The Independent Residence Development Fund
Report to the AILG Plenary – November 7, 2007

The past year has been one of transition, reflection and extension for the Independent Residence Development Fund (IRDF). The results have been positive.

Transition saw the program moving from the MIT Office of the Treasurer, through the hands of Controller Jim Morgan and Executive Vice President, Sherwin Greenblatt and then, following additional personal and organizational developments, to Israel Ruiz, MIT Vice President for Finance. In each of these changes we have found respect and recognition of the value of the ILG community to MIT’s mission from the administration. Fortunately, throughout this period Kevin Milligan has been responsible for the administration of the program. Accounts have been kept, checks have been written and meetings have been held; the IRDF is in good hands.

Reflection was evident in a legal and operational review conducted during the year. This review has led to the legal support for the program being cited largely in the MIT in-house legal staff instead of an outside firm. In addition to cost savings, we have achieved a new level of communication among the various players. This will result in shorter processing times and has already produced a re-interpretation of the Educational Percentage formulas and an increase in grant amounts.

We have also increased the membership in each of the alumni groups and begun a consultation among the Board of Allocation, responsible for the loan program, the Grant Committee and the MIT administration to share insights on transcendent issues. We have together we have resolved issues around IRDF loans granted to member organizations for work done on MIT-owned property, a good start!

Extension has been evident in increased IRDF support of several system-wide activities beneficial to all the members of the ILG community. IRDF has replaced funding from the Department of Student Life to carry a portion of the costs of the AILG Safety, Licensing and Inspection program. IRDF funding has also provided support for the preparation of grant applications by the FSILG Cooperative, Inc. FCI also provides support to the IRDF teams in the logistics and recordkeeping of the programs. Collections for the AILG Insurance Program have also been assigned to the FCI and paid by the IRDF. MIT continues to “front” money and has been pleased with the new collection process.

Future Changes and Activities are underway. IRS policy has required an increase in the interest rate on future IRDF loans to match increased market rates. We have also tightened the timeframe for grant applications and will be further clarifying the requirements for 100%-funded educational equipment.

There has been a steady and substantial increase in both the number and amount of alumni/ae donations. The Alumni Association has made IRDF giving a much more prominent giving opportunity. The funds for all IRDF programs ultimately come from these gifts and we depend upon their continued contributions. Please thank your people for their support. House corporations should refer to http://web.mit.edu/irdf/ for more information.