Hello FSILG Stakeholders,

In order to help all of us plan budget impacts for the next years, the IRDF Board of Allocation and Grant Advisory Boards wanted you to be aware of these recent developments. All of what follows was discussed at the April AILG Plenary by Ash Dyer, Steve Stuntz, and Tom Holtey, but is repeated here for everyone’s benefit. Alumni may also wish to share this information with their undergraduate officers.

**MITnet v3 - The Fiber Program**
The installation of high bandwidth fiber in Boston is progressing quickly and should come on line next fall - much earlier than any of us originally expected. The efforts of MIT Information Services & Technology (IS&T) and the AILG’s IT Committee have been superb. However, this rapid progress has not allowed sufficient time to fully and clearly explain the program's funding.

This installation program affects the 26 Boston houses, all of which are currently connected to MIT via the Verizon “Transparent LAN” network. To fund construction and new equipment for the houses and to preserve IRDF assets, it has been determined that the IRDF will bear 75% of the approximately $1,000,000 installation cost. This leaves a cost of $10,000 for each house. The IRDF will “up-front fund” the full outlay. Each house can then repay $1,000 per year for ten years. For simplicity of billing, this will be deducted from the yearly Educational Operating Grants. These costs will not be eligible for IRDF Educational Operating Grant reimbursement.

**Network Management Program**
The Network Management Program (NMP) has been developed by the AILG IT Committee to ensure that this investment and the prior investment for in-house wired and wireless technology will continue to be productive through the coming years. The NMP is a separate program which also carries its own $1,000 per year charge for every FSILG building connected to the MIT network. This effects every FSILG, whether located in Boston, Cambridge, or Brookline.

The NMP costs will not be eligible for IRDF Educational Operating Grant reimbursement. All other MITnet v3 system operating costs will be covered by MIT and will not result in costs to our houses. We feel that this is a bargain to achieve the high bandwidth, security, and services that the MIT network offers.

**Educational Operating Grant Changes**
As the IRDF Educational Operating Grant (EOG) program evolves, the following changes will be implemented in the coming year. The EOG has three components – Operating Expenses, Safety, and Educational Equipment.

The Operating Expenses component is governed by the houses educational area percentage and has been funded at 60% for the last two years; the funding percentage will be reduced from 60% to 50% for Grant Year 2013. Further reductions in this funding percentage should be expected in subsequent years. (N.B. Grant Year 2013 refers to grants covering houses’ fiscal years ending in calendar year 2013). Funding for the other components (Safety, and Educational Equipment) will remain unchanged for Grant Year 2013 at 75% of actual expenses, with the normal $7,500 cap on Educational Equipment.
To address the current disproportionate IRDF support of students throughout the FSILG system, a “per student cap” on the full EOG will be implemented starting with Grant Year 2014. This is expected to be in the range of $600 to $800 per student. All the above changes refer only to the Educational Operating Grant programs. The IRDF Project Grant and Loan programs will remain unchanged.

These changes are being announced at this time to allow houses time to adjust their budgets and fees accordingly. They reflect a change in emphasis toward IRDF funding of community-wide programs. For a more complete description of the IRDF Programs, please see http://web.mit.edu/irdf/.

Please remember the more we alumni contribute to the IRDF, the more the IRDF can do to support our chapters.

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