



Thursday, January 7th, 2016 | W59-237 | Meeting called to order at 6:08PM by Steve Baker

In Attendance

Board: Steve Baker (Theta Xi), Alice Leung (Epsilon Theta) Anya Kattf (Alpha Phi), Eric Cigan (Lambda Chi Alpha), Akil Middleton (Zeta Psi)

Fraternities, Sororities and Independent Living Groups Office: Brad Badgley, Brittany Scancarella and Jacob Oppenheimer

Staff and alumni: Henry Humphreys, Scott Klemm, Tom Holtey, Pam Gannon, Tom Stohlman, Stan Wulf, Mark Thompson Shane Arnold, Herman Marshall, Victor Rhoads, John Covert, David Laurence, Kenneth Schomaker, Pat McCabe, and Steve Blumenthal

Students: Courtney Diamond (Panhellenic Association, Trevor Ewold (Interfraternity Council)

FSILG Office Update (Henry Humpheys)

Dean Humphreys introduced Brad Badgley, the new associate dean and director for FSILGs. Brad is taking over responsibility as DSL's liaison to the AILG board, and would be representing DSL at AILG meetings.

Henry then announced he would be leaving MIT at end of January. Henry will be bringing Brad up to speed on all issues with various FSILGs. Steve Baker expressed appreciation for Henry on behalf of the entire board, and Henry was recognized with a round of applause.

Brad briefly introduced himself. He's held meetings with students, alumni and staff, and expressed eagerness to meet others in the coming weeks.

Approval of Minutes (Eric Cigan)

Minutes for the December 2015 board meeting were accepted.

Student Council Updates (Courtney Diamond, Trevor Ewold)

IFC – Trevor finished transitions, scheduled presidents retreat, recruitment chair to start meetings with house presidents.

Panhel – Courtney noted that Panhel had started its officer transitions. She will soon meet with Brittany to discuss plans for 2016.

Living Group Council – No LGC undergraduate was present, but Alice passed along that the LGC officers would be meeting this Saturday and that their officer elections will take place later in January. She also mentioned that some ILGs have an active rush during Independent Activities Period, so they are gearing up for IAP rush programs.

AILG Goals (Steve)

Steve led the board through the discussion of progress toward the AILG's seven goals for the 2015-16 academic year.

Goal 1 – Pam Gannon noted the Parent Outreach committee’s work supported this goal. Bob noted that the Community Relations committee’s activities have supported this, notably activities to reach out to the Bay State Road / Kenmore Square community as well as the Back Bay community.

Goal 2 (outreach to Sorority and Independent Living Group alumnae) - Anya reported there has been progress toward building up contact list, including a new process of incorporating contacts obtained from the Basic Data Forms that had been submitted by FSILGs as part of their , will be polling groups.

Goal 3 – Akil and Jacob gave an update, noting that they are working on a series of focus groups in support of this goal. They are accumulating data from historical rush information and other sources.

Goal 4 – Information in support of this goal is being gleaned from accreditation reports.

Goal 5 – Steve gave an update on the four facets of this goal.

1. Mentoring – Mike Feinstein of the Fraternity Culture committee has met with a couple groups so far for them to participate in a pilot program. The committee has been meeting through the Fall 2015 semester, and is working with Rise Partnerships to start visits to pilot groups.
2. Alumni/ae education program – This involves work from the Education Committee (no members present at board meeting).
3. FSILG Relationship Agreement – progress on approving the agreement has stalled somewhat, but the goal is to finalize the agreement and to deploy it in the Mind and Handbook.
4. Member support program – Steve has plan to pilot this spring with an FSILG that did was not recommended for accreditation in Fall 2015.

Goal 6 – A detailed discussion of topic is scheduled to take place later in the meeting.

Goal 7 – Related to MITIMCo discussions and Locals. DPE will eventually need its own facility. TEP is making progress toward going coed. Some support at MIT Corporation level.

Codifying Attributes of Healthy Communities (Steve, Jacob)

Jacob explained that the attributes of healthy FSILG communities could be looked at a number of ways. For instance, a healthy FSILG community should support growth of individual members through its culture and activities. As we discussed the topic further, several persons noted that the state FSILG facilities are a big part of what would be considered a healthy chapter. Other facets that were discussed included service, philanthropy, healthy living, academic success, campus engagement (including MIT athletics) and connections with chapter alumni/ae.

Further discussion continued on what we do specifically to get success on those areas and what outcomes/outputs there should be. There were suggestions on how to get relevant data from MIT Institutional Research.

Anya commented that these attributes aligned strongly with the categories of the Basic Data Form that are used in AILG accreditation reviews. Herman noted that the rubric that has been in use recently was designed to measure these types of attributes.

Steve asked for volunteers to continue to work on this topic, and seeks involvement from student councils, too, especially in data gathering.

Strengthening Fraternity and ILG Recruitment (Steve, Akil)

Steve explained that there is a strong sense among MIT administration and faculty that the current recruitment is not optimal. It’s considered stressful for both actives and freshmen, and for many FSILGs is a costly process that’s not necessarily well aligned with normal life within the FSILG chapter. MIT faculty are concerned about impact of

fall recruitment on other programs, as well as the impact of rejection on students who have a bad experience. Steve explained that there is a move afoot in faculty to defer recruitment, and he would like to see the AILG to get out in front of it.

Akil clarified that sorority recruitment is not considered an issue, but rather fraternity/ILGs recruitment. The Chancellor in particular is interested in rush as a component of the student 1st year experience. This led to work being done as part of the AILG strategic planning effort.

Much discussion ensued concerning of different methods for gathering data, ready to get help from MIT. Steve wants to see student involvement since they ultimately “own” rush. We discussed briefly whether sorority recruitment should be looked at, too.

What is the appropriate number of Fraternities? (Steve)

In another wide ranging discussion topic, Steve led off by explaining there’s a sense among senior administration that we have too many fraternities at MIT, and that groups need to have a minimum number of members to be sustainable communities.

Tom Holtey noted that MIT should be benchmarking with other comparable institutions to validate this perception. Others added that we shouldn’t close off creation of new FSILG chapters because there may be other types of fraternities that could expand the pool of students who would want to join the greater fraternity community.

Discussion continued on the cost of fraternities compared to dorms, and how the FSILGs reduce costs by involving active undergraduates in management, maintenance and operation of their chapters.

Steve looked for volunteers to study this further. Tom Holtey volunteered to lead this effort. Steve noted that Tom’s group looking at this subject should include undergraduates, too.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AILG Annual Meeting and Dinner – Bob reported with pleasure that we have set the date (June 8, 2016), the venue (Samberg Conference Center), and the main speaker, Bob Millard ’73 (AEP), who is the MIT Corporation chairman.

MIT’s FSILG Awards Ceremony will be held May 5th, 2016.

MIT Awards Convocation is to be held on May 10th, 2016.

MIT will be hosting a day of service on April 19th as part of the celebration of the 100th anniversary of MIT in Cambridge.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn the board meeting at 8:17pm