



**Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Association of Independent Living Groups**

Facilities Committee

Facilities and Accreditation

January 11, 2019

To: AILG Board
From: Facilities Committee
Subject: Facilities and Accreditation
Date: January 11, 2019

An important goal of the AILG is to promote safe and livable facilities for all of our FSILG students. The Facilities Committee is the primary arm of the AILG charged with pursuing this goal. In that spirit we offer our recommendations for the working relationship between the Facilities Committee and the Accreditation process.

We concur with the general consensus that facilities issues should not overly burden the accreditation process. Accreditation is concerned with the overall structure and function of an organization, assessing how well these are working, providing guidance where needed, and acting as a sounding board for concerns. While facilities issues are related to these matters, they are by their nature very detailed and time-consuming -- and there are already detailed and time-consuming procedures in place for monitoring, and to some degree controlling, facilities needs.

Nevertheless, there is need for improvement, and Accreditation should be part of the process for seeking it. We offer the following as basic policy for improving FSILG facilities with respect to Accreditation.

Facilities Issues Affecting Accreditation

If the Facilities Committee is aware of facility problems and has been unsuccessful in resolving them with the subject house corporation, they should be conveyed to the Accreditation Committee at least 30 days prior to a scheduled accreditation visit. This time period is to allow conversation between the two committees to clarify the issues. The Facilities Committee will also inform the subject house corporation and undergraduates of this action.

If the Facilities Committee is aware of exemplary facility practices, these should be conveyed in a similar manner to allow their incorporation in the Accreditation Committee report and the Accreditation Committee's "best practices" collection.

The Accreditation Visit

Upon the request of the Accreditation Committee, a representative of the Facilities Committee will participate in the accreditation visit. The purpose of this is to allow the Facilities Committee member to observe physical issues more closely. Note that typically these will be items that affect safety and have not been resolved for long periods, or similar matters. Questions of the overall future and plans and responses to the recent assessment for a given facility are covered in more depth outside the accreditation process.

It is emphasized that having a Facilities Committee member along for the visit is at the discretion of the Accreditation Committee.¹

General Communication

Upon agreement of the Facilities Committee and Accreditation Committee, specific questions regarding facility issues shall be included in the Accreditation Committee's information gathering process (*eg, the "BDF"*) for all houses in an accreditation cycle for the purpose of establishing common problems or best practices information.

Severe Facilities Situations

Issues that the Facilities Committee considers as having potentially dangerous consequences will be reported to the Accreditation Committee and other appropriate bodies immediately at the Facilities Committee discretion in accordance with the escalation policy, defined in the SLI Specification (ailg.mit.edu/committees/facilities/safety-licensing) as: "The AILG Accreditation Committee is informed of the status of licenses and approvals, and of significant lapses in compliance."

¹ However this is not to say that members of the Facilities Committee are enjoined from participating in visits as regular members of the visiting team.