History of the FSILG Community

DSL Deans & Directors
February 29, 2012

Marlena Martinez Love
Assistant Dean/Director for Fraternities, Sororities, and ILGs

Bob Ferrara, 67'
Senior Director of Strategic Planning, Communications, and Alumni Relations

Division of Student Life

History of the FSILG Community
FSILG Community Snapshot

- 25 Fraternities – all but 2 nationally affiliated
- 6 Sororities – five have 100+ members
- 6 Independent Living Groups – great variety
- Over 1,100 undergraduate beds
- 52% of men, and 36% women are affiliated
- 32 alumni-owned buildings, worth $100M+
- 9 other buildings, owned or leased by MIT
Boston, Brookline, and Cambridge

Fraternities, Sororities, and Independent Living Groups @ MIT
http://web.mit.edu/reslife/fsilg

Division of Student Life

History of the FSILG Community
Historic Dates

- 1865 - first classes held – Summer & Hawley sts.
- 1873 - Chi Phi Fraternity chapter established
- 1882 - Sigma Chi Alpha Theta chapter commences
- 1916 - MIT moves from Back Bay to Cambridge
- 1940s-1970s - “Golden Years” of fraternities
- 1970s - several go “local” over co-ed housing issue
- 1976 - Women’s Independent Living Group (WILG) founded
- 1981 - Alpha Phi, MIT’s first sorority chapter, founded
- 1997 - Scott Krueger death at Phi Gamma Delta house
- 2002 - Uproar begins over freshman housing decision
Attitudes Toward MIT & Alumni Participation – from MITAA survey

1.1. Affiliation is strongest towards friends made at MIT

For each of the following, please indicate if your continuing affiliation is very strong, strong, not-so-strong, or nonexistent:

- With the friends that you made at MIT: 50%
- With MIT as a whole: 37%
- With the department, program, or lab that you worked in: 21%
- With your living group, fraternity or sorority (undergrad only): 19%
- With your graduating class: 18%
- With the MIT Alumni Association: 18%
- With a student activity or club in which you were a member: 13%
A Complex System

- National Orgs
- Alumni
- Students
- Gov Councils
- MIT
- FSILG Community
FSILG Staff and Significant Dates

- 1980 – Steve Immerman hired as 1st Director of Fraternities
- 1988 – Neil Dorow leads FSILG Office for 12 yrs
- 1997 – Scott Krueger passes away
- 2001 – David Rogers hired, 2 AD positions created
- 2002 – Simmons Hall opens/Start of Freshmen on Campus
- 2004 – Bob Ferrara hired, Task Force “Aurora” Report
- 2007 – DSL reorg brings FSILGs and RLP to Res Life
- 2007 – Kaya Miller promoted to Director
- 2008 & 2010 – AILG Receives Great Dome Award
- 2010 – Marlena Love promoted to Director
- 2011-2012 – FSILG Strategic Plan
Award Winning FSILGs

- Chapter Operations
- Highest GPA
- Outstanding Undergraduate President
- Most Outstanding Chapter
- Outstanding Advisor
- Outstanding Alumni Club

- Website
- Ritual
- Most Improved Chapter
- Chapter of the Year
- Undergraduate Leader of the Year
Current Realities

- Fraternities
  - MIT = local party scene
  - Hard liquor + pregaming
  - Accountability
  - Hazing concerns
  - Neighbor issues
- Sororities
  - Wellness issues
  - Mental health
  - Body image
  - Perfectionism in classroom
  - Gender stereotyping in social settings

Division of Student Life

History of the FSILG Community
Independent Living Groups

- Membership
- Non-traditional
- Clarifying purpose
- Alumni role
Staff Initiatives

- FSILG Strategic Plan Implementation
- Resident Advisor (RA) Program Revitalization
- Hazing Workgroup @ MIT
  - Not just FSL, mental health, police, legal, alumni, athletics, student activities
- Kim Novak Consultation
  - Met w/ alums, actives, campus pros on alcohol use, hazing, alumni engagement, community concerns
FSILG Strategic Plan

▪ April 2012 Goal
▪ Theme #1: We will enhance the FSILG member experience
▪ Theme #2: We will strengthen our partnership with the Institute
▪ Theme #3: We will revitalize our facilities
▪ Theme #4: We will enhance the value of FSILG membership
▪ Theme #5: We will strengthen alumni/ae involvement with our community
5 Positive Messages from Aurora

- FSILGs are part of the heart of MIT, a uniquely valuable life experience.

- Through uncertain times, many concerned alumni, students and administrators have worked very hard to strengthen the footing of FSILGs. To make sure these housing options have a long, vibrant future at MIT, it’s time for all these players to come together and take collective action -- now.

- MIT’s unique range of living environments can be, and should be, the best college housing system in the nation.

- Our goal is clear: to foster and protect the FSILG system, preserving what works and transforming what doesn’t.

- With shared commitment, we will not only achieve the tasks before us, but contribute immeasurably to a flourishing future for MIT.
History of the FSILG Community

It Takes a Village…

- See (or hear) Something, Say Something
- Men and Women, not Girls and Boys
- You're always wearing your letters (aka Accountability is tough)
- Do not use the four letter F-word
Thank you!