

MINUTES

AILG Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 2, 2015 | Room W59-237 | Meeting called to order at 6:06PM by Steve Baker

In Attendance

Board: Steve Baker, Alice Leung, Anya Kettef, Eric Cigan, Akil Middleton and Richard Larson

Staff and alumni: Henry Humphreys, Bob Ferrara, Jacob Oppenheimer, Scott Klemm, Stan Wulf, Tom Stohlman, Herman Marshall, Tom Holtey, Mark Thompson (FCI / ADP), Andrew Sudbury (TEP), Patrick McCabe (DU)

Students: Taylor Rose (Panhel), Sam Oppenheim (IFC), Erin Main (LGC)

Approval of Minutes (Eric)

The minutes from the February 2015 board meeting were reviewed and approved.

Financial Dashboard (Anya)

Anya presented the updated financials. Each of the four organizations that still owe AILG dues has been contacted. Three of the four organizations will be remitting payment promptly and I am working with the fourth organization (AEPHI) to set up a payment plan. All expenses are on track vs. budget.

FSILG Office Update (Bob)

Associate Dean / FSILG Director search: Spelman & Johnson is the search firm. Henry et al. are working with them to ensure an effective search.

Nominations for FSILG Alumni Awards: Bob said FSILG Alumni awards will be given out in the April 27th awards ceremony, at which IFC and Panhel will also give out their awards. Six nominations have been submitted so far; FSILG encourages additional nominees through Monday.

FSILG Office Coordinator Search: The FSILG office coordinator position has been opened, and more than 20 applications have been received to date. Akil will serve as the AILG representative in the search process.

Other items:

- Steve noted that Bob Ferrara will be receiving a Bronze Beaver award for accomplishment. The board congratulated Bob in advance for this recognition.
 - IFC JudComm moving with several cases. Under a new policy, results of the cases are being communicated to alumni boards.
 - "First Friday" lunches are underway – the next is tomorrow from 12noon to 1:30pm in Flowers Dining Room in Maseeh Hall.
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Student Council Updates (Erin, Taylor, Sam)

LGC (Erin): No issues with Social Events Policy, no further updates

Panhel (Taylor): Delta Phi Epsilon has been extended a bid, which they have accepted. Panhel is now working with DPE National and colonizers on CPW and fall recruitment plans. Henry recognized Taylor for her efforts to facilitate the bid.

IFC (Sam): The new Sunshine policy is in practices, with sanctions and decisions open to public. Have had first couple rounds of judicial hearings, and results will be posted to website following decisions.

Old Business

Faculty Advisor working group (Alice): Sent mail to council heads about “invite your professor for dinner” month. Several groups have done this, and IFC / Panhel are holding their student/faculty mixers. Alice to follow up with council heads to tally up report. A faculty mixer is scheduled for April 8th, with location currently TBD.

Fraternity Culture Working Group update (Jacob): students gave presentation at last meeting featuring Panhel’s Star model. The IFC is making revisions to their PartySafe Plus program, and is considering higher standards and follow-up curriculum. Now the working group is moving on the other topics, including mental health. Kim Hunter is to work on alumni education efforts. There will be info at alum advisor meet & greet on April 16th.

FSILG Village update (Henry): Conducting focus groups, with ILG and Panhel completed, with fraternity undergraduate focus group later this evening and with fraternity alums next Wednesday after the plenary. The context is that MIT is looking at plans for West Campus so it is timely to see how an FSILG Village would factor in.

Discussion on Independent Chapters / ILGs (“Locals”) (Akil)

TEP’s situation (Andrew Sudbury): Andrew recounted the history of TEP’s interest in going coed, with interest going back decades and a series of efforts to work with their national headquarters and general fraternity. TEP’s National at one point went into bankruptcy, at which time the MIT chapter took over its house and made a formal decision to press forward with going coed. TEP wrote a memo with Deans Colombo and Humphreys indicating their plans to establish a coed undergrad chapter while remaining part of the TEP general fraternity. Andrew said they continue efforts to change the TEP general fraternity to explicitly allow coed chapter, but he isn’t optimistic because the high turnover rate between TEP general assembly meetings makes it difficult to build momentum.

Andrew said their plan is to change the chapter name to Xi Fellowship, and to participate in both the IFC and AILG. He noted that his chapter’s consensus is that they want to remain part of the TEP general fraternity and are not interested in joining a different national coed fraternity.

Henry commented that MIT is supportive and would be as long as the chapter’s national affiliation is maintained.

The board discussed the implications of TEP’s plan. Alice cautioned that there were similarities between TEP’s plan and how Epsilon Theta approached going coed in the 1970s, which became problematic due to publicity that ultimately led to the chapter splitting off from Sigma Nu. Andrew commented that TEP National has not objected to the plan, but there hasn’t been an explicit acceptance.

Steve asked if board would have any issue with Xi Fellowship becoming member of AILG, and there were no objections.

MIT concerns with local FSILG chapters (Akil): We started with a brief discussion of recent sweeping moves by other universities to deal with fraternity issues. Henry noted that Trinity’s president has stipulated that fraternities will be required to go coed, though their sororities will not be required to do the same.

Henry said that Chancellor Barnhart and others in the administration believe there needs to be an open conversation about the question of whether MIT would permit the formation of additional local FSILGs.

Eric asked Henry what MIT’s specific reasons are for requiring national affiliation. Henry responded with several concerns, including national affiliation means chapters are expected to be values-based organization rather than becoming simply living facilities.

We discussed the concern that some MIT fraternity chapters have interest in decoupling from their troubled nationals. Henry pointed out that the nationals that are having problems now are primarily due to behavior of chapters rather than with their Nationals.

We moved to the subject Akil's recent email proposed: a three-point proactive effort to keep MIT fraternities from getting swept up in growing nationwide anti-fraternity sentiments. Most of the conversation was on ideas for how fraternities can make positive contributions to the community, which is the focus of the recently-established Community Relations committee.

Bob discussed ideas that came out of his recent meeting with Sarah Gallop and IFC Risk manager David Dellal along with representatives of Bay State Road Neighborhood Association, BU Government and Community Affairs, and Pam Beale, President of the Kenmore Square Business Association. They discussed ideas such as performing a neighborhood cleanup or comparable major event. Tom Holtey discussed his interaction with NABB (Neighborhood Association of Back Bay), noting that NABB identifies many organizations and people who need help and that he felt it best to work through the neighborhood associations. Eric expressed that a community-wide effort focused on Boston Public Schools could be a way to align FSILG community relationships efforts with a Boston institution that residents know needs outside help.

Several people expressed concern that attempt to set MIT's fraternity apart could be undermined by future incidents. Henry encouraged a greater focus on the positive relationship at MIT between undergraduate FSILG chapters, chapter alumni and the Institute, which he has observed to be much stronger than what he's seen anywhere else.

Next meeting of committee is on Monday, April 6th.

Steve proposed that we establish a working group to look at the matter of locals vs. nationally-affiliated chapters: Eric and Alice from the board, along with Andrew Sudbury and Tom Holtey, will be on the Working Group on Locals, which will need a sorority representative as well. Steve will send out email on this topic to AILG list.

Henry suggested the committee should consider the following questions: 1) "if a national affiliation is required, why?" and 2) "if local chapters are allowed, why?"

Social Events Policy Update (Bob, Steve)

Current policy document (Bob): The Social Events Policy working group met last night on the 6.0 version of the Social Events Policy. The working group discussed changing the cap on non-alcoholic events to be 3x membership. Other topics included roof decks events and use of third-party bartender in FSILG houses to serve liquor, both of which are still not allowed. Bob noted that they are also looking at contracts and tweaking enforcement methods. Also RMCs are overall doing well though IFC plans to get more involved with them.

The goal is to get the policy incorporated into the *Mind and Hand Book*. Sarah Gallop will schedule time with Boston ISD and the City of Cambridge to go over policy.

Progress on developing alcohol-free policy statements that are consistent across the system (Steve): IFC and Panhel student boards have indicated that they don't want to get into this topic at this time, though LGC may do so.

NOTE: At this point, Alice took over as meeting chair due to Steve's departure to observe the FSILG Village focus group for fraternity undergraduates.

Discussion on FSILG Diversity (Alice)

We then engaged in a freeform discussion of what the FSILG community could be doing to further FSILG diversity. One of Alice's concerns was that though our groups may already welcome diverse demographics, it is also important to do enough outreach and publicity for people to really feel welcome. Especially given that the Greek community is stereotyped as being unwelcoming to some minority groups, Alice felt that if we want people to know that MIT FSILGs are different, we may need to do more than just being nice when people show up for rush. Otherwise, some groups may get the impression that they shouldn't bother to visit at all.

Panhel has already conducted some outreach and discussion with MIT LGBTQ groups. Jacob noted that previous results from the [Living Pink LGBTQ survey](#) on FSILG and dorm attitudes are available, and that some leaders of these survey efforts were FSILG members.

Jacob will pursue getting in touch with the Office of Minority Education and other MIT resources for students in minority demographics. The purpose would be to understand any existing attitudes, beliefs, or complaints about the FSILG community among their constituents, and to see if we can work together to reduce any real or perceived barriers to inclusivity.

2016 AILG Budget

Anya distributed budget for 2015-16 and highlighted three changes:

1. The Education committee budget has been reinstated now that the committee has been reestablished.
2. The BNS item has been removed as the BNS fee will be invoiced directly through the FCI.
3. The budget for IT web services increased due to the new AILG webmaster paid position and an increase for FSILG Community Relations phone service.

Anya noted that this would result in another year of operating in a deficit, and that she advises against dropping below a \$20K balance for cash flow reasons. The board discussed a number of methods to reduce the deficit, primarily through combinations of cutting spending on food and the annual meeting and increases to dues.

Consensus was to increase AILG member dues by up to \$75 and to cut food budget by 10 percent.

AILG Plenary Agenda (Anya)

No changes were made to the proposed plenary agenda.

- a. Call to Order / Introductions
- b. Minutes
- c. Financial Report
- d. FSILG Office Update
- e. Culture Committee Presentation? Likely to come out.
- f. Update on Social Events policy
- g. FSILG Village update
- h. 2016 Budget
- i. Committee Reports
- j. Announcements

Committee Reports

AILG Alumni Volunteer Training will take place on Thursday, April 16th at 6:30pm in W35 (Hulsizer Room). The training will cover topics including resources such as FCI, MIT and DSL.

Accreditation Committee (Herman): No report.

Community Relations (Jacob) – Sarah Gallop joined group. Jacob encouraged groups to report their community relations events using the form on the AILG Community Relations web page - ailg.mit.edu/committees/community-relations/.

Education Committee: No report.

Finance Committee: No report.

Insurance (Stan) – insurance has been renewed, similar rate to last year,

IT Committee (Scott): MIT will be contacting houses in Boston regarding need to switch some equipment that is currently on order. The installation of MIT fiber for ZBT, ET and pika has been delayed two months due to weather. Scott expects it will be on by end of summer, if not sooner.

Facilities Committee (Tom Stohlman): All pre-inspections are completed, and he's scheduling real inspections.

Review of issues of specific concern to Student Councils (All)

No further report. .

Adjournment and Next Meeting

Motion to adjourn was made and was passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:38pm

The next AILG board meeting will be held Thursday, May 7th, 2015 in W59-237.