

AILG Board Meeting

Thursday, December 9, 2021 | Zoom | Meeting called to order at 6:04 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)

Other Alumni/ae: Patrick McCabe (TT), Larry Stabile (TDC), Tom Stohlman (KS), Stan Wulf (PDT, AILG Ombuds)

Review of Minutes

Minutes of the November 4th Board meeting and November 18th plenary were approved, pending revision of the presentation of the discussion on roof deck policy in the Board minutes.

Tom Stohlman raised a concern that some of the content of statements in the draft notes of the discussion on roof deck policy are not factually correct.

Presenting detailed notes without attribution or an explicit disclaimer could give the impression that AILG asserts that all of the included statements are correct. In future, notes should instead either be written as a transcribed dialog or conversation with attributions, or summarized briefly.

Treasurer's Update and Financial Report

Eric Cigan presented the Treasurer's report. Income and expenses for Facilities and Administrative categories are as expected, and we are in a strong position in terms of savings. Because of Covid-related limitations, there have been no actual expenses for the Peer Visit Program and Legislative & Administrative (plenary meetings).

Here's some further commentary on the reports.

- [Profit & loss](#)
 - We made our second payment to Coast and Harbor for project management of the Facilities Renewal program. This program was formalized after we approved the 2021–22 budget, so you see zeros in the budget column for its income category (**4304 Fac. Renewal - IRDF support**) and its expense category (**5305 Facilities Renewal Expense**)
 - Small bookkeeping change: the treasurer reclassified the fees that FCI charges for collecting SLI and BSF support from members, from category **5523 Administration** to **5301 SLI Expense** and **5302 BSF Expense**
- [Balance sheet](#) - \$15,488 in Accounts Receivable reflects two months of the Facilities Renewal work. Scott at FCI has received the check; once that clears, this balance will drop in half. And under 6962, the SLI/BSF expense for January has already been entered.
- [AILG tax return](#) – has been filed and is available on the website.

FSILG Office and Council Update

Brad: A lot is happening on campus. Today is the last day of classes; finals are next week. Covid numbers are going up, which is probably not surprising after the Thanksgiving holiday. We will continue to re-assess as we've done throughout the pandemic, and we have levers in place to limit the spread.

The FSILG Office is very busy. Alums are starting to respond to the request for winter contact updates and information about who will be around to handle issues that might arise around winter safety and security.

The GRAs have also been asked, as usual, to submit updates on which residents will be around over the winter break. Student house managers were reminded in a meeting about winter safety precautions such as shutting and locking windows and doors, and an email reminder will go out as well. The goal is for everyone to know the plan for when the houses may be sparsely populated while the weather can get harsh.

There are laws in each municipality about clearing sidewalks of snow, and the students often don't want to do that now, so alums and FCI can help them find vendors for snow removal, to keep everyone safe and make sure no one gets cited and ticketed.

Sat, Feb 5 will be our annual student leadership retreat for newly elected student presidents.

MIT Health and Safety Update

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

MIT Campus Police are continuing to do drive-by patrols of off-campus FSILG buildings. There have been some break-ins, and they continue to be on the watch for that. If they notice an open window, especially near a fire escape, they will call Brad (at any hour). Please remind students to close and lock windows and doors.

Overview of January/February Efforts

[This discussion was organized around an outline of ideas that had previously been suggested. The outline has been revised here to reflect where the discussion landed, in the cases where decisions were made, at least tentatively.]

Format for the seminars: Half hour per topic, 10 mins talking, followed by Q&A

A. IAP Seminar 1: January 13th with a focus on finance, specifically IRDF and Educational Operating Grants

B. IAP Seminar 2: January 20 (final date TBD) Finance and facilities maintenance

(Pam is not available 27th but could set up a Zoom for this date) would be late for winter safety. For a seminar, the focus could instead be on other best practices. (There is still time to firm up the date before sending out notice in early January.)

C. Assistance with House Manager 101 – This has already happened, via the FSILG office.

D. Individual house safety walkthroughs

All agree that customized walk-throughs for each house are a good idea. Students don't know what they don't know, and for them, this should be in-person and fairly detailed, covering the use of kitchen and other equipment that we can't take for granted they know how to use.

February would be better for student involvement.

Larry – Alums may benefit from a tour more focused on equipment, such as water cut-offs, etc.

Pam - We do have new alums in some of these positions. There could be value in providing some support to them.

Akil – Students could also use more orientation to prepare for inspections.

Tom – Facilities should be a major part of a house budget, so a facilities seminar could build on a finance seminar.

Akil – This can be a good time to bring home the theme that organizations should be charging their students enough through their house bills to cover facilities (and other) expenses.

Tom – The walkthrough is supposed to already be part of the BSF program. The BSF is required to walk through the building with a house representative, and I think a student, twice a year. We have this program already in place.

Eric – People are paying good money for it.

E. Speakers for future plenaries / events

Please send any suggestions to Akil.

F. Connect with new Chancellor

Suzy Nelson's title changed, now Vice-Chancellor and Dean for Student Life.

Akil will reach out to Suzy to invite new Chancellor Melissa Nobles as a potential speaker, introduce her to our community, maybe invite her to a Board meeting.

G. Community Service

There has been no committee for this for a while, since it was converted to Community Outreach.

There used to be community events (Chi Phi, Alpha Phi, and Sigma Chi, and Beta) – this was as part of the Community Relations committee, focused more on interactions with neighbors. We should be clear about the purpose.

Sororities are generally not open to the public, so events can be a way, for example, to share a renovation accomplishment with our community as well as to reach out to neighbors. We will have to wait and see about the Covid conditions.

H. Parent and Alum Outreach

Akil and Pam can re-start work on a "Bob-style" email (another initiative interrupted by Covid) over January.

These are really two different audiences. Pam will check with Amy Davis from MITAA, who is also head of the Parents Association, about presenting at the next plenary.

I. Annual Bob Ferrara Alumni/ae Retreat

Keep thinking about what a retreat event could look like, if conditions allow an in-person gathering (speakers, locations).

Some members could get together informally over January (when there will be no Board mtg), to consider future programs.

Special Committee Updates

PVP update from ML: We have 2 houses ready to participate in pilot meetings, mostly likely over IAP (virtually). We hope to roll out the review process in the spring to about a quarter of the houses. Priorities

have understandably been elsewhere as students returned to the FSILGs, but it seems reasonable now to start getting everyone back on a 2-year cycle.

Other Business and Announcements

Akil – The City of Cambridge is requiring facilities inspections on short notice this month as a prerequisite for license renewals. (!)

Brad – IFC and Panhel both held elections. The FSILG Office will send out updates. They used slates, but for some positions there weren't as many candidates as hoped for, so there were a couple of rounds. But people keep wanting to step up, which is great.

Jessica Morris has been doing a lot of work this semester to bring all five ILGs together to revamp their charter/constitution. It's great to have a unified voice to represent your council. It doesn't have to be as structured as Panhel or IFC.

Akil – The holiday party was postponed because of the high uncertainty.

Pam – We're hoping for some kind of blow-out event sometime in the spring.

Adjournment – 6:56pm

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
EOGs	Educational Operating Grants (IRDF)
FCI	FSILG Cooperative, Inc.
FSILGs	Fraternalities, 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