

INTRODUCTION TO THE 2012 FSILG COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The MIT Association of Independent Living Groups (AILG) is undertaking the 2012 FSILG Community Strategic Plan to better position MIT's fraternity, sorority, and independent living group (FSILG) community to meet the needs of future generations of MIT students. The purpose of the plan is to assist the FSILG community's leadership—students, alumni, and staff—to position the community over the next 5 years. In addition, it considers a much longer time horizon with regard to maintenance and management of the 38 independently owned or managed residential properties that collectively house nearly one quarter of all MIT undergraduates. The plan was prepared with the encouragement and support of the Dean for Student Life at MIT and the Division's several departments; in particular, the FSILG Office has played a key role in its preparation.

The FSILG Community Strategic Plan was prepared under the direction of a Strategic Plan Steering Committee (SPSC) of six members, including both DSL staff and alumni volunteers. The SPSC was assisted by a larger Strategic Plan Committee (SPC) that included several student leaders and volunteer alumni, who acted as an advisory board and provided insight and advice to the SPSC at key junctures in the planning process. The SPSC also received technical assistance from Ronnie Haas, an organizational leadership consultant within MIT's Department of Human Resources. We would like to thank Dean for Student Life Chris Colombo, Associate Dean for Residence Life Henry Humphreys, Assistant Dean for FSILGs Marlena Love, Ms. Haas, and the many other MIT staff who lent their assistance to this effort.

As part of the plan data gathering effort, the SPSC consulted more than 16 stakeholder groups to collect information and perspectives about the strengths and weaknesses of, and opportunities and threats to, the FSILG community. These included the three FSILG student leadership groups (IFC, PHC, and LGC), IFC and PHC presidents / delegates, other FSILG students, multiple alumni groups, DSL and DUE staff, parents, Alumni Association staff, Deans on Call and emergency responders, MIT government relations staff, Resident Advisors (GRTs), Faculty Housemasters, senior Institute Officers, and others. This process took 5 months and resulted in more than 1,000 comments or issues of concern being generated; they will be attached as an appendix to the plan.

After completion of the data gathering effort, the SPSC worked with the SPC to identify five themes that would collectively form the FSILG Community Strategic Plan. The SPSC then developed 3 to 5 specific initiatives to be undertaken for each theme. Five "theme teams" will be formed at the 6 February meeting, and each team will be charged to prepare a detailed, measurable, and time-specific roadmap to implement each of the 3 to 5 initiatives.

MIT has a distinctive and unique FSILG community, which has been an important part of the Institute for more than century. In 2003, MIT President Chuck Vest convened a Task Force—Project Aurora—to consider the status and future development of the FSILGs. The Aurora Task Force's report served as a starting point for this plan; the SPSC reviewed its recommendations and focused on building on them. In that sense, the 2012 FSILG Community Strategic Plan should be seen as a continuation of a decade's progress by the community's students, staff, and alumni volunteers.