

ALPHA THETA CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY, INC.

Alpha Theta Chapter
founded 1882

M.I.T.
founded 1861

February 15, 2004

Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Board, held February 10, 2004.

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 PM in the Chapter House Library.

Present: Karl Büttner '87 (Board) Herb Mower '65 (Board) Adam d'Amico '99 (Chapter Advisor)
P. K. Hadley '72 (Board) Danny Craig '03 (Board) Joe Sikoscow '06 (House Mgr, Board)
Jay Krone '74 (Board) Mike DeLaus '82 (Board) Austin Ford '07 (Spring Rep., Board)
Josh Littlefield '81 (Board) Mark Curtiss '87 Will Stockwell '05 (Consul, Board)
Neel Kantak '05 (G.Z., Board) Mike Kahan '03 Bryan DeLeon '06 (Fall Rep., Board)
Soojin Lee '05 (Quaestor, Board) Brian Guerrero '06 (Fall Rep., Board)

Absent: Jin Kim '06 (Rush Chair) Doug Bailey '72 (Board) Josh Lake '07 (Work Week Mgr)
Leonard Chung '05 (Pro Consul) Ian Sigalow '01

Minutes of the October 28, 2003 meeting were accepted as distributed by e-mail, with the minor change that Herb Mower's class year is 1965, not 1963.

CHAPTER REPORTS

Consul – Will Stockwell

1. Province Conference will be held in the Boston area on 2/21/04. We will be hosting brothers and B.U. will be organizing the events. Food will be provided on Saturday. There will be about 30-35 guys from other chapters staying in our house over that weekend.
2. Derby Days: we are in the process of planning events. We are aiming to include more than just living groups (i.e. professors, student clubs, etc.) to foster a community feeling for the event. As such, we will soon be talking to other groups in the MIT community.
3. Rush Retreat: we are trying to revive the event for this spring. We need to work on budgetary issues (the Applebrook Inn in New Hampshire was asking \$1500 for the weekend). Rush Retreat is a good bonding experience for the Chapter, particularly because it is one of the few brothers-only events that we do.
4. IAP was rather uneventful. Most of the brothers were here over January. Brothers mostly worked, performed research through their UROP's, skied, etc.
5. Rush will immediately follow orientation this upcoming year. MIT will be appointing a committee to evaluate rush in its current state. There is pressure from faculty, administrators, etc. to move rush to IAP. Regarding the timing of rush, the administration's concern is that freshmen need to get settled in and have the opportunity to evaluate all their options. This year will act as an evaluation period for the September rush period. We would probably not want to run rush during IAP for a variety of reasons. Holding rush during IAP would also conflict with many of the athletic programs run at that time.

6. The FSILG task force report (<http://fsilg-task-force.mit.edu>), headed by Prof. Patrick Winston, is still pending. Prof. Winston would be a good person to give feedback to and get feedback from. Along those same lines, we should obtain a faculty advisor.
7. There will be an Alumni I.L.G. (<http://www.mitailg.com>) breakfast meeting Wednesday, 2/18/04. Talk to Herb Mower (mower@alum.mit.edu) if you are interested in going.

Quaestor – Phil Hum (Quaestor elect)

1. The MIT reimbursement for empty beds is actually 10% to 15 % less than what we were promised for this year. The cause for the shortfall is unknown. Last fall's reimbursement was around \$5k and was not included in our budget (i.e. it's extra money).
2. House bills are due on Sunday, 2/15/2004. Actives living in the house owe \$2700 for the term. Bulk plan reimbursement is still \$50. IAP will be billed at a rate of \$10/day.
3. We will be saving 10% on all Sysco purchases this month because of our membership in the FSILG co-op. These savings equate to about \$50/week.
4. Officer budgets are looking good so far. The Magister went over budget by about \$200.

House Manager – Joe Sikoscow

1. The Boston Fire Department has been cracking down on fraternities lately regarding safety inspections. We didn't pass the first two times we were inspected. We have replaced some of the exit signs (0 floor, 1st floor), but others could stand to be replaced as well. We could not locate the 0 floor and 1st floor emergency lights' battery source. We recharged the fire extinguishers. The Ansel system in the kitchen is inspected and up to date. All MIT paperwork is on file with the RSLP office. We need to pass the fire safety inspection by April so we can renew our dorm license. We should have another inspection next week (most likely the house will pass this time).
2. The recent fire at Beta Theta Pi was possibly caused by space heater. The heater was the type with a fan and heating element, not one with radiator coils. The house has several portable radiator space heaters in addition to the built-in radiator heaters in the rooms. The Chapter will be initiating a buy-back program for any portable heating-element style heaters and will replace them with radiator-style heaters.
3. Over IAP, a pipe burst in the kitchen ceiling. We contacted a plumber through the FSILG Co-op fairly easily and the repair work went well. Also during IAP, our alarm went into trouble mode for several minutes at one point – we called American Alarm and straightened it out.
4. We are thinking about reducing the number of phone lines in the house from four to two (not counting the one dedicated to American Alarm) because most everyone has a cell phone now.

CORPORATE REPORTS

President – Karl Büttner

1. The annual donation campaign seems to be going well. So far, about 60 people have responded and contributions are up over last year. More people are donating at least \$100 and there are several people in the 532 club. We kicked off the campaign a little late, but we are on pace to receive more money than in previous years.
2. MIT is searching for a new president. Chuck Vest will step down sometime in the next year.
3. Alex d'Arbeloff '49 stepped down as the Chairman of the MIT Corporation this year (<http://web.mit.edu/corporation>).

4. Brother Alex d'Arbeloff '49 has been named a Significant Sig by the Sigma Chi Fraternity. The honor is one of the Fraternity's highest and recognizes "those alumni members whose achievements in their fields of endeavor have brought honor and prestige to the name of Sigma Chi." We extend our hearty congratulations to him on this prestigious honor.
5. The scholarship dinner went well last year and we plan on making it an annual event. This year, we'll attempt to pick a late April to mid May date for the dinner. We will be finalizing the date within the next couple of weeks.
6. We need to schedule the Senior Dinner for sometime before Commencement.
7. MIT's class of 1949 will be holding their 55th reunion this year. For those Sigs attending, there will be an era reunion of class years 1945-1954 as well. If you are interested in attending the era reunion, please contact Carl Bergmann '49 (cab@alum.mit.edu).

Treasurer – Josh Littlefield

1. We are already about \$3k above budgeted contribution amounts for this fiscal year (based on numbers for the last fiscal year).
2. Residential property taxes in Boston are going up maybe 20+%. Recent legislation makes this not as bad as it might have been, but the increase still hurts our situation. This is a significantly higher tax amount than we were expecting. A preliminary estimate is that we will probably have to pay up to \$1600 more per year (10% increase). We did get re-assessed recently, but our property value didn't go up significantly.
3. We have around \$18k in the bank. The Chapter owes the Corporation rent of about \$24k. The Corporation owes the Chapter for recent plumbing and other repairs... we'll settle up soon.
4. I filed our income taxes recently, which was oh so much fun. As a non-profit corporation, we didn't make any money, thus we didn't need to pay any money.
5. Our set-aside bank account for educational activities doesn't reflect the true amount of restricted assets because money was not transferred in the past, so we have less money available for general use than we thought.

Building Needs Committee – Mike DeLaus and P.K. Hadley

1. The heat output in rooms really varies from room to room. Some rooms are quite hot, others are not. Rooms on the 4th floor in the front of the house are warmer, while those in the back of the house are cooler due to air coming off the river.
2. The 0 floor heater in bar needs to be looked at.

Capital Campaign Committee – Karl for Doug Bailey

1. We will get an update from Doug at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Work Week Budget – Joe Sikoscow (for Josh Lake) (1 handout)

1. We are looking to do several large projects, but none appear to be extremely hard. Proposed large projects include (see the handout for the full list of projects):
2. Re-polyurethane most of 1st floor, 2nd floor, including around the carpets.
3. Replace the countertop and install new cabinets in the 1st floor serving room.
4. Power wash the front of the house (being careful to not wash away the mortar between the bricks... we'll use lower pressure to accomplish this).

5. Renovate the 0 floor bathroom, including painting it, replacing the toilet, etc.
6. Shore up the back stairs down to the 0 floor. We are still obtaining estimates from several contractors (this work would be done before work week and would not be counted towards the work week budget).
7. Refinish the front doors (the door to the outside and the doors in the front vestibule).
8. Finish putting together the Sigma Chi dining room chairs that have not yet been completed.
9. We might pay brothers to cook lunch instead of buying food during work week (this might save us \$1000).
10. Target for the work week budget is around \$4,000. The budget will be formally approved at the Corporate Board meeting in April.

On Next Meeting's Agenda

1. Work Week budget
2. Chapter rent FY05
3. Scholarship Dinner
4. Senior Dinner
5. Capital Campaign report
6. Setting the date for the Pledge Dinner in September.

The next meeting will be **April 13, 2004, 7:15 PM** at the Chapter house.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Kahan, class of 2003
Corporate Clerk