

# ALPHA THETA CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY, INC.

Alpha Theta Chapter  
founded 1882

M.I.T.  
founded 1861

August 27, 2003

Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Board, held April 16, 2003.

The meeting was called to order at 7:25 PM in the Chapter House Library.

Present:	Karl Büttner (Board)	Josh Littlefield (Board)	Doug Bailey (Board)
	P. K. Hadley (Board)	Herb Mower (Board)	Adam d'Amico (Chapter Advisor)
	Mike DeLaus (Board)	Mark Curtiss	Mike Kahan
	Rory Foster (Consul, Board)	Dan Kim (Rush Chair)	Brady Young (Work Week Man.)
	Danny Craig (Spring Board Rep.)		Soojin Lee (Quaestor, Board)
Absent:	Neelesh Kantak (Fall Board Rep.)	Tom Faust (Board)	Alex Chernyakov (Spring Board Rep.)
	Ben Wang	Ian Sigalow	Taewon Kim (Pro Consul)
	Raudel Rodriguez (G.Z., Board)	Jay Krone (Board)	Devjit Chakravarti (House Mgr., Board)

Minutes of the February 7, 2003 meeting were accepted as distributed.

## CHAPTER REPORTS

### Consul Report – Rory Foster

1. Dinner with MIT people:
  - R.S.L.P. office: talked about what they could do for us (help w/ Derby Days, rush, etc.).
  - Dr. Allen Siegle (head of MIT Health): suggested putting “how to deal with college stress” into the pledge program.
  - Chuck Vest (MIT President): talked about freshman housing and its impact on rush, the administration’s view of fraternities (it is not against them), explained that the changes in housing/rush were a long time coming and not knee-jerk reaction to the Scott Krueger case.
  - Larry Benedict (Dean of Student Life): on the fraternities and their view of and interaction with the IFC: mass resignations and scandals lead to little respect from fraternities. The IFC is should rewrite its constitution because it can’t be a policing agent (which it has become). The Judicial Committee should be separate from IFC. Greek life should be more of a component on campus -- participation and cooperation needed from fraternities. The active’s sentiments: the IFC is currently worthless and only hassle to us... no one wants to get involved with it. We have been encouraging people to get involved. There will be a gradual rebuilding of the IFC body and we want a strong IFC infrastructure in case of years of bad rush. A week-looking fraternity system is bad even for the stronger fraternities’ rushes.
2. Faculty dinner: 6 or 7 faculty came. Prof. Mattuck attended, well respected in institution. Dinners are useful because it is very important to have faculty contacts.
3. Derby Days: began as a Harvard event (originally held on their campus, later on ours) as gathering of Sigma Chi chapters & sororities with games and bachelor/ette auction (all

proceeds to the Genesis fund). This year's vision: open it up to the MIT campus as campus unifying event. Our goal: to put our name out in a positive light (it is important to have a recognizable name on campus for rush, etc.). We partnered with a dorm, but we are main group (in name). We actively solicited participation and sponsorship/donations... received a flat screen TV from Sony, wireless products from Logitech, \$1000 from MIT.

Original schedule:

- Friday night: free concert outside,
- Saturday morning: free brunch outside,
- Saturday afternoon: sports and events,
- Saturday night: on campus party (paying our registration fee gave you free admission).

We ended up with 150 people registered and determined that the MIT administration really doesn't know what is going on, or how to do things. Reserving space was a big challenge... the paperwork spans 5 offices, yet our registration was all on one form for one "weekend event." In the last week before the event, got a flurry of "no, you can't do this" from MIT. We were betrayed by weather and MIT for indoor space (unused space). We still held concert and party – both were not too successful. We made around \$370 for CMN after sunk costs. We refunded all registration fees and sent groups free Comedy Club tickets for registering. What we learned: we need to start planning early! Friends we made in the administration included the R.S.L.P. office (very helpful) and Dean Benedict. Next year: the 1<sup>st</sup> thing to do to plan is to sit down with R.S.L.P. & Dean Benedict and have them grace our ideas – they will go to bat for us. We will continue to run the event next year, probably in May.

### **Quaestor Report – Soojin Lee**

1. Chapter finances are doing well. We currently have around \$35k in savings, \$45k in checking. We will probably have around \$20k in checking after spring's expenses.
2. We need to settle up on rent (2 terms) with the Corporate Board. The 1<sup>st</sup> term's rent is probably a wash due to taxes paid. Need to talk to Josh Littlefield (Corporation Treasurer).

### **House Manager Report – Brady Young for Devjit Chakravarti**

1. Fixed recently: 2<sup>nd</sup> floor urinal (plumber), laundry room sink not leaking (replaced faucet heads), dryer, 0 floor fridge, caulk around sink in 4<sup>th</sup> floor bathroom.
2. The fan on 4<sup>th</sup> floor bathroom is keeping the residents of 4LB awake... we need a new fan or need to shut it off at night.
3. We are looking to combine the steward, social chair and house manager supplies on one order. Also looking into a new supplier who delivers.
4. Fire escape and dorm licensing inspections taken care of.
5. Ansel system over the kitchen hood has a 6 month inspection cycle... we need to make a list of deadlines like this. Repairs like this usually come out of House Manager's budget.
6. There is an effort to unionize and consolidate our buying power as fraternities (IFC used to be center of that 20 years ago) for contractors – Dan Guerra is the contact on the AILG side. Dave Rodgers (R.S.L.P. office) is also a contact for this.

### **Webmaster Report – Mike Kahan**

1. Website (<http://sigmachi.mit.edu>) has been redesigned. The alumni login now works. Each alumnus has their own username and password. Login is done securely using SSL encryption.

### **Rush Report – Dan Kim**

1. Campus Preview Weekend (CPW): 9 pre-frosh stayed, we had a BBQ and a small party Thursday night. The weekend went well overall. We will make follow up calls to the pre-frosh in May. MIT held panels for parents and hosted an IFC fair. ILG's exposure came mostly through meeting individual pre-frosh and the parties on Friday night.
2. Our rush target for the fall: 10-13 pledges.
3. Rush retreat cancelled for spring and pushed to fall (after work week), to be held at the house.
4. Assistant Rush Chairs or Rush Chair will invite the pre-frosh back... it's better to keep things on the individual level of contact, as opposed to a mass email. There will be no mass mail of rush books to freshman this year – replaced by a booklet in which each ILG gets one page.
5. No freshman calling list will be available due to parental complaints.
6. Spring rush: not many pledges in entire system. We had no pledges. Freshman were much busier with schoolwork this term because no longer had Pass/No Record during the second term. Doesn't really matter that we got no pledges... we are set for numbers anyway.

### **Summer House Manager – Mike Kahan**

1. There may be about 17 brothers living here. Most brothers' summer plans have been falling through. We may house brothers from other chapters. Where should the money earned this summer go – to help lower our house bills or somewhere else? Chapter will form a committee for how to spend any extra money.

## **CORPORATE REPORTS**

### **President – Karl Büttner**

1. Senior dinner: Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at a restaurant to be determined.
2. Scholarship dinner: Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> (for certain). Capacity is the big question in venue choice. Expected attendance: actives, people from Bob Swanson's era, local alumni (30-40 alumni and guests in all). Possible locations (if not at the house): the Algonquin Club (Fairfield & Comm. Ave.), the University Club in the Back Bay, the MIT faculty club, etc. Invitations will go out by end of this week via email. At least 10-15 alums with guests already and possibly more from the local area. The idea of having it at the house is good, but the seating situation will be very complicated. There have been snafus in past over transportation to somewhere else. Another option: meet and hold dinner at the Faculty Club or elsewhere. Ideas: open house all day for alums coming by? Hold a desert bar here after dinner elsewhere?

### **Treasurer – Josh Littlefield**

1. Received all the treasurer's material two days ago. Still figuring what is what. Still have around \$20k or \$22k in bank.
2. The Chapter owes the Corporation rent. Rent is normally reviewed in spring and has been \$22k/term for a while. Rent has been rising by \$1k or \$2k every couple of years. We should revisit setting the rent in the fall.
3. The Chapter pays property taxes, but the Corporation reimburses them for it.
4. We are still trying to get the signatures on the Corporation bank accounts straightened out.

### **Capital Campaign – Doug Bailey**

1. We have a 12 month fundraising timetable from Phi Kappas for their renovation. This timetable needs tweaking relative to our economic environment and technology. Now would be a difficult time to launch a campaign due to the current economic situation.

2. Once a capital campaign was launched, we would have to go for success.
3. MIT might count gifts to fraternities towards its annual campaign – there could be tax deductibility possibilities.
4. AILG speaker Jon Williamson (317-872-1112) knows 3 people in prominent law firms that can give free advice (up to a certain level) for stuff like this (e.g. how to tax shelter donations)... there may be a charge for more advice. Give him a call.
5. The National Inter-fraternity Conference is pushing rider for bill to make all donations to fraternities tax deductible. We could see this passed in this congress... it's on the horizon.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Work Week (formal approval of budget, materials) – Brady Young**

1. “Very urgent” items include: serving room floor, heat exchangers, basement electrical work. Those items affected by a renovation are also included on this list (i.e. this maintenance not relying on a renovation happening any time soon).
2. We will try to put down a new floor in the serving room. Options include: 1) hire a contractor, 2) quick fix: new tiles, 3) quick fix: brace the beams underneath. We could put in a drain (if the floor can handle it) or put down waterboard (not plywood) by ourselves. Water infiltration from washing the dishes is the cause of the problem. Also, we'll look at the plumbing in that room. If there is rot on beams underneath the floor, then we should address this now, rather than cover it back up.
3. Basement electrical work: there are now two circuits on one breaker. Sparks literally flew last time we tried to take a look at it. This will be put on the Work Week budget, but we will take care of it before then: probably right after finals. This is really a physical plant issue, so Alumni House Manager could take care of it immediately for safety reasons.
4. Long range thought: approve a general number, let Alumni House Manager, House Manager, Work Week Manager get together and work out the particulars. Board needs to focus on bigger capital items.
5. *The board approved a motion* to put a \$6,000 cap on expenses, the breakdown to be handled by committee lead by Alumni House Manager, with other \$300-\$400 major capital projects to be handled by Alumni House Manager.
6. Note: Piano tuning is covered by the house, not the Corporation.

### **Annual Capital Campaign – Herb Mower**

1. The number of donors remains about the same, but the amount given is probably going to be a little less.

### **AILG Meeting Facts, Comments (handout) – Herb Mower**

1. Nationally, fraternity presidents normally have been brothers for 6 months and are usually sophomores.
2. Chapter Advisors usually hold the position for 18 months.
3. Dave Rodgers (R.S.L.P. office) was impressed with our chapter, especially regarding Derby Days and our Chapter's GPA (4.52/5.0 -- #1 out of all fraternities).

### **Dining Room Chair Committee – Danny Craig**

1. The template is finished and well known. Materials cost around \$130/chair. We need about 15 chairs. Estimated costs are \$1800 for the set of 15. Two people can produce about one chair every one or two days. Our goal: 10 chairs for this summer. Last time, the Corporate Board

Treasurer (Tom Faust) wrote me a check. Labor cost: free summer housing for two brothers involved in making the chairs.

2. *The board approved a motion* to set aside \$3,000 for materials, labor for 15 chairs.

**Search for a new Resident Advisor (RA) – Rory Foster**

1. If Manoj gets into Harvard Law School, he will be staying here for 1 more year. Otherwise, he will probably defer other schools for a year. The Chapter will keep the Corporate Board updated on the situation.

**Issues the Corporate Board might cover in the fall – Karl Büttner**

1. Recruitment (of younger alumni to the board)
2. Liability/Risk Management
3. Building Needs/Capital Campaign
4. Boston hospitality (or lack there of)
5. Strategic business plan for our house in particular.
6. Recruitment (of the chapter) and what we need to do to keep going.
7. Consistency of alumni events (e.g. softball game).

**Senior Dinner and other important upcoming dates – Adam d’Amico**

1. May 10<sup>th</sup> - Scholarship dinner
2. May 29<sup>th</sup> - Senior dinner

**Corporation Email List – Mike Kahan**

1. Contains all the corporation members.
2. [sigscorp@mit.edu](mailto:sigscorp@mit.edu)

The next meeting will be **September 4, 7:15 PM** at the Chapter house.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Kahan, class of 2003  
Corporate Clerk