

**MIT AILG Plenary Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 10th, 7:30AM in Twenty Chimneys, Student Center**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30AM

Members Present: Alpha Chi Omega, Alpha Delta Phi, Alpha Epsilon Pi, Alpha Phi, Beta Theta Pi, Chi Phi, Delta Kappa Epsilon, Delta Upsilon, Delta Tau Delta, Epsilon Theta, Fenway House, Kappa Alpha Theta, Kappa Sigma, Nu Delta, Number Six Club, Phi Beta Epsilon, Phi Delta Theta, Phi Gamma Delta, Phi Kappa Sigma, Phi Kappa Theta, Phi Sigma Kappa, Pi Beta Phi, Pi Lambda Phi, pika, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Sigma Chi, Sigma Kappa, Sigma Nu, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Student House, Tau Epsilon Phi, Theta Chi, Theta Delta Chi, Theta Xi, Zeta Beta Tau

Members Absent: Alpha Tau Omega, Lambda Chi Alpha, WILG, Zeta Psi

Other Community Members Present: Guy Iaccorino (Stewart Howe), Deanna Lane (Stewart Howe), Tom Stohlman (BSF), Karen Nilsson (Residential Life), Alex Dehnert (LGC Speaker), Ryan Schoen (IFC President), Kaya Miller (FSILG Office), Marlina Martinez (FSILG Office), David Hutchings (Former IFC President), Lynette Diaz (FSILG Office), Arti Virkud (Panhel President), Scott Klemm (FCI), Lauren Wojtkun (FSILG Office), Selena Rose (FCI), Donna Denoncourt (Residential Life), Mark Landsberg (MLA Consultants).

7:30 Welcome and Introductions – Ernie Sabine initiated a round of introductions of attendees

7:35 FSILG Office Update – Kaya Miller – The Shared Vision Retreat occurred at the beginning of February. Main topics included ensuring that FSILG Community thrives over the next few years and how the governing groups can interact to further those goals. One pipe broke with minimal damage and the group was back in their house within a week primarily due to a robust Alumni response to the problem. CAP Committee action e-mails were sent out on Monday. Those students who were asked to withdraw are not allowed to live in MIT housing and Kaya asks for the AILG's support in ensuring that this policy is followed. The number of CAP actions in FSILGs is an improvement over previous years. Incidents at BTP, ZBT, PDT, PSK, DTD and some interfraternity pranks are being investigated by JUDCOMM. Kaya has been asked to reduce the FSILG budget by 8%. With careful consideration, Kaya was required to trim the RA reimbursement to \$6,000 for the 2010-11 academic year, but will not trim staff or essential services. Lynette Diaz will be leaving the FSILG office for another position at MIT.

7:50 Treasurer's Report – Sara Pierce. Sara presented the YTD financials. She reports that we are on track with the budget for the year and that BSF payment is still being worked out.

7:55 MIT Update – Bob Ferrara. The MIT budget has been cut 5% over the last year and an additional 8% cut will be required for this year. This is a slight improvement over the 15% total reduction that was foreseen at the outset of the budget cuts. AILG members may see that there is some resource limitation at the Institute.

Plans for the MIT 150th Anniversary celebration in 2011 are starting to take shape. The celebration will be concentrated in the 150 days from January 2011 through the June Commencement and Reunion weekend. A major event is planned for the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Charter for the Institute on April 10th, 2011. If you would like to hold or rebrand an event as a 150th Anniversary event, please contact Bob Ferrara.

Faculty Diversity – In January, a faculty report on race and diversity was released by a team lead by Chemistry faculty Paula Hammond. The report has many findings and includes recommendations to the Institute to improve and expand the experience for faculty from underrepresented minorities.

8:00 IAP Course Recap – Bryan Owens. The classes logistically went well, but attendance was poor with 50% of the people who signed up not attending the course. Bryan will be rolling out a survey to ask how to restructure the Education Program. There will be a course for new Alumni Leaders on April 27th or 29th.

Plenary members mentioned that reasons for poor attendance may include houses having work week and students going away during IAP although the Education Committee has tried to address these issues.

Stan Wulf asked whether people are getting something useful out of the class and whether students have given feedback about these points. Bryan Owens also pointed out that some of our courses may be duplicative.

Karl Buttner said that individual Chapter Alumni asking the students to attend has helped them with attendance in the past. Ash Dyer asked whether the Accreditation process would be a good place to get information about whether these programs are effective.

8:10 Faculty Advisor Program Reconstitution – Steve Baker. Some Chapters have faculty advisors, but the number and effectiveness is unknown. Other groups have Chapter Councilors (e.g. members of the administration who serve as advisors). Dean Colombo has suggested that having a robust Faculty Advisor program will be good both for Chapters and for the Faculty to understand the FSILG system better. Paul Lagace, who is a faculty advisor and is leading this effort on the faculty's side, has reported that several faculty have expressed interest in the program—a sufficient number for each house to have an advisor. The Advising Committee will develop a survey focused on the undergraduates and will interact with the Accreditation process to understand the current state of the system and attitudes. Contact Sara Pierce to join the Advising Committee, they are looking for additional members.

Ernie emphasized that this initiative is important to show the faculty how the FSILG operates and supports the students, dispelling negative perceptions of the system.

Karen Nilsson reported that the dormitory Housemasters feel that the FSILG systems takes away many of their undergraduate leaders. Dean Colombo would like the AILG to have a dialogue with the Housemasters to improve dormitory relations.

Ernie reported that some of the negative FSILG perceptions from the Housemasters and the perceived disruption of Rush is causing them to ask for Rush to move to the Spring semester. To address these issues, there is an ad hoc committee forming around Dormitory relations, particularly how best to interface with the Housemasters.

8:20 Committee Reports

Accreditation Report—John Covert. John presented the accreditation status of the FSILGs and the 11 groups who are being investigated this semester. John will accommodate groups with religious or significant other conflicts. John is soliciting for current volunteers to send their availability for the spring and is always looking for new volunteers, especially from houses that do not currently send volunteers.

Facilities Report –Steve Summit. Steve gave an update on the Emergency Evacuation Plans, which have now been completed and laminated. These will now be provided to member groups to install and these can be obtained from Scott Klemm who should also have information on a mounting system recommended by Mark Landsberg. Installation will be left to individual groups. There will be a mechanism for correcting any changes or imperfections on a case by case basis.

The Committee will be putting together a draft of a model Fire Safety Policy over the next year which can be adopted by member groups and assimilated into their new member or continuing member education programs.

Housekeeping and facilities management issues may be onerous for some houses and the Committee is looking into centralized management services.

The Committee is soliciting for volunteers. The next meeting is next Tuesday morning (February 16th) at 7:30AM.

Insurance – Jim Bueche. Jim is in the process of negotiating property insurance renewal for the fraternities with Willis (formerly HRH Willis). Jim explained that the insurance rate should remain unchanged but that the bill may be increased due to increased property values.

Finance – Karl Büttner. The Finance Committee undertook studies on Operating Expense and Housebill Costs. The housebill report has been completed and is in each group's FCI document locker and shows how the housebills and other monies charged by each group and the meal plans provided compare to the community. Almost all organizations participated and the Committee would like to continue this process on an annual/periodic basis to understand trend information. Therefore the Committee would like members to complete the on-line confidential survey, a link to which will be sent out in the next day or two. Rich Possemato or Karl should be contacted with questions about the Housebill Survey.

If volunteers are interested in understanding how houses save in the long term, the Committee will be determining how to ask good questions to determine how houses save. Those interested in helping the Committee should contact Karl. The next meeting will be announced shortly, but is tentatively scheduled for March 4th at 5PM in the Heinz Building (W59).

IT-Telecom Report – Ash Dyer. Virtually all of the work on the IT/Network upgrade has been completed and signed off. IT101 was held over IAP with ~50% FSILG attendance. Each house should have an IT representative who can interface with Stuart Peloquin at IS&T. A voice over IP project is being considered. The committee is looking to improve upon the 10MB cable over the river, but this will likely not happen in the near future. Maintaining direct connection with the MIT Net would be a priority.

8:35 IRDF Update – Tom Holtey. Tom reports that the IRDF grant and loan review process is moving smoothly and groups should see applications being processed more quickly. Groups are reminded to adhere carefully to the Grant and Loan application deadlines. Evacuation Route Diagrams should not be included as a Fire/Safety expense. The furniture purchased through FCI is in compliance with Fire Codes however furniture purchased through other parties may not and member groups are encouraged to ensure that their furniture is up to appropriate Fire Codes, especially if they want to be reimbursed from the IRDF. Inspectors have started requiring a grounding approach for the network upgrade that was not anticipated. This additional cost will be absorbed by the IRDF. Costs claimed by vendors having to do with non-compliance

(i.e. having to move furniture, inability to access the property, etc.) will not be covered by the IRDF and may be passed through to individual houses by billing through the FCI. Questions about appealing these charges should be directed to Ash Dyer.

8:40 Vote on AEPi Membership. The plenary unanimously approved the membership application of AEPi for AILG membership.

8:55 Announcements

FSILG Cooperative

Another round of Fire Radios are being installed
 IRDF EOG revisions of applications due on 12/31 should be returned ASAP.
 Add-on costs from the IT/Network upgrade will be billed shortly through the FCI.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Next CARMA Meeting, 2/11/2010 at 6:30PM, Student Center Room 491

Next Plenary 4/7/2010

Board meets on 1st Thursday of month in W59 at 6:30pm

June 4th Reunion Receptions 3-5PM.

Groups are encouraged to be sure that houses are clean for these reunions.

Next Facilities Meeting: 2/16/2010 at 7PM.

9:00 First Year FSILG Housing Discussion. Ernie reported that the Board issued a statement that was not supportive of the Neltner proposal to house second semester freshmen in FSILGs. This issue was discussed by the plenary with several members speaking out for and against.

Some points mentioned include:

- The AILG should not dismiss the Neltner proposal without further discussion.
- Houses which are at capacity (including all Sororities) do not benefit (and may be hurt) by second semester freshmen being allowed to live in FSILGs.
- MIT will lose significant dormitory revenue if several hundred freshmen leave second semester and will therefore be against the proposal.
- The FSILGs may or may not have improved their houses and governance sufficiently to argue that FSILGs are "better than the dorms."
- The AILG should approach the question by asking what the problem is:
 - Are freshmen moving into FSILGs early?
 - Are FSILG freshmen not contributing to their dormitory culture?

Ryan Schoen reported that Fraternity Presidents were split on their view of the proposal. The FSILG Office reported that they were only aware of 3 students who had moved into their FSILG last year and none this year.

The Plenary generally agreed that this discussion should be continued in an ad hoc committee which Stan Wulf agreed to Chair. Those interested in discussing the issue of Freshmen living in FSILGs should contact Stan.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30AM.