AILG Board Meeting

Thursday, May 26, 2016 | W59-237 | Meeting called to order at 6:32PM by Steve Baker

In Attendance

Board: Steve Baker (TX), Alice Leung (ET), Anya Kattef (AP), Eric Cigan (LCA), Akil Middleton (ZP)
Staff and alumni: Brad Badgley (FSILG Office), Bob Ferrara, Scott Klemm (FCI), Taylor Pearl (AEPhi), Tom Holtey (CP), Stan Wulf (PDT), David Lawrence (tEp), Tom Stohlman (KS), Pam Gannon (AP), Rob Calhoun (tEp), Pat McCabe (TCAA)
Students: Pravina Samaratunga (Living Group Council)

Approval of Minutes (Eric)

The board voted to approve the amended minutes of the May 5, 2016 board meeting.

Financial Report (Anya)

AILG expenses for FY2016 will come in slightly under budget due to below-budget spending on accreditations, plenary meetings and the Community Relations phone. Anya also reported that the AILG funding requests has been submitted to IRDF and DSL.

FSILG Office Update (Brad)

FSILG Office staffing – Brad reported the loss of two FSILG staff members: Jacob Oppenheimer had his last day in the FSILG Office last week, and Brittany Scancarella’s last day as a full-time staffer would be next Tuesday. However, Brittany has agreed to Brad’s proposal that she continue for the next year as a part-time staffer to manage the GRA program, which has been a major part of her responsibilities.

Brad has been working on plan for staffing in light of these departures and has hired Kayla Lemay to a one-year appointment. He is also hiring two graduate assistants to support the FSILG Office. In anticipation of hiring replacements for Jacob and Brittany, Brad asked everyone that they refer interested candidates to him.

This led to a brief discussion of whether it would make sense to try recruiting a recent MIT graduate to fill a position in the FSILG Office. Brad said he would consider MIT graduates as candidates given their understanding of the MIT experience.

GRA contracts are out and are in the process of being signed. Three FSILGs have yet to complete their part of selecting their GRAs.

Brittany working on GRA subsidy agreements. Brad noted that he’s been getting feedback that current subsidy rates are too low, so he is reviewing these rates and plans to discuss them with the incoming VP of Student Life, Suzy Nelson.

The Panhel alumnae mixer held earlier this month at the Meridien Hotel went very well. Brad was pleased that he got to meet many people and felt there were many good conversations.

Due to Jacob and Brittany leaving, Brad will be picking up more of the regular contact with student council leaders with help from Kayla. He’s setting up meetings with council presidents over the summer.
Student Council Updates (Pravina)

LGC – Pravina reported that she was elected LGC speaker and took over the position in the last two weeks. The board congratulated her and expressed support for the new LGC officers. Pravina noted that LGC was in the process of conducting a vote on the updated FSILG Social Events policy.

Old Business

2017 budget – Anya noted that due to some changes in AILG membership there would be a slight increase in AILG dues, from $475 to $500 per member group. The increase still keeps AILG member dues within their historical range. There were some small changes to community relations and IT budgets. The request to IRDF for AILG funding was approved by MIT EVP and Treasurer Israel Ruiz.

Locals Committee – We discussed the state of the report of the Locals Committee, noting that the discussion at the April 13th plenary meeting indicated general support from the membership for pursuing the report’s recommendations. Steve explained that he had spoken with Dean of Student Life Chris Colombo about next steps, and that Dean Colombo had told him that it would be up to Suzy Nelson to take this up. Given that the report recommendations were linked to the evolution of the IFC recognition policy, which is currently under review within MIT council, the consensus of the board was that further work on the report’s recommendations should be put on hold until the new AILG board takes office, and would be considered in the new board’s planning meeting.

AILG Annual Meeting

Registration for the annual meeting next month has been strong. Steve noted he was particularly pleased to see an increase in the number of sorority and ILG alumnae who had registered.

We reviewed the draft agenda for the annual meeting. Time was allocated to give Dean Colombo the opportunity to speak, and we made other adjustments to the agenda for recognition of outgoing board members and FSILG Office staff.

Based on interest expressed incumbent board members and other FSILG alums, we expect a contested election for to the two AILG board positions that will be chosen at the meeting. If so, there will be some slight changes to the agenda.

We also assigned AILG board and others AILG leaders to greet distinguished guests at the event.

TCAA Update (Brad, Steve)

Brad and Steve discussed a meeting that was held recently on the status of Technology Chapter Alumni Associates (TCAA) and Theta Tau. Other attendees included David Dellal of the IFC, Steve Barrett and David Latham of TCAA, DSL staff and Suzy Nelson. Both reported good outcomes from meeting. Steve mentioned TCAA had permanently severed its relationship with DU International, and initiated a number of members of a Theta Tau colony at MIT. TCAA took these actions without MIT’s involvement.

Steve noted he was pleased to see that Suzy Nelson took a leading role in driving for resolution of issues that had effectively been causing an impasse for much of the last year. We did not discuss the outcome of the meeting in details, but Brad and Steve noted that it concluded with a number of actions and proposals to help reach a resolution.

There was further discussion of how TCAA and the former DU undergraduate members had addressed issues that led to closure. Pat McCabe noted that TCAA had not been aware of the violations that led to the DU chapter’s suspension, and explained that the TCAA board was taking affirmative steps to prevent any recurrence.
Social Events Policy

After a brief discussion, there was a motion to accept FSILG Social Events Policy version 7.6 The motion to accept the revised policy was seconded and passed unanimously. Steve noted Alice’s suggestion that the policy be augmented with a list examples to illustrate do’s and don’ts for FSILGs under the new policy. The Social Events Policy Working Group will take up this suggestion and consider incorporating it into a future version of the policy.

Committee reports

**IT** – David Lawrence explained that the committee is working on getting IS&T to provide new switches for all FSILG houses. One issue is that IS&T wants all FSILG buildings to have the same configuration. Given that usage of wired and wireless networks varies considerably among FSILGs, David anticipates there could be criticism from some FSILGs, especially since there would likely be an increase in the NMP fees for all houses. He said that he will keep board updated, and that a proposal will be developed in advance of the next AILG plenary.

David and Bob noted that the new service would be same if not better than what’s offered in MIT dorms.

**FSILG Village** – Pam reported that the FSILG Village steering committee had met several times, and would be holding a FSILG Village kickoff meeting prior to the annual meeting. The steering committee received an excellent response to its call for volunteers, which generated 60 volunteers including students from fraternities, sororities and independent living groups as well as FSILG alumni. Pam explained that they would be establishing three working groups, with joint chairs for each working group in order to share responsibilities fairly.

**Facilities** – Scott received revised licenses from the City of Boston Licensing Board, and noted that all requested changes were approved.

**Community Relations** – Bob announced that September 1st has been set as the date for the committee’s planned neighborhood gathering event, and that Sigma Chi has been proposed as the location for the event. The committee’s next meeting would be held at 4:00 PM on Monday, June 6th 31st (delayed one week due to the Memorial Day holiday).

Other business and adjournment

We discussed some concerns about FSILG Office turnover and whether what we’ve experienced at MIT is consistent with other universities. We discussed the phenomenon and brainstormed for some time about ideas to help. There were numerous expressions of support for Brad and of eagerness to support him and his staff in the future.

The board then voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm. The next anticipated board meeting will be scheduled after the annual meeting.