

The IRDF Educational Operating Grant Program
Report to the AILG Plenary – September 20, 2006

\$ 394,622 in Operating Grants to 25 ILGs.
\$319,362 in Project Grants

Project Grants are made to fund the educational content of renovation or other capital projects. Operating Grants fund the educational content of building operating costs such as utilities, taxes, insurance and safety-oriented maintenance. An additional portion of the Operating Grants fund 100% of the purchase of certain educational items such as desks, shared computer equipment and supplies. In addition to these funds already distributed, almost \$100,000 in additional grants are being processed for the past fiscal year ending 6/30/06. Nearly half the ILGs have already applied for Operating Grants in the current fiscal year.

A number of organizational changes in the last year affect the IRDF, presenting both challenges and opportunities.

- The FSILG Cooperative, central to the operations of the program, has a new director – the transition has been smooth.
- MIT's Office of the Treasurer has been reorganized with its investment arm being separated from the operating organization. Allan Bufferd, Treasurer for many years, has retired.
- Joe Maguire, who has managed both the IRDF loan and grant programs for many years, left MIT in early September to join a Cambridge real estate management firm. Joe has been a capable administrator and a great friend to the ILGs and is deserving of our highest appreciation.
- The operating portion of the old treasurer's are being transferred under MIT's new Executive Vice President, Sherwin Greenblatt '62, who asked Controller Jim Morgan take over the administration of the IRDF Programs (loans & grants). Jim has designated Kevin Milligan as the responsible staff member; he has begun chairing the monthly meetings of the IRDF Grant Advisory Board.

We have reported at length about the legal interpretation issues that have reduced the scale of the grants in the second program year. The reduction in allowable maintenance expense categories is part of the effort to streamline the grant process by reducing the need for detailed legal review. In response to requests from us and from Dean Larry Benedict, the Executive Vice President has directed a legal and operational review this coming year.

On a much smaller scale, IRDF funds also support some FSILG-wide community initiatives. The IRDF program will replace Division of Student Life in funding the FSILG Cooperative's activities in assisting the ILGs with grant applications. Also, IRDF will also fund portions of the Safety, Licensing and Inspection program of the AILG.

We highly recommend that ILGs take advantage of the 100% funding (up to \$10,000 per year) of educational equipment. Of course, the IRDF Loan program continues to provide loans after more than forty years of operation. Money is available to enhance the livability and competitiveness of our houses. House corporations should refer to <http://web.mit.edu/irdf/> for more information.

On the fundraising side, there has been a steady and substantial increase in both the number and amount of donations. In the short term, however, more dollars are going out than coming in, however. MIT and the Alumni Association have made IRDF giving a much more prominent giving opportunity. Theresa Lee, an Alumni Fund Officer with extensive FSILG experience, is developing a concerted IRDF initiative. Remember that the funds for all IRDF programs come from our alumni/ae gifts and we depend upon their continued contributions. Please thank your people for their past support and refer them to <http://giving.mit.edu/priorities/sll/fsilgs.html> to follow the program into the future. The Alumni/ae Association has assigned Theresa Lee to the IRDF campaign as well as to help ILGs with their fundraising efforts.

Bob Ferrara and Tom Holtey – for the IRDF Grant Advisory Board – 9/20/06