



## Annual Report to the Membership 2015 – 2016

### Community Highlights

- Panhel successfully extended its community to include a new organization: Delta Phi Epsilon joined the community in Fall 2015. **Welcome Delta Phi Epsilon!**
- The IFC improved community relations by meeting with Boston City Councilor Zakim, the Mayor's Office, NABB, and other neighborhood stakeholders.
- The LGC continued to represent the diverse interests of its 5 member organizations and build cooperation to increase collaboration for recruitment publicity and events.
- Affiliated was created by members of all 3 student councils to advocate for LGBTQ students within FSILGs.
- Panhel enacted changes to recruitment to provide a more equitable process and more positive and less stressful experience for potential new members.
- The IFC and the AILG created a joint Recruitment Research Group to analyze fraternity recruitment and recommend ways to improve it.
- The LGC increased its presence within the AILG, with student and alumni representatives serving on numerous committees and initiatives.
- Panhel revamped its judicial procedures and public relations initiatives, to increase understanding/education around judicial procedures and sorority membership.
- The IFC and the AILG Community Relations Committee created a neighborhood support hotline and held their first annual neighborhood open house last fall at Beta Theta Pi.
- The IFC took several initiatives to promote community health and safety, including expanding participation in PartySafe+ and Medlinks, establishing the CAP (Consent Aware and Prevention) education program on sexual assault, and co-sponsoring events with VPR during Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Some facts and figures about the community:

- 37 undergraduate FSILGs (25 fraternities, 7 sororities, and 5 ILGs)
- Total undergrad FSILG membership (Fall 2015): 1,955
- Total undergraduate FSILG occupancy (Fall 2015): 1,052
- 40 AILG member organizations

The AILG is led entirely by alumni and alumnae volunteers, with staff and financial support for its programs provided by the FSILG Office, the MIT Division of Student Life (DSL), and other MIT departments. In all, more than 60 alumni/ae volunteered for the AILG this year, not including the 250+ alumni/ae who volunteer for their own FSILG as corporation or advisory board members, officer mentors, chapter and risk management advisors, facility managers, and in other roles.

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### MISSION OF THE AILG

The Association of Independent Living Groups at MIT (AILG) will:

- Assist our member FSILGs to teach values and life skills that are complementary to the MIT educational curriculum.
- Be a presence at MIT, to represent and be a voice for the FSILG system and its alumni.
- Provide tools to improve our FSILG member groups.
- Promote diversity of choice of residence for students within the FSILG community.
- Promote FSILG group responsibility and accountability.



The AILG is managed by a 6-member board of directors, which provides oversight of multiple committees and working groups, including the following:

### **Accreditation Committee**

This year we are celebrating 10 years of the Accreditation program. 18 reviews were conducted, and over 30 volunteers participated as reviewers this year. The year ended with almost all organizations recommended for accreditation. In two cases, the reviewers expressed reservations to accreditation, while one group was not recommended for accreditation. These organizations were found to need improvements in areas of governance, oversight, and recruitment. The FSILG office is now working with the group not recommended for accreditation.

The committee completed the second year using a rubric to provide uniform standards by which living groups are reviewed. The rubric data have now been obtained for all living groups and aggregate results will be presented at an upcoming meeting of the AILG plenary. The Accreditation Committee is studying the rubric data to determine what adjustments should be made to the rubric and how to use it in routine reviews.

### **Community Relations Committee**

This has been a very active year for this committee. Working with the IFC, we held a very successful "Neighborhood Welcome BBQ" on September 3 at the Beta Theta Pi house. Several Neighborhood Association of Back Bay (NABB) members, B.U. officials, and a dozen "ordinary citizen" neighbors attended. We established a neighbor support telephone line for neighbors to call with complaints, and business cards to publicize the number were distributed. Two clothing drives were sponsored and run by the IFC and Panhel netted over 80 bags of clothing for Goodwill Industries. A number of positive FSILG stories have now been collected on the website at <http://ailg.mit.edu/committees/community-relations/>. NABB chairs, the Mayor of Boston's Back Bay Liaison, and the Back Bay district Boston City Councilman have either attended our meetings or have met with several members in order to get acquainted and to initiate collaboration on neighborhood public service efforts of mutual interest.

### **Education Committee**

The Education Committee started the year working in collaboration with DSL to begin to offer much of our education content online. In parallel with these efforts, we partnered with the Alumni Association to offer an alumni workshop during ALC that was well attended and will continue going forward with the hope of keeping alumni informed about ways that they can stay involved and changes on campus. The committee worked with the mentorship committee to think about how to ensure a seamless transition between education of new mentors and the goals of the education committee more broadly. Lastly, the committee is planning a summer survey to assess the FSILG education needs of alumni and undergraduates alike.

### **Facilities Committee**

The purpose of the Facilities Committee is to assist housed AILG members to meet their facilities-related responsibilities. The Facilities Committee continues to sponsor the very successful Safety Licensing Inspection (SLI) program and the Building Safety Facilitator



(BSF). The BSF provides pre-inspections and a single point of contact for the municipal inspectors. The SLI program provides a web-based tool for all organizations and the AILG to monitor the status of their various municipal licenses.

This year the Facilities Committee also reviewed roof deck certifications and developed reasonable occupancy figures for their use. The committee also posted guidelines for the use of locks on doors within the houses for compliance with safety regulations.

### **Finance Committee**

The mission of the Finance Committee is to foster and share best practices for financial management of FSILGs. The committee launched the annual FSILG house bill survey, adding information about dining costs for 2015-2016. The committee is analyzing results including competitive dormitory costs for presentation next Fall. This confidential survey helps all FSILGS understand how their group compares to others in the system, and has been used by many groups to improve their financial planning.

### **FSILG Village Task Force**

Following the successful work of last year's FSILG Village Working Group, including a well-received presentation to the Corporation Visiting Committee for Student Life and ongoing meetings with the Chancellor and Dean for Student Life, the FSILG Village Task Force has been launched. Beginning this summer, the Task Force will engage with our students on the design of a possible new option for FSILGs wishing to locate closer to campus provide housing for currently unhoused groups. The Task Force now includes about 65 members of the community, more than half of them students representing all 3 student councils. Stay tuned for more developments in the next few months.

### **Information Technology Committee**

The IT Committee completed deployment of direct fiber-optic connections to all FSILGs, including those in Brookline. Wireless networks in all houses have been upgraded to the latest access points and incorporated into the MIT campus wireless network. These efforts mark the completion of several years of work by MIT IS&T, the IT Committee, the IRDF, and other stakeholders to ensure that all FSILGs have outstanding network infrastructure.

The committee also started a new program to provide MIT telephone numbers and handsets to all houses, and two telephone numbers were given to each house free of charge. The committee is currently evaluating upgrades to the wired network switches and has obtained partial funding for the upcoming upgrades from the IRDF. Maintenance of the AILG website's content was transferred from the IT Committee to a different group of AILG alumni under a new contract, but the committee is currently evaluate moving the AILG's website to an IS&T-supported service.

### **Insurance Committee**

The Insurance Committee continues to work with Holmes Murphy to provide general and umbrella liability, property, boiler, D&O, and commercial crime insurance to the AILG, the FCI, and the preponderance of our members. The existing insurance policies were updated and renewed on April 1, 2016. The renewal rates were approximately the same as last year's rates, which reflects the continuing effort of the AILG and our members to monitor and control



risk factors. New this year is a request to supply the names of those members who are insured under the D&O policy.

### **Independent Residence Development Fund**

Working closely with the MIT Treasurer's office, the IRDF Board of Allocation and IRDF Grand Advisory Board continued their work this year. Some highlights of the past year include:

- Regular review of cash flow, most recently in light of loan and grant projections for the next 3 - 5 years. The fund balance is \$18.7M, of which \$16.5M is being used as working capital and pledge grant support to the FSILG system.
- Provided or renewed construction loans for ADP (\$1M), LCA (\$500K), TEP (\$300K), and DKE (\$1M)
- Supported ongoing AILG operations including Educational Operating Grants (\$500K), Project Grants (\$600K), AILG Safety, Licensing and Inspection program (\$37K), FSILG Cooperative administration of loans and programs (\$20K).
- Received or expect to receive gifts totaling \$450,000 in addition to regular loan repayments and larger increments from major construction loans (such as PBE and Sigma Chi), which continue to be reinvested in the FSILG system.
- Reviewed and updated allocation policies.

**Thanks to all of you who support the IRDF and MIT.** We will need the IRDF's resources to continue the physical renewal of our community. If you have not made a gift to MIT in the past 12 months, please do so and designate at least part of your gift to the Independent Residence Development Fund. **Your participation is important.**

### **Locals Committee**

This *ad hoc* committee studied MIT's policy on formation of new local FSILGs, and distributed its report in April. The report recommended staffing an MIT/AILG task force to study creation of an "FSILG Alliance" organization that would provide support to locals FSILGs comparable to the support other fraternity and sorority chapters receive from their Nationals. This task force could also recommend criteria and considerations that should be weighed on a case-by-case basis when evaluating the possibility of a new local or an existing chapter leaving their National affiliation. Further consideration of the committee report is pending until the fall to give new Vice President for Student Life Suzy Nelson time to become settled in her position.

### **Parent Outreach Committee**

The Parent Outreach Committee is the AILG's newest standing committee. The goal of the committee is to promote MIT's FSILG communities by developing outreach and communication to inform parents about the benefits of belonging to an fraternity, sorority, or ILG. The committee developed a handout, *Fraternities, Sororities and Independent Living Groups @ MIT*, and maintained a parent and alumni presence during MIT parent events: Parent Orientation, Family Weekend and Campus Preview Weekend (CPW), including a panel at CPW. The committee is collecting examples of best practices and sharing these with organizations, and is engaging with MIT administrators. We anticipate continuing and expanding the work of the Parent Outreach Committee for 2016-17.



## Acknowledgements

The AILG Board of Directors would like to thank the following persons and organizations for their assistance this year:

- Dean Colombo and his DSL and Residence Life staff, for continuing financial and staff support of AILG and FSILG community programs.
- Brad Badgley and the FSILG Office staff, for everything they do to advise and support our student communities and the AILG.
- The MIT Campus Police, MIT Medical and Mental Health, and MIT Student Support Services, for keeping our student communities safe and healthy.
- Kevin Milligan and the MIT Treasurer's Office, for support of the IRDF and its programs.
- The Living Group Council (LGC), the Panhellenic Association (Panhel), and the Interfraternity Council (IFC), for their leadership of our student communities.
- Scott Klemm and the Board of Directors of the FSILG Cooperative Inc. (FCI), for their partnership and assistance in all facets of the FSILG community.
- All alumni volunteers, without whom the AILG and its member FSILG communities would not exist.
- Bob Ferrara, who essentially acts as the AILG's Executive Director, and without whom we would not be able to do much of what we do.

**Thank you for all you do to support your FSILG and the MIT community as a whole.**

Respectfully Submitted,

The Association of Independent Living Groups Board of Directors

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