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!”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Male</th>
<th>50%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Another gender identity</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US citizens &amp; permanent residents (48 states)</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian/Alaskan Native</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian American</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black/African American</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latinx</td>
<td>14%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White/Caucasian</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
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<td>International citizens (62 countries)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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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.”
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
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

House Bills (including meals) Spring 2020

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Association of Independent Living Groups
What are your thoughts and experiences?
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