

Connecting with your Students and Supporting Strong Membership

June 26, 2022

MIT Endicott House

The 2022 FSILG Alumni/ae Retreat in recognition of Robert Ferrara

WHO ARE YOUR STUDENTS?

FSILG Facts

- **42 undergraduate FSILGs**
 - 27 fraternities
 - 25 IFC
 - 2 NPHC chapters in MGC
 - 10 sororities
 - 7 Panhellenic
 - 1 independent under IFC
 - 2 NPHC in MGC
 - 5 ILGs
- **1,793 students in FSILGs (38% of undergrads)**

Student Facts

- **Classes of 2023, 2024, 2025 (on right), 2026 [incoming]**
- **Born from ~2001 onward**
 - iPhone released in 2007
 - Facebook debuted for MIT in 2004
 - Twitter debuted in 2006
- *“If I had to apply to MIT today I wouldn’t get in!”*

Male	50%
Female	47%
Another gender identity	2%
US citizens & permanent residents (48 states)	90%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	2%
Asian American	41%
Black/African American	13%
Hispanic/Latinx	14%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1%
White/Caucasian	37%
International citizens (62 countries)	10%



Campus Life

- **Orientation → Fall FSILG recruitment → Classes**
- **First year students live in a residence hall**
 - New Vassar (opened 2021 with dining, fitness, maker spaces)
 - Burton Conner (renovated 2020-2022)
 - Maseeh Hall (opened 2011)
- **IAP is much more busy – Travel, activities, classes**
- **Most initiations complete by end of semester (~3 months)**

Why Join an FSILG?

- **Networking and career opportunities**
- **Value in building personal connections**
- **Learning life skills for personal growth**
 - Consider your organization's values
 - May **NOT** be “classic” hands-on skills!
- **What we want to avoid:** *“My FSILG was just a place I lived.”*



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Connecting with your students

- **Where have you had success working with your undergrads?**
- **What have been the challenges?**
- **What are your ongoing concerns?**

Strengthening Membership

- **What are your membership worries?**
- **Where would you like to see your undergraduate chapter in two years time? How will you get there?**
- **Do you have any success stories?**

Some Ideas...

- **For your board:**
 - Have an officer who is a liaison to the undergraduates
 - Have officers who showcase the alum experience, e.g. career advisor
 - Have officers mirror/advise their respective undergrad officers
 - *Invite undergraduates to your board!*
- **Showcase the lifelong membership**
 - Regular presentations on careers, life skills, etc.
 - Direct advising on organization values
 - Regional hubs
 - Virtual communities (e.g. email, social media)
- **Continue using this post-pandemic period as a soft reset**

Finances and Capital Planning: Best Practices and Discussion



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Overall Challenge

How do we provide an exceptional student experience while maintaining financial sustainability of our organizations and houses?

Financial Health

- What do you see as specific challenges?
- What do you see as possible solutions?



One Challenge: Student Rent

Average FSILG house bill: \$4267 (room & board only)

Average fraternity: \$4365

Average sorority: \$5652

Average ILG: \$3178

MIT Residence Halls

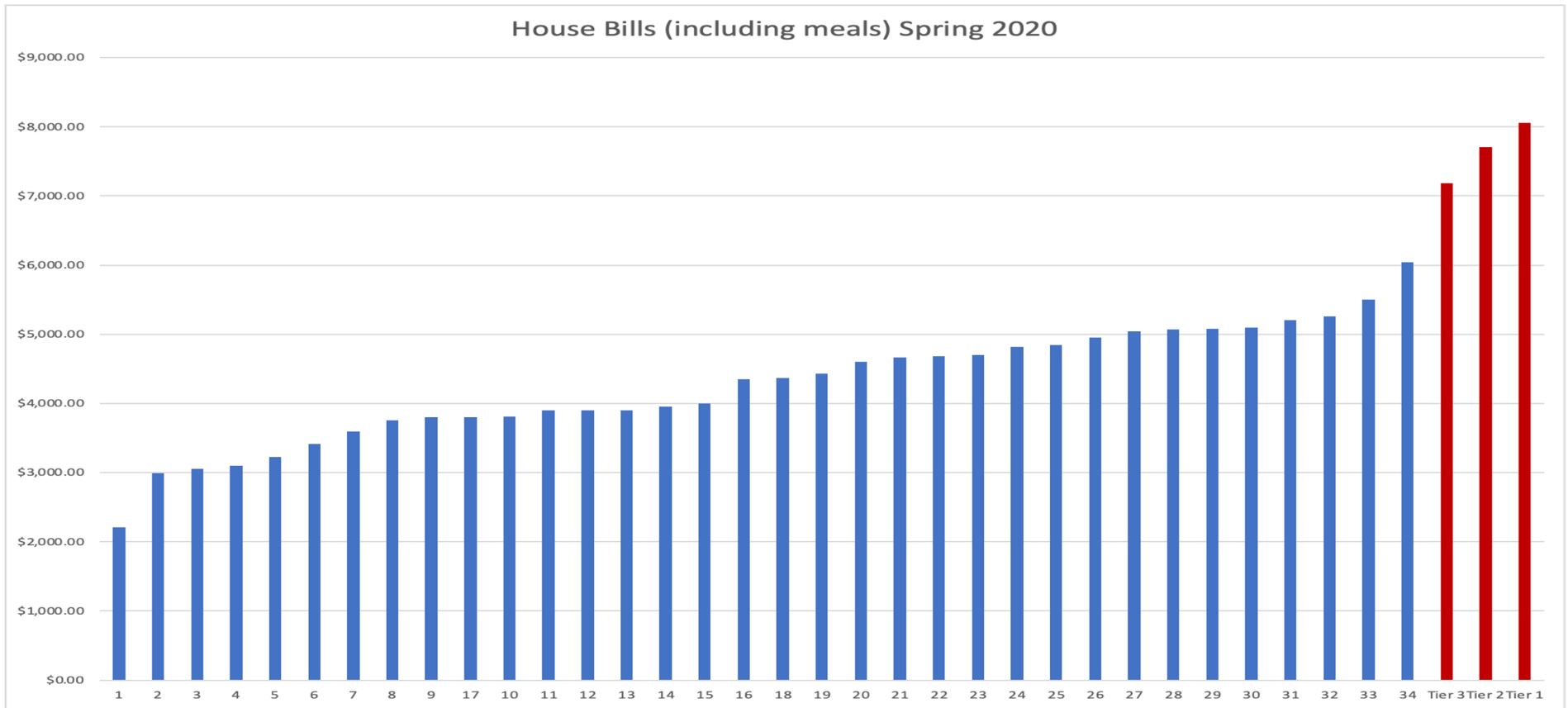
Tier 1 double: \$5215 + \$2840 middle meal plan = \$8055

Tier 2 double: \$4865 + \$2840 middle meal plan = \$7705

Tier 3 double: \$4340 + \$2840 middle meal plan = \$7180

Data is from Spring Semester 2020; social fees are removed.

One Challenge: Student Rent



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What are your thoughts and experiences?



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Revitalizing your Chapter after the Pandemic: Taking Action as Alum Boards

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Moving your Organization Forward...

- **Split into two groups (appoint a scribe)**
- **Discussion questions:**
 - What were your biggest fears about reopening after the pandemic semesters? (Both student and alum)
 - Which fears were not realized? Why/how?
 - What ended up being the biggest challenges?
 - What are your concerns going ahead?

Goals!

- **Generate *four* goals for your alum board for the upcoming year that help address concerns**
 - Two involving your undergrads
 - Two involving your alums (board and/or membership at large)

- **Afterwards, discuss with your group**

Debrief

- **What were common...**
 - Challenges?
 - Concerns?
 - Goals?
- **What support does your organization need? What about the community?**



Takeaways From the Discussion

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Fears About Reopening

- Condition of house
- Knowledge loss
- Policy adherence and continuing restrictions
- Bad press
- No reunions / alum cohesion
- Recruitment reduction and retention
- Continued remote learning activities
- Chapter coherence
- Financial losses
- MIT support
- Undergraduate leadership development

Goals

- Raise standards for facilities
- Improve alumni engagement
- Resolve alumni/undergraduate recruitment goals
- Accept spring recruitment (fraternities)
- Implement AILG Support System
- Increase awareness of FSILGs on campus
- Better press

Ongoing Concerns

- Recruitment and retention
- Maintaining good habits
- Faculty support

