

# ALPHA THETA CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY, INC.

Alpha Theta Chapter  
founded 1882

M.I.T.  
founded 1861

April 18, 2004

Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Board, held April 13, 2004.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 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)                      Doug Bailey '72 (Board)                      Will Stockwell '05 (Consul, Board)  
Neel Kantak '05 (G.Z., Board)                      Mark Curtiss '87                      Phil Hum '06 (Quaestor, Board)  
Brady Young '06                      Mike Kahan '03

Absent: Josh Lake '07 (Work Week Mgr)                      Ian Sigalow '01                      Bryan DeLeon '06 (Fall Rep., Board)  
Leonard Chung '05 (Pro Consul)                      Jin Kim '06 (Rush Chair)                      Brian Guerrero '06 (Fall Rep., Board)

Minutes of the February 10, 2004 meeting were accepted as distributed by e-mail.

## CHAPTER REPORTS

### Consul – Will Stockwell

1. We hosted Province Conference in February, which went well. About 30 guys from other chapters stayed at the house. I talked with Shawn George, our Grand Praetor.
2. We held Rush Retreat two weeks ago. The freshman got acclimated to our rush system. We are holding CPW this weekend and are starting to rush now for next year. Rush will be held immediately after orientation and this year's version will be used by the MIT administration in deciding whether or not to move rush to IAP.
3. Derby Days was cancelled because our planning was too far behind schedule. This year was a case of too little, too late. We will be participating in Harvard's Derby Days next weekend.
4. We are holding a faculty dinner on Thursday.
5. Sigma Alpha Epsilon is petitioning the IFC to get reconstituted and I am involved in the committee making the yes/no decision. SAE is trying to restart with a few Delta Tau Delta de-pledges. The original SAE alumni are backing the reconstitution and have a lot of cash on hand (from the sale of their house). The IFC might decide they don't want SAE to be part of IFC – if this is the case, they might need to call in alumni because a lot of SAE alumni are pressing for them to get reconstituted. SAE might be interested in locating on Vassar St.
6. Delta Kappa Epsilon has been temporarily evicted from their house for alcohol violations during pre-orientation 2003.

### House Manager – Joe Sikoscow

1. The water main is leaking somewhere in front of the water meter near the sidewalk. The sidewalk is our responsibility for 18 inches out from the lawn. Since the leak resides on our

property, it is our responsibility to fix it. We called up contracting companies and got the following estimates (which include any sidewalk work): highest: \$6000, lowest: \$3500-\$4000. We went through the Co-op to find contractors. Water is starting to leak into the house, so it is in our best interest to fix it now. Because the pipe in the ground is a lead pipe, it must be replaced. There is a time limit on fixing the leak (30 days), before the city shuts off the water. This will be a Corporation responsibility to pay for.

2. *The board approved a motion* to spend up to \$3500 for fixing the sidewalk. P.K. Hadley will be the alumni coordinator.

#### **Quaestor – Phil Hum (1 handout, multiple pages)**

1. The handout is in regards to costs for in-house vs. out-of-house brothers, expenditures, etc. The budget is current as of 4/12/2004.
2. We went over budget on Province Conference. We are waiting on check from Shawn George to reimburse us for expenses incurred.
3. The social committee is still under budget.
4. The money situation for the chapter looks fine. There are currently 25 people living in the house, including the Resident Advisor (Manoj Viswanathan '07). Next year, we are expecting 27 to 28 brothers will be living in the house.
5. We will probably have less than the net ~\$15,000 profit from last year from summer renting.

### **CORPORATE REPORTS**

#### **President – Karl Büttner**

1. MIT's search for next president is ongoing. President Vest will be stepping down sometime in the next academic year. The search committee is looking for input from fraternity alumni. On the web: <http://web.mit.edu/president/search>.
2. The FSILG task force is looking at the issues of the fraternity system and rush. There is a report due in the April to June timeframe. Patrick Winston is the head of the task force.
3. There is an AILG meeting tomorrow (Wednesday). There is also a movement afoot to get fraternity alumni involved in Campus Preview Weekend (for incoming freshman), with perhaps an event on Saturday afternoon (some sort of panel) to put a positive spin on the fraternity system.
4. The R.S.L.P. office will be publishing a compliance guide calendar for things like inspection deadlines, etc.
5. Bob Ferrara ([rferrara@mit.edu](mailto:rferrara@mit.edu)) was hired by MIT as a contact for ILG alumni corporations.

#### **Treasurer – Josh Littlefield (1 handout)**

1. There was an increased level of alumni donations received.
2. Property taxes will probably be \$14,400 (lower than expected). Our residential property tax rate gets the benefit of a law enacted this year. The last quarterly tax payment was about \$1500, instead of \$4000. The savings will go towards fixing the water main.
3. Everything else is about the same as in the budget handout. We might finish in the black this year, but there is some building maintenance that we can't afford to put off any longer.
4. There will still be two issues of the Beaver Sig on this budget.
5. We may owe the Chapter some money for replacing the lighted exit signs.
6. The Corporation sent a check to the Chapter for fire inspection expenses.

### **Building Needs Committee – P.K. Hadley**

1. There is a large amount of water in the back lot when it rains, thus we need to sweep the drain more often.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

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

1. Projects (see handout for the full list):
  - Re-polyurethane the first floor dining room.
  - Replace the countertops in first floor kitchen.
  - Major work in the 0 floor bathroom. Replace toilet (or tank) and tiling. Repaint it.
  - Computer room ceiling will be replaced (due to 3<sup>rd</sup> floor bathroom flood).
  - Rebuild the shelves in the third floor closet.
  - Finish more dining room chairs.
  - Fill holes in wood floors and polyurethane the staircase around the carpet.
  - Secure and rebuild the top hatch on 4<sup>th</sup> floor (possibly put in a skylight).
  - Replace one or two doors and doorknobs in the house.
  - Fix the front door.
  - Re-wire the Ethernet drops in 2LB – Adam d’Amico ‘99 offered to donate his services.
2. Estimates to fix the 4<sup>th</sup> floor banister (shaky) and 0 floor stairs (sagging) ran about \$1500. We had previously approved money to fix these issues – these expenses will not be taken out of this year’s work week budget.
3. Last years work week budget was \$2400.
4. *The board approved a motion* to budget \$3500 for Work Week Fall 2004.

#### **Chapter Rent FY05 – Phil Hum and Josh Littlefield**

1. Last year, the Corporation raised the Chapter’s rent by 10% (first time in 3 yrs). Current Chapter rent is: \$48,000, paid in two installments. We would like to raise the rent to \$50,000.
2. According to data from RSLP office on FSILG rents, the median semester rent for Fall 2002 was \$3,000 and the mean was \$2,600 per person (per term?). Current dormitory room and board is \$8,710 per year. It looks like our rent is competitive vs. other FSILGs. A \$2000 increase in rent would raise the rent by \$35/person for 28 people.
3. Rent vs. other fraternities has not yet been a problem with regard to rushing prospective freshman (i.e. the Chapter’s rent hasn’t yet been too high to turn away many rushees).
4. A higher rent on the chapter goes right back into the work week budget.
5. We currently have about \$40,000 in the bank. \$8000 of that is the set-aside fund for educational purposes. We have several known upcoming expenses: Beaver Sig, Property taxes, etc. Last year, the Corporation had dangerously low cash reserves (\$18,000, of which \$8,000 we couldn’t use for maintenance).
6. *The board approved a motion* to set the Chapter’s rent for Fiscal Year 2005 (September 1, 2004 to August 31, 2005) to \$50,000.

#### **Scholarship Dinner – Karl Büttner**

1. We will be holding the event in conjunction with the MIT reunions and Tech Night at the Pops. The dinner will be **Thursday, June 3** from **5 PM – 8 PM**. We have secured a dining room at Symphony Hall to hold the event. There is no need for chartering a bus as in past

years, due to the close proximity to MIT / Alpha Theta. The per head room fee will be roughly \$10-\$15. Catering will be extra.

2. On the down side, some undergrads will be out of town for the summer. On the up side, this event will provide alumni an Alpha Theta event to attend as they come back for their five year MIT reunions. Every year would get a different set of alumni that will be in town for their reunion. This event is also a way for the chapter to honor the graduating seniors, as they will be in town for graduation. In addition, the senior's parents might also be in town and this event will be a good way to get them involved.
3. Last year, we charged \$40/person for alumni and guests.
4. This year's seniors (class of 2004) will be surveyed as to whether to combine this event with the traditional Senior Dinner.

### **Pledge Dinner**

1. The date has been set for **Thursday, September 23, 2004.**

### **Alpha Theta Website (<http://sigmachi.mit.edu>) – Mike Kahan**

1. Stewart Howe data services probably have the most recent address information of alumni and friends. I'll contact them to arrange a way of synchronizing our website's database with theirs.
2. I've added an Alumni Correspondence section where alumni can post an update as to what they have been up to.
3. I've also added a big brothers line section showing who is in what line. Check it out when you get the chance.
4. Once you login, you can update your personal information and adjust your various privacy settings (usually set to "brothers-only viewable" by default).
5. Alumni, if you have pictures you would like to put on the webpage, please send them to me at [mkahan@alum.mit.edu](mailto:mkahan@alum.mit.edu).

The next meeting will be **September 14, 2004, 7:15 PM** at the Chapter house.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Kahan, class of 2003  
Corporate Clerk