



Annual Report to the Membership 2016 – 2017

Some Community Highlights

- Panhellenic Association (Panhel) updated and extended their STAR program on bystander intervention, sexual assault awareness, mental health, substance abuse, women's health, and policy awareness.
- Panhel hosted the first-ever all-Panhellenic CPW, where all events were planned and hosted by Panhel in partnership with the seven chapters.
- The Living Group Council (LGC) partnered with the FSILG Office for a study break with representatives from all of the independent living group houses.
- The Interfraternity Council (IFC) created its Wellness Committee to support overall health and wellness in the fraternity community.
- The IFC Sexual Misconduct Committee was chosen as this year's student group for MIT VPR's Change Maker Award for their *Consent Aware and Prevention* education program.
- The IFC, Panhel, LGC, the AILG Community Relations Committee, and FSILG Office collaborated to hold the second annual neighborhood open house last fall at Sigma Chi.
- The FSILG Office is fully staffed and is effectively supporting our community. In collaboration with community stakeholders it developed a new mission statement that reflects the shared-governance model of the FSILG community.
- The FSILG Office facilitated leadership retreat for the FSILG community in February 2017.
- The AILG's West Campus Village Task Force convened all stakeholders to develop and advocate an optional plan for new FSILG housing on the west campus. The proposal is currently being reviewed by the institute's senior administration.
- Theta Tau was chartered by its national in Spring 2017 and is currently working towards being recognized as a member of the IFC. **Welcome to Theta Tau!**

Some facts and figures about the community:

- 38 undergraduate FSILGs (26 fraternities [including Theta Tau], 7 sororities, and 5 ILGs)
- Total undergrad FSILG membership (Fall 2016): 1,883
- Total undergraduate FSILG occupancy (Fall 2016): 931
- 40 AILG member organizations

The AILG is led entirely by alumni/ae volunteers, with support for its programs provided by the FSILG Office, the MIT Division of Student Life (DSL), other MIT departments, and alumni/ae financial support through donations to the IRDF. In all, more than 50 alumni/ae volunteered for the AILG this year, not including the 200+ alumni/ae who volunteer for their own FSILG as corporation or advisory board members, officer mentors, chapter and risk management advisors, facility managers, and in other roles.

MISSION OF THE AILG

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.



The AILG is managed by a 6-member board of directors, which provides oversight of multiple committees and working groups, including the following:

Accreditation Committee

For the first time in the 11 year history of Accreditation, all groups that were on campus at the end of last year are now accredited without reservations. 24 groups were reviewed this year, 2 of which were new (Theta Tau and Delta Phi Epsilon). We agreed to support volunteer training where possible by providing more of an overview at reviews. We also gave an overview of Accreditation for the September plenary meeting with best practices and areas needing improvement that are posted on-line.

Several changes to the program were discussed during the year and are under review to implement next year. Most importantly, we will start work with Panhel and ILG representatives to customize the Basic Data Form to improve its relevance to those groups' operations. The use of the rubric will likely change if it is retained. After discussion with the Board and within the Committee, we will at least revamp the examples to highlight best practices and disconnect it from the activities on the date of the review. We will work on more outreach to present the methods and goals of Accreditation to the undergraduate councils. We developed a method of releasing BDF data without risk to individual group's privacy.

Community Relations Committee

This has been another good year for this committee. We held a successful "Neighborhood Welcome BBQ" on September 1 at Sigma Chi. Several Neighborhood Association of Back Bay (NABB) members, BU officials, and a dozen "ordinary citizen" neighbors attended. We continued with our neighbor support telephone line for neighbors to call with complaints, and business cards to publicize the number were distributed, though few calls were received. Two clothing drives were also sponsored and run by the IFC and Panhel this past year, and they netted over 80 bags of clothing for Goodwill Industries. Several positive news stories of individual chapter community contributions were posted on the AILG Community Relations website at <http://ailg.mit.edu/committees/community-relations/>.

NABB chairs, the Mayor of Boston's Back Bay Liaison, and the Back Bay district Boston City Councilman have either attended our meetings or have met with several members in order to get acquainted and to initiate collaboration on neighborhood public service efforts of mutual interest. One of our most inspiring regular meetings was in March when our guest, Kate Trimble, the new head of the Priscilla King Gray Public Service Center, led a discussion on introducing community service and philanthropy to MIT students.

Education Committee

The Education Committee started the year by hosting a lunchtime session during the Alumni Leadership Conference that was well attended. It provided alumni volunteers an opportunity to learn more about the working committees of the AILG, to learn more about ways that they can stay involved, and changes on the campus. Members of the Education Committee joined the Accreditation Committee to explore how the group might better support the houses in the accreditation process in the future. The committee plans to re-envision and produce the AILG Alumni Volunteer Seminar program in the coming year.



Facilities Committee

The goal of the Facilities Committee is to assist housed AILG members to meet their facilities-related responsibilities. The Facilities Committee works with the Building Safety Inspector (BSF) to insure that all houses equal or excel the requirements for housing in the host community (Boston, Brookline or Cambridge). The Safety, Licensing and Inspections program (SLI) ably assists by providing a web based tool for all houses to monitor the state of their various inspection requirement.

Due to changes in the AILG website there is a lot of catch up to do with regards to the facilities website. The facilities committee looks forward to working with other committees to maintain and improve the physical plant of all housing within the FSILG community

Finance Committee

The goal of the Finance Committee is to develop a better understanding of FSILG living groups' financial requirements, both operational and long term capital planning, and to share best practices and financial benchmarks among houses. The Finance Committee conducts financial operation surveys within the FSILG Community and also works with MIT's Division of Student Life to obtain living expense data for MIT dormitories as well off-campus (rental) units. The Finance Committee looks forward to working with the FSILG Community and other AILG committees to promote successful financial operation.

Information Technology Committee

The IT committee deployed new wired network switches to all FSILGs, working closely with MIT IS&T and the MIT IRDF on the details of the upgrade program. The committee brought MIT VOIP telephony to FSILGs, providing two MIT telephone numbers to each organization and making hardware telephones available for purchase. Lastly, the committee oversaw the migration of the AILG website to an IS&T-managed Drupal Cloud installation.

Insurance Committee

The AILG insurance program provides competitively priced insurance written for collegiate fraternal organizations which is not readily available elsewhere to an individual organization. The Insurance Committee continues to work with Holmes Murphy to provide a cafeteria plan of general and umbrella liability, property, boiler, D&O, and commercial crime insurance to the AILG, the FCI, and the preponderance of our members. The existing insurance policies were updated and renewed on April 1, 2017. The renewal rates were approximately the same as last year's rates, which reflects the continuing effort of the AILG and our members to monitor and control risk factors. Liability insurance is provided to 22 members, D&O insurance to 20 members, property insurance to 30 properties, and crime insurance to 22 members and the FCI.

Independent Residence Development Fund

The IRDF Board of Allocation and IRDF Grand Advisory Board continued their work this year. Some highlights of the past year include:

- \$15 Million in loans are now outstanding, and all are current.
- In the past few years, three IRDF-financed projects have received major awards for their renovations: Phi Beta Epsilon, Sigma Chi, and this year, Chi Phi.
- More than 30 Educational Operating Grants were awarded this year. A new category for security equipment has been added, alongside with the traditional Safety and Educational work.



- The IRDF financed a community-wide upgrade of the network switches at all FSILGS. This was the last element in a multi-year project to provide state-of-art, high speed computer networking to all the FSILGs.
- At a joint meeting, the two IRDF Alumni Boards voted unanimously to support the upcoming FSILG Facilities Assessment project.

Thanks to all of you who support the IRDF and MIT. We will need the IRDF's resources to continue the physical renewal of our community. If you have not made a gift to MIT in the past 12 months, please do so and designate at least part of your gift to the Independent Residence Development Fund. **Your participation is important!**

Parent Outreach Committee

The goal of the Parent Outreach Committee is to promote MIT's FSILG communities by developing outreach and communication strategies to inform parents about the benefits of belonging to a fraternity, sorority or ILG. The committee maintained a parent and alum presence during MIT's signature parent events: Parent Orientation, Family Weekend and Campus Preview Weekend (CPW). Seventeen FSILG alums, ranging from the class of '61 to the class of '12, volunteered at the Vice President's Welcome Reception.

FSILG alums served on parent panels hosted by the Interfraternity Conference (IFC), Panhellenic Association and the FSILG Office during both Parent Orientation and CPW. The committee informed chapters, alums, and student councils about specific opportunities for parent outreach and encouraged chapters to hold events for parents during Family Weekend and Commencement. This year, the majority of chapters held parent brunches and dinners during Family Weekend; ten chapters published their event in the official parent schedule.

The committee collaborates with the FSILG Office, MIT Parents Association and MIT Alumni Association to include FSILGs in planning and promoting events for parents.

West Campus Village Task Force

The West Campus Village Steering Committee convened members of the community—and especially the students—to investigate the possibility of constructing new optional FSILG housing on the west campus. Three teams evaluated other campus efforts (benchmarking), the health and sustainability of our community (sustainability), and design considerations for a possible village (student design workshops). In all, 22 campuses were consulted and more than 100 students provided input. The Steering Committee has completed its Phase 1 report and recommendations, which are currently being reviewed by the Chancellor, Provost, and Executive Vice President.

Interested FSILGs are invited to become part of more detailed Phase 2 planning effort. Learn more at <http://ailg.mit.edu/west-village>.

Acknowledgements

The AILG Board of Directors would like to thank the following persons and organizations for their assistance this year:

- The Living Group Council (LGC), the Panhellenic Association (Panhel), and the Interfraternity Council (IFC), for their leadership of our student communities.
- All alumni volunteers, without whom the AILG and its member FSILG communities would not exist.



- Dean Nelson and her DSL and Residential Education staff, for their continuing partnership and support of AILG and FSILG community programs.
- Brad Badgley and the FSILG Office staff, for everything they do to advise and support our student communities and the AILG.
- The MIT Campus Police, MIT Medical and Mental Health, and MIT Student Support Services, for keeping our student communities safe and healthy.
- Kevin Milligan and the MIT Treasurer's Office, for support of the IRDF and its programs.
- Bob Ferrara, who essentially acts as the AILG's Executive Director, and without whom we would not be able to do much of what we do.

Thank you for all you do to support your FSILG and the MIT community as a whole!

Respectfully Submitted,

The Association of Independent Living Groups Board of Directors

Steve Baker, '84 ΘΞ, Chair

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