life] could, for example, direct requests through this group, to deal with high-level issues over the next semester(s). It will meet at least once/month and effectively replace the current FSILG Ops team.

In addition to the Coordination Team, a new AILG ad-hoc advisory committee is proposed (not yet ready to vote on), to be made up of volunteer alum and undergrad members of the FSILG community (6–8, not AILG leadership) to think about the years ahead. Its charge is parallel in some ways to MIT’s 2021 Committee considering the impact COVID-19 will have on the long-term state of the Institute. This Fall 2020+ Committee (final name TBD) would be charged to closely monitor the FSILG community’s health during the academic year, anticipate potential issues, and consider the community’s state in the spring and beyond (1 to 3 years). It should meet regularly (twice a month) and may report out to the AILG Board or plenary.

Pam reports that the Sustainability working group, which focused mostly on finances, was very helpful with development of MIT’s spring reimbursement process to FSILGs. MIT Financial support has been announced for FSILG summer and fall operating expenses. We learned a lot of lessons from the spring process that can be applied now, e.g., that ~75% of FSILG expenses are fixed. Note that property management is an allowable covered expense, as are some types of insurance. (More info to be shared about this at the plenary.) MIT is willing to provide more financial assistance in spring, if it is still needed. As far as we know, this type of support from MIT is unique among universities. Please direct any questions about the applications for reimbursement (which includes some anticipated fall costs as well as actual past expenses) to Pam Gannon.

Akil also shared that the Alum Advising working group has come up with several good recommendations (to be shared later) that would apply in any of the scenarios that the Ops team was asked to consider, to improve communication and effectiveness of alum volunteers.

The Board will review the charges of the existing standing and ad-hoc committees in light of the current circumstances and will consider the proposal for the new ad-hoc committee.

Recruitment Overview and Discussion

Brad: Overall, MIT seems to be doing pretty well among peer institutions.

Panel overview: Jessica reported that Panel recruitment starts Sat, Sep. 5th, goes three consecutive weekends, and wraps up with Preference on the 19th and Bid Night on the 20th. Registration closes tonight with 252 so far (on par with previous years, suggesting pledge class sizes will be consistent). VPRs have been meeting consistently (virtually) since April. They have been regularly connecting with NPC advisor and RFM specialist (and creator) Laura Malley-Schmidt ‘86, so the support system is ready. Students are feeling prepared despite start of classes. Retention and engagement have been great. A total of ~140 parents attended two presentations, many more than when they were live. (NPC is now advising all-virtual recruitment for spring.)

Liz reported that IFC will *not* do a formal rush with bids and new member education until spring. For fall, they have created a semester-long first-year engagement program. All 26 organizations will host structured information sessions for unaffiliated students called “Rush Circles” over the next three Saturdays, with registration (a new requirement) and two “Rush Captains” per group (designated by the

IFC chapters) providing guided mentoring. Later, the organizations will hold informal recruitment events, up to one per week per chapter until Thanksgiving. By spring, they anticipate having a strong pool of candidates who have already been getting to know the community. 140 candidates have registered so far (a mix of men and women, as there are co-ed organizations and one sorority in IFC), and there will be 13 Rush Circles. Interested students can register even after the circles, to get notified of fall events and the spring process. Unlike NPC, NIC doesn't govern recruitment process; it leaves it up to each national organization. Once they realized this decision was made by the community of students (not by MIT), the nationals have been supportive. (As far as we know, this is a unique process, but fraternities at many other schools don't usually recruit in the fall.)

ILG student leaders are coordinating (with Office of the First Year) via a new Slack channel and met, with Brad, virtually last Friday. Their process is informal and house-by-house; most are aiming for more active recruitment in the spring. Many don't typically conduct a fall Rush, and they're still figuring out their fall and IAP marketing and outreach for the current circumstances. The ILGs were listed in parent and student orientation guidebooks.

Brad has also been meeting regularly with the four multicultural groups – historically Black sororities and fraternities – that have been at MIT for 40+ years. These are not living groups; they're chapters shared with nearby schools, usually with one or two members per chapter at MIT. Their constituency at MIT is relatively small, but retention is high. They had a call with representatives from the four groups and several interested students, which went well.

Opportunities for Fall 2020

The FCI and AILG Facilities committee are encouraging groups to address maintenance and undertake advantageous renovations, while the buildings are unoccupied or sparsely occupied (and while MIT is supporting operating expenses). Usual IRDF funding is still available. (Condition of the buildings can influence recruitment, especially as MIT builds new dorms.) Also trying to improve the SLI dashboard.

Student pods are forming off-campus, sometimes in distant, cheaper locations. We may be able to help these social connections continue back on campus, possibly as part of unhoused organizations or maybe ILGs (which have less built-in recruitment structure than IFC and Panhel).

For our men's organizations, this may be a good time to focus on values other than housing.

AILG may be able to capitalize on the exploding opportunities for remote participation in virtual events.

AILG IT committee will be coordinating installation of new wireless access points in all the houses this fall (paid for by IS&T), so internet access will be at least as good as on campus (another plus for recruitment).

Plenary Planning

Usual topics will be addressed. Other possible topics to discuss:

- responsibility for off-campus members
- support to students who are not returning to campus
- update on current student life
- details on MIT financial support, reimbursement process
- highlight successful remote alum engagement, best practices (ex: Reunion)

- establish a fund (maybe structured like IRDF) to accept alum donations to support underrepresented students, lower the barriers to joining AILG organizations, possibly in coordination with MITAA
- MIT Zoom license accessible to alums (already happening/available via Kerberos ID/certificate, sponsored via DSL for a representative member of each house corporation or board)
- AILG contact list consolidation
- MIT COVID-19 testing

Committee chairs and charges

Review committee charges and elect chairs at the next monthly Board meeting.

Announcements

Zeta Psi had an all-virtual international convention, spread over two weeks. The format allowed a greater diversity of sessions and more participation.

The next plenary meeting date is September 10th at 6pm

The next board meeting date is October 1st at 6pm

Adjournment – 7:20pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Tyler Kemp-Benedict, AILG Secretary

Abbreviations

AILG	Association of Independent Living Groups
BSF	Building Safety Facilitator
CPW	Campus Preview Weekend
DSL	Division of Student Life
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
RFM	Release Figure Methodology (algorithm for optimizing Panhel recruitment)
SLI	Safety, Licensing, and Inspections
VPR	Vice President Recruitment