

AILG Committee Reports

November 8, 2012

Accreditation—David Hutchings (djhutch@alum.mit.edu). The Accreditation Committee is pleased to announce that we have completed more than 150 reviews since the program's beginning. This represents a substantial number of volunteer hours and commitment from a large number of volunteers.

Since the Accreditation Program involves interaction with undergraduates, the committee decided that it would be worthwhile to improve undergraduate outreach and explain to undergraduate officers directly what Accreditation is all about. In particular, to stress that the process is volunteer-based, non-punitive, and an opportunity to share ideas openly. As part of that outreach, in the month of October the Accreditation Committee Chair visited each of the undergraduate governing organizations -- IFC, Panhel, and LGC -- and outlined the program's objectives, processes, and history to "demystify" the process. Several undergraduate attendees had good questions, and all undergraduate attendees received a copy of the Appendices to the Accreditation Committee's annual report, containing a summary of Best Practices, Lessons Learned, and Areas Needing Improvement. The Accreditation Committee plans to continue this outreach near the beginning of each semester going forward.

All scheduling is completed for the fall term, and the reviews to date have generally gone smoothly. We are happy to report that nearly all of our visiting committees contain first-time Accreditation volunteers, which is moving us closer to our goal of full participation from AILG members.

The Accreditation Committee is currently in the process of reviewing reports from the previous seven years to see what trends, if any, are emerging in reports and assess the program's effectiveness.

As always, if you are interested in volunteering or have any questions please get in contact with David Hutchings (djhutch@alum.mit.edu) and/or John Covert (covert@mit.edu).

Education – Ryan Andrews (randrews@alum.mit.edu). The Education Committee is currently planning 6-7 seminars for the undergraduate and alumni/ae communities. The target is to have most of these seminars held during the Spring semester. As part of the AILG Strategic plan, the Education Committee is also partnering with "Team 1" to develop leadership workshops and opportunities. As always, we welcome new volunteers. We meet roughly once a month in the early evening. Please contact Ryan Andrews (randrews@alum.mit.edu) if you are interested in joining the committee or learning more about it.

Facilities – Steve Summit (scs@alum.mit.edu). We are working with MIT to try to coordinate Disaster Recovery plans. (This is largely inspired by the Boston blackout last Spring.) Among other things, we're trying to figure out (a) how MIT can assist with providing shelter for residents who need to be evacuated, and (b) what the chain-of-command is for declaring such an emergency.

Boston is starting to require that fraternities, sororities, and other residences comply with its Site Cleanliness Licensing program. Besides licenses, this program requires written waste management plans. If you're in Boston and don't know about this program, you should -- please ask us.

For some time now, Boston has been requiring licenses for roof decks, and we're starting to more formally track those in the SLI Dashboard for those organizations that need them.

We are participating with the Strategic Planning Initiative's theme 3. We are trying to help define a better model for facilities management, as well as the creation of metrics by which housing quality can be assessed.

We're concerned that some organizations are still not managing to take some of their responsibilities (i.e., for maintaining clean, safe, liveable houses) seriously enough. Our SLI program is good at identifying and tracking issues, but we sometimes feel powerless when organizations drag their feet for too long before properly addressing those issues.

Furthermore, it's not enough that such issues get addressed before (say) the next inspection -- our goal is that houses be clean and safe 365 days/year, not just on the one or two days per year when there's an important municipal inspection. But we need everyone to pitch in and commit to this goal.

Lastly, a reminder: cold weather is coming on; make sure your heating systems are working! (It seems like every winter we have unnecessary, preventable flooding accidents due to frozen pipes due to loss of heat.)

IT – Bob Ferrara (rferrara@mit.edu). From 2009 through 2011, the committee focused on the rewiring and installation of new wired and wireless infrastructure in all 40 FSILG buildings. Once this was successfully completed, the committee has had only two focus areas of late. The first, creation of a new AILG web site, is now basically complete, though some minor cleanup is still ongoing. The AILG site is a Wordpress-based site located at <http://ailg.mit.edu/> . We would be happy if someone wanted to take over as webmaster.

The major focus, however, has been to upgrade the network connections for all the FSILGSs to the MIT Network. The FSILGs on or near the MIT campus in Cambridge have good access to MIT-owned fiber, so this is not an issue for them. However, for all the FSILGs in Boston and Brookline, plus pika in Cambridge, connection speed to MIT is an issue. All these are currently connected to MIT via Verizon's Transparent LAN service.

A two part strategy has been worked out with MIT's IS&T (Information Services and Technology) department. The long term strategy is to connect all FSILG possible to MIT controlled fiber. This will take at least 18 months if not more.

SHORT TERM BANDWIDTH UPGRADES

In the short term, an arrangement was worked out with Verizon where FSILGs can optionally upgrade the *external* bandwidth from 10Mb to 100Mb. In October, 2011 the first opportunity to increase bandwidth was first presented to all Boston and Brookline FSILGs, as well as pika in Cambridge. Four FSILGs accepted the offer. In May, 2012 a second opportunity to opt in was presented and eight more FSILGs opted in and all but one of these is now connected at the higher speed.

This upgrade to an FSILG's Verizon Transparent LAN service is expensive (\$779 per house per month) but it does qualify for partial IRDF reimbursement. The IRDF Board of Allocation and the IRDF Grant Advisory Board have raised the reimbursement to 75% as a part of the annual IRDF Educational Operating Grant. The 75% bandwidth reimbursement can be included as an expense under the \$7,500 overall reimbursement limit for Educational Equipment purchases. As

always the FCI is available to explain how to apply for your Educational Operating Grant. Please note that this offer does not apply to the FSILGs located on or near the MIT campus, as they are already directly connected to the MIT fiber ring.

This annual opt-in/opt-out opportunity will continue to be offered at the end of each spring semester until this longer term solution can be funded and implemented.

Some chapters have expressed interest in third-party solutions to increase bandwidth. There are consequences for intruding other network vendors that are not immediately apparent. IS&T is expected to issue a policy soon regarding network connection replacement and augmentation for MIT FSILGs.

LONG TERM BANDWIDTH GOAL

The ultimate goal is to connect as many Boston FSILGs directly to the MIT fiber ring. It does not appear that it will be financially feasible to do this the two Brookline house and pika in Cambridge, but other options are being investigated for them. This long term solution is being actively being worked on, MIT's Information Services & Technology Department (IS&T), MIT's Division of Student Life, and the AILG's IT-Telecom Committee. IS&T clearly recognizes that bandwidth requirements continue to increase at a rate faster than the cost of commercial offerings decrease, so they are working on designing direct fiber connections to the MIT ring.

The IRDF is funding the first two phases of the four phases of the project. These first two include "conduit record search and manhole survey" and "prove path" exercises. After these two phases are complete, hopefully by early 2013, IS&T will have a better understanding of the conduit routes and fiber pathways necessary to complete the project and a more precise estimate for completing the project can be provided. If, there are significant issues (lack of conduit capacity, blocked conduits, required construction, etc.), the cost could rise and we may need to reassess proceeding. If however, the costs are reasonable, we will still need to identify a funding source for this significant capital expense. No doubt the IRDF can help, but we may need more than that.

Finance – Rich Possemato (posse@alum.mit.edu) and Stan Wulf (sawulf@alum.mit.edu).

The 2012-2013 AILG Housebill Survey will be launched at the February plenary meeting. Please contact Rich Possemato with any comments or suggestions. Information about previous AILG Housebill surveys and other Finance committee tools are available at <http://ailg.mit.edu/committees/finance/>

Insurance – Jim Bueche (jbueche@alum.mit.edu). The FSILGs that get their property insurance via AILG/Willis had their buildings successfully inspected in September. The current property values were determined and revised premiums were calculated. The resulting reports were issued to the house corporations. The new premiums will take effect April 1, 2013 when all of our Willis policies renew; however our annual recommendation is to accept the included offer to have the new level of coverage take effect immediately. Our logic is that the highest risks take place over the winter and IAP break, and you will benefit by being fully insured over that period for the increased premium.

Work has started on preparations for the April 2013 renewal of General Liability, Umbrella, and D&O (Directors & Officers) policies. The application forms have been updated, signed and sent to Willis for obtaining renewal quotes. As mentioned in previous meetings, MIT is requesting an increased level of Liability Coverage to reflect the higher risks in today's environment. We delayed addressing this concern until the coming April renewal and the committee will be

meeting with MIT in the near future to reach agreement and get updated quotes with the help of Willis. Willis has also made us aware of a new type of policy that is now on the market to address the risks and costs of recovering from bedbug infestations. We have started getting info on this, but meanwhile don't pick up used furniture from the curbsides.