

ALPHA THETA CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY, INC.

Alpha Theta Chapter
founded 1882

M.I.T.
founded 1861

October 29, 2004

Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Board, held September 28, 2004.

The meeting was called to order at 7:19 PM in the Chapter House Library.

Present: Karl Büttner '87 (Board) Herb Mower '65 (Board) Adam d'Amico '99 (Chapter Advisor)
Josh Littlefield '81 (Board) Danny Craig '03 (Board) Joe Sikoscow '06 (House Mgr, Board)
Phil Kim '06 (Consul, Board) Jay Krone '74 (Board) Austin Ford '07 (Spring Rep., Board)
Josh Lake '07 (Work Week Mgr) Bo Kim (R.A.) Ethan Rigel '06 (Quaestor, Board)
Aaron Doody '07 (Fall Rep., Board)

Absent: Mike DeLaus '82 (Board) Doug Bailey '72 (Board) Will Stockwell '05 (G.Z., Board)
Mike Kahan '03 (Clerk) P. K. Hadley '72 (Board) Matt Kaser '07 (Fall Rep., Board)

Minutes of the April 13, 2004 meeting were accepted as distributed by e-mail.

CHAPTER REPORTS

Consul – Phil Hum

1. Rush closed on Friday, September 17. We had a total of ten pledges by Sunday. This was on the low end of the 10-12 we wanted, but we are very happy with the pledges we got.
2. Rush numbers for MIT as a whole were up slightly (by about 20). Some houses only had two pledges. This week's *Tech* has a table showing how houses have fared over time. Rush at MIT went smoothly with respect to rules and alcohol. The administration may encourage an IAP rush in addition to the fall rush to help houses fill any additional beds they were not able to fill through the fall rush.
3. The schedule seemed to work well, with MIT orientation coming first, followed by rush, which started before classes, but there were two days of dead time between orientation and rush. Classes started Wed. and bids went out Fri., so there was some overlap with classes. Pledging was spread out over a longer period, rather than having most pledge on the first day.
4. Two or three rushees asked about living costs, but it didn't seem to be a principal concern.

Quaestor – Ethan Rigel

1. There are now 23 living in the house and three actives living out-of-house. One active may move in for the spring.
2. The fall housebill is \$2800. Non-residents pay \$500.
3. Summer House income was lower than anticipated. Estimated income is about \$2000.
4. Ethan is working to resolve a delinquent tax return issue with the IRS (the chapter neglected to file a return the previous year). The board encouraged a speedy resolution.

Work Week – Josh Lake

1. Josh circulated a summary of the projects completed and total expenses. Work week expenses came to \$3487, just under the budget of \$3500.
2. Notable among the projects were new polyurethane finish for the bar and dining room floors, effective (hopefully) repair of the roof hatch (it now rolls), complete refurbishing of the zero floor bathroom, repair and repainting of the music room and library windows, replacement of the laundry room ceiling, new cabinets in the butler's pantry and landscaping of the front lawn (but not over the water main, which is still an item of dispute with the contractor).
3. The board asked Josh to provide a more detailed accounting of work week expenses prior to a vote for reimbursement.

House Manager – Joe Sikoscow (for Brady Young)

1. There was a problem with the water heater at the end of the summer. The contractor called to repair it did not fix the problem, though he replaced many parts. In the end it turned out the gas was barely flowing, and the main gas valve was closed or malfunctioning. Keyspan came and replaced the valve and meter at no charge. The contractor billed us for lots of time and parts, despite not fixing the problem. We're trying to get the bill reduced, and will arrange a meeting with the contractor through the FSILG Coop.
2. The dryer died over the summer and was replaced. This is a chapter expense.
3. We are still trying to work out the dispute over the water main repair, which we believe to be sub-standard and possibly in violation of plumbing code. Brady is working with Chris Rezek of the FSILG Coop to set up a meeting with the contractor.

CORPORATE REPORTS

President – Karl Büttner

1. We held this year's scholarship dinner in conjunction with the MIT reunions. While the timing, which was after classes and exams were finished, had the anticipated effect of reducing undergraduate attendance, we had good alumni participation. Chancellor Phil Clay was the keynote speaker. He emphasized the importance of the fraternity system and the important role it will play in MIT's future, and recognized Sigma Chi's contributions to the MIT community. Three scholarships were presented, and remembrances of Robert Swanson and Prof. Curt Powell were enjoyed. The feedback was very positive.
2. We will need to consider whether to maintain this later scholarship dinner scheduling, or to move it back to May again next year. We might want to alternate each year, since the earlier scheduling is better for the actives, but synchronizing with MIT's reunions provides more opportunity for alumni attendance.
3. Thanks to the efforts of Carl Bergmann, many from the classes of '46-'54 attended a reunion dinner the previous night, where Alex d'Arbeloff was presented with the Significant Sig award by Consul Will Stockwell '05 on behalf of Sigma Chi national. They also made a good showing for the scholarship dinner.
4. The IRDF is creating a new program for grants in support of FSILG operating expenses, such as utilities, insurance, and property taxes. The program will start this academic year, covering expenses for last year. These grants can apply to the percentage of these expenses that are educational in nature. In support of that, MIT has offered to survey each house and prepare CAD drawings, which can be used to determine the percentage of floor area

considered educational. Our house has been surveyed, and we also provided MIT with copies of our own CAD drawings. We should apply for a grant as soon as they begin accepting applications. Josh will arrange to work with Ethan, Phil, and others to plan our application.

5. The FSILG Task Force has issued its final draft report, which is available at <http://web.mit.edu/dsl/aurora/home.html>. It makes many observations and recommends a plan for improving the system of FSILGs at MIT. Comments are encouraged from the current MIT community and alumni, and can be offered on-line.
6. MIT has selected a new president, Dr. Susan Hockfield. Austin Ford indicated that the actives are planning faculty dinners, and would like to invite the new president.
7. The MIT Alumni Leadership Conference is coming up, and will include sessions on the Task Force report, as well as the IRDF grants program.
8. Mike Kahan '03, Corporate Clerk, has moved to New York City for a job and will no longer be able to attend Corporate Board meetings. The Board extends its sincere thanks to Mike for his service as Corporate Clerk, and wishes him the best of luck in NYC. A new Corporate Clerk will be elected as part of the standard officer elections at the upcoming Annual Meeting.

Fundraising – Karl Büttner

1. Last year we made efforts to increase our annual fundraising by adjusting the suggested giving levels, creating a new category of recognition, and making a more direct appeal in the annual letter. This effort was successful, and our brothers responded with double the prior year's contributions. We need to continue at this level going forward, which will allow us to achieve a more comfortable balance of reserves than we currently have.
2. The number of donors is down somewhat over the late 1990's, though it is higher than the earlier years of this decade. We'd like to broaden the base of donations across our alumni.

Capital Campaign – Karl Büttner (for Doug Bailey)

1. As we all know, the capital campaign has been on hold since the economic recession. Doug, who was unable to attend tonight, relayed the message that we are getting to the point of picking it up again. Doug continues to work in the background, investigating sources of seed capital.

Treasurer – Josh Littlefield

1. Rent for this year is \$50K, as set at the previous board meeting, with \$25K due now. Josh will settle up with Ethan shortly, since the corporation owes money to the house for some repairs and other expenses.
2. Preliminary figures for FY04 indicate net income of \$18K, which is much better than the \$200 we had budgeted, and will help to start restoring a more comfortable reserve for the corporation. However, some of this perceived income (abt. \$4500) is due to a variety of expenses deferred until FY05 for one reason or another, such as the alarm contract and water main repair.
3. We had about \$22K in the bank at the end of FY04 (August 31), which is a \$12K increase over last year.

Workshop Report – Danny Craig

1. Danny attended Workshop at Kansas State.

2. Hazing was a primary focus, with lots of discussion about efforts to prevent it. Other topics included recruiting and financial stability.
3. We did not win a Peterson award this year. The chapter did not submit an application, apparently because they did not believe (correctly or not) that they could qualify. The board expressed their disappointment, and encouraged to chapter to address any issues and apply for the award next year.

Risk Management – Herb Mower

1. The AILG has put together an alcohol awareness committee, and Herb is a member. The past efforts by the chapter and corporation were recognized when looking to establish the AILG alcohol awareness campaign. Sigma Chi is one of the only houses with a Risk Manager position on the corporate board.
2. The AILG, along with the MIT Club of Boston, is conducting a series of three alcohol awareness discussion sessions. Herb noted that Miss Massachusetts, Erika Ebbel '04, will be emcee and moderator.
3. The discussions will be held Nov. 3, in the Bush Room, Nov. 4, at the Natick town library, and Nov. 8, at the Yangtze River restaurant in Lexington. All are scheduled for a 6:30PM reception with the talk beginning at 7PM. RSVP to bobferrara@alum.mit.edu.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. We need to set a date for the pledge dinner. October 4 looks like the best date. We'll dine at Ciao Bella at 7:45, in order to give the pledges time to change after sports practices, and to get across the river.
2. Homecoming, which includes a new tailgating tradition, will be on October 16.

The next meeting, our annual meeting, was tentatively scheduled for October 27, but may need to be rescheduled. Karl will work out details via email.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Josh Littlefield
Substitute Corporate Clerk