



## Report to the Membership

### AILG Annual Meeting

11 June 2008

### AILG Goals for 2007-08

1. **Accreditation:** Institutionalize the AILG Accreditation program and make reporting more uniform and timely.
2. **SLI / BSF Program:** Continue the SLI program, building on past successes.
3. **MIT-Owned Housing:** Transfer FSILG housing leases to the DSL's Residence Life portfolio from the Real Estate Office; continue to press for opportunities to migrate to campus or expand ILGs on campus.
4. **Educational Programs:** Continue to provide T101, HM101, and other programs.
5. **Alumni Volunteers:** Continue to expand participation by ILG alumni in their respective organizations; provide training for new alumni volunteers.
6. **Incorporation:** Establish a legal personality for the AILG, so that it operates in compliance with relevant law and provides appropriate legal protection to volunteers.
7. **Insurance Program:** Take primary responsibility for administering the MIT FSILG property and liability insurance program from the DSL.

### Progress Toward Goals.

#### 1. Accreditation

The AILG Accreditation program is an organized peer review of the living groups within the MIT Fraternity, Sorority, and Independent Living Group (FSILG) community. Its main objectives are to (1) provide the MIT administration with a multi-dimensional evaluation of the health of each living group; and (2) provide a vehicle through which FSILG undergraduate and alumni leaders may actively exchange ideas to improve the community and support our members, by operating the accreditation program as peers. Volunteer review teams act as visiting committees performing the evaluation and identifying "best practices" which others could consider or benefit from by adopting. The review teams also point out areas where our living groups need improvement, and they document lessons learned by each group, so that others may avoid having to learn them independently. The process of internal review as carried out under this program is expected to improve the FSILG community.

The annual report of the Accreditation Committee was released on June 10, 2008 and is available at <http://web.mit.edu/covert/ailgreviews/> along with other information.



The report provides information about the Accreditation effort during the 2007-8 academic year, as operated by the Association of Independent Living Groups (AILG). The findings of the review teams are summarized and presented in detail. The process of internal review as carried out under this program is expected to improve the MIT living group community by uncovering "best practices" and lessons learned.

Beginning this year, the program was operated by a newly formed volunteer Accreditation Committee which met approximately monthly to plan operations and to advise and direct the newly hired part-time Accreditation Coordinator. With this formal structure, the program can now be considered to be in regular operation. The report also includes some discussion of the development of the program itself and some areas where continuing improvement is planned. A total of 15 reviews were conducted during the spring semester. Of these, 13 were recommended for accreditation and for four of these, the visiting committees expressed "reservations". Two organizations were not recommended for accreditation. These 6 organizations were found to need improvements in areas of governance and oversight; all will be revisited next term. In the intervening time, the assistance of MIT volunteers and staff is being offered to all organizations found to be needing improvement, and in the case of the two not recommended for accreditation, MIT has begun an active intervention and will require these organizations to show specific progress at resolving the issues identified during review.

Next year, the Committee plans to review 22 FSILGs that were not reviewed in the 2007-8 academic year in order to keep on a schedule of reviews every 2 years. In addition, they will revisit the aforementioned 6 FSILGs that were visited this year. In order to carry out this program, the services of more AILG volunteers than those who served as reviewers this year.

The AILG Board wishes to thank each of the 19 volunteers who served on review teams this year, along with Accreditation Committee Chair Herman Marshall, Accreditation Coordinator Jon Covert, and the Accreditation Committee. We also thank Dean Benedict and his staff for their financial, political, and logistical support of the program.

## **2. SLI / BSF Program**

The Facilities Committee is happy to report that the SLI and BSF programs continue to be major successes. Every AILG member property is inspected and properly licensed again this year, and it required less volunteer effort to achieve than it did last year. To make the process flow smoother we will start the process a month earlier this upcoming year. Jay Flynn, our Building Safety Facilitator, continues to have positive working relationships with the local inspectors. As the inspection process gets more settled, we will shift more focus on house cleanliness and upkeep.

MIT's continued confidence in the program is evidenced by Dean Benedict's ongoing financial support for it going forward, for which we are thankful. The AILG Board also wishes to thank Facilities Committee Chair Steve Summit and the Committee's members for their leadership. We are also grateful to Scott Klemm (FCI), Charley Mills (FCI), and Jay Flynn for their work, and to the IRDF Grant Advisory Committee and Board of Allocation for providing financial support for the SLI program.

## **3. MIT-Owned Housing Leases**

There was significant progress this year toward the goal of moving the eight FSILG's in MIT-



owned housing to the Residential Life portfolio, which is administered by the Dean's Office, rather than the MIT Real Estate portfolio. Several of the newer members of our community, most notably the three MIT-housed sororities, reside in properties with commercial leases that do not match their status as FSILGs. Beginning in April, Residential Life retained the FSILG Cooperative Inc. to perform lease administration functions with the 8 chapters / ILGs. All chapters endorsed this move and had representatives at an April 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting to begin the new relationship. At that meeting, Dean Karen Nilsson expressed her willingness to work through the lease issues that this group has raised. The final hurdle is how to transfer the MIT-owned real estate assets from the MIT Real Estate-run pools to Residential Life.

An agreement was also reached this year between Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority and Residential Life to allow KAT to expand into Green Hall. There was no progress, however, on defining opportunities for on campus migration. This effort has been stalled as MIT Facilities sorts out a campus master plan.

The AILG Board would like to thank both the alumni/ae volunteers and MIT staff, and especially Bob Ferrara and Senior Associate Dean Karen Nilsson, for their leadership on resolving the complex issues around the lease negotiations.

#### **4. Educational Programs**

The AILG continued to provide its four educational programs during January's IAP this year. These courses are directed primarily at FSILG undergraduate officers, although FSILG alumni and other MIT students are also welcome to attend. The AILG's educational courses include Treasurer 101, House Manager 101, Alumni Relations 101 (with the Alumni Association), and Information Technology 101 (with MIT's Information Services & Technology department). The IRDF Community Network Upgrade project was first announced at this course.

Overall some 77 people attended, including several alumni. Again these numbers were off a bit from last year, and four chapters had no one registered for any of the courses. Overall though, the content and engagement seemed very solid. AILG webmaster Matt Condell did his usual great job posting all the material on the AILG web site at <http://www.mitailg.org/courses/courses.html>.

We can do better on earlier notification, and some have suggested that we explore non-IAP times as a way of increasing attendance. In any event, we ask each AILG member to ensure that its undergraduate chapter / organization takes advantage of the opportunity these programs offer to improve financial, property management, and alumni relations programs.

The AILG Board wishes to thank Stan Wulf, Peter Cooper, Steve Summit, Bob Ferrara, Ash Dyer, Jay Flynn, Katie Casey of the Alumni Association, and the other MIT staff who prepared, led, and presented the programs this year. We are also grateful to Dean Benedict for providing ongoing financial support for our educational courses.

#### **5. Alumni/ae Volunteer Program**

Some milestones were achieved toward the AILG's goal of expanding participation by FSILG alumni/ae in their respective organizations and providing training for new alumni volunteers.

For the second year in a row, the Volunteer Improvement Program (VIP) Committee presented a workshop program focused on FSILGs at September's Alumni Leadership Conference (ALC).



John Piotti '81 provided a lively keynote address, and this was followed by several sessions on long-range planning, alumni advising, and house corporation finances.

The VIP Committee also made progress on a second goal, the creation of a self-service volunteer recording and contact information database. All the key stakeholders agreed to a committee proposal to have FCI host an application and database to serve the expressed needs of the AILG, the FCI, the Alumni Association and the FSILG Corporations themselves. Detailed specifications on the committee's initial design will be finalized in June and are expected to be implemented next fall.

Thanks largely to Larry Colagiovanni, a new set of Corporation and Advisory Board volunteer job descriptions and a revised list of "best practices" concerning volunteerism were incorporated into the on-line FSILG Toolkit at <http://alum.mit.edu/ccg/living-groups/fsilg/volunteers/index.html>. It should also be noted that Alumni Risk Management Advisor Program, now in its third year, was broadened in scope to include wellness and other concerns. Please see the web site at <http://www.mitailg.com/programs/riskmgmt/riskmgmt.html> for full details.

The AILG Board wishes to thank Volunteer Committee Chair Bob Schreiber and the Committee's members for their work.

## **6. Incorporation**

The significant effort by many individuals over the past two years has resulted in the successful formation of AILG, Inc. (Association of Independent Living Groups, Inc.). The corporation has been recognized by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and is in the final steps of approval of its non-profit status by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). On June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008, the IRD Exempt Organization Specialist notified us that the appropriate classification of the AILG, Inc. will be 501(c)(4), a social welfare organization. Updated application forms have been submitted (pending membership approval) and acknowledgement is expected shortly. This process will not impact our going forward as AILG, Inc. on July 1, 2008.

## **7. Insurance Program**

The April 2008 renewal of Liability and Property insurance policies for the participating FSILGs was accomplished successfully and on schedule with the coordination and hard work of Jim Bueche, AILG Treasurer and Scott Klemm, FCI Executive Director. Premium rates remained stable this year due to the strong record of our organizations, the AILG and its SLI and training programs and the MIT Event Registration and Resident Advisor programs.

The billing and collection of over \$330,000 was accomplished utilizing the FCI. The Insurance Subcommittee, which also includes Bob Ferrara and Lisa Tatterson, increased its understanding of the underlying policies thanks to the help of Regina Dugan and Stephanie Giancola of the MIT Insurance Office. It also met in Cambridge with our insurance broker, HRH Kirklin & Co. of Nebraska. One of the topics discussed was Directors & Officers (D&O) policy coverage after AILG incorporation.