

**Theta Xi Board of Directors Meeting
September 19, 2002, 7:00pm**

Board Members present: Bachman, Baker, Berkheimer, Davis, DeCleene, Hazen, Hickey, Himmelblau, Howard, Joseph, Gruber, Kenney, Kushman, Maples, Wuonola.
Board Members absent: Kimble.

Others present: Bryan Adams (RA). Brothers Camilo Aladro, Matt Carvey, Dave Dopson, Aaron Du, Matt Jacobs, Martin Jonikas, Dave Pritchard, and Ben Smith.

Minutes

Motion proposed by Gruber to accept minutes from February 2002 and June 2002 without re-reading, as they had been made available to board members for comment in advance of the meeting. Motion was seconded and passed without dissent.

Reports

President (Baker)

- Stephen encouraged alumni to attend the MIT Alumni Leadership Conference on September 21st.
- Tom Davis gave more information about the conference, highlighting the fact that there will be a special section dedicated to FSILG issues.
- Announced that there will be an AILG next week to decide on the proposal to form an Oversight Committee which would observe and comment on house operation at the alumni and undergrad level. The intent is for it to be primarily focused on management issues. Whether or not to include alcohol issues is still a hot button topic. The VERY long term goal is to eliminate some of the heat from Boston Licensing Board and Cambridge Licensing Commission by showing that we can regulate ourselves. Reports from the group would go to the AILG, warts included. Stephen queried for any objections to this idea, or any other input on how we should vote. No objections were raised.
- There will be a Bylaw Committee meeting soon.
- Michael Thatch has returned waiver, and Howard confirmed that his severance check has been sent. Clarified that his health care will be paid through December 31st (it's fairly close to the 21 weeks, and is an easier deadline to work with).

Treasurer (Howard)

- Expenditures exceeded income by \$50,000 for the fiscal year from July 2001 - June 2002. Income was \$186,000 and expenses were \$236,000. The current account balance is \$4,000 (up from -\$10,000 in February).
- Some of the loss has been recovered through recent term bill collection.
- Surplus is expected this year to get the balance back up.
- There will be a forthcoming post mortem on where the money went.
- This month is the last for the old-style term bill collection by Corp. Next month begins the new arrangement of charging the undergrads a single monthly fee.
- Under the new arrangement, corporation account will still pay for taxes, Stewart Howe, ILG dues, insurance, mortgage, and long-term repairs and improvements (such as major appliances). The Corporation will charge the active members approximately \$35,000 a term. Actives will cover utilities, routine maintenance, commissary, etc.

Clerk (Berkheimer)

- Nothing to Report

Trustees (DeCleene)

- Queried the board for opinions on where to move the remainder of the pension fund after paying out Michael Thatch's health insurance.

- Hazen moved to move the remainder of the account to the building fund.
- There was discussion on whether the pension fund had any special tax status which may prohibit this. Trustees believe that this is just a normal account, but will double check.
- There was discussion on what to do about the annual contribution to the pension fund (currently set at \$35 per active member).
- Hazen amended his motion, adding that the annual contribution would be eliminated.
- The motion was seconded as amended, and passed without dissent.

Capital Campaign (Davis)

- Delta Digest had an article on how to give to the house via the IRDF. No impact yet, but hoping to see a blip soon.

Relocation (Hazen)

- No recent news, it appears to be buried on some administrators' head. No good estimate on whether or not there is even a chance of the project coming back to life.
- Looks like MIT doesn't have the money in the right bucket for this, which is made worse by the \$1 million subsidy to houses this year during the housing transition. The subsidy is a temporary one, being gradually phased out over 5 years.
- In response to a question, TJ reports that the project is "public" enough that it could be openly discussed at the Alumni Leadership Conference.

Chapter Treasurer (Hickey)

- Term bill this year will be about \$2,500. This charge does not include money to cover rush expenses. Rush related expenses will be billed separately to all brothers (residential and non-residential).
- Outstanding account collections currently stand at about \$25,000. Most of that is from brothers and alumni who no longer live at the house. \$5,000 is from a single brother who is not returning to MIT.

Chapter House Manager (Ben Smith)

- Gave a quick work week post-mortem: work was done to address lighting problems and rebuild the lofts in North, along with other miscellaneous repairs.
- Stephen Baker reiterated the desire to have the active chapter ban future loft building.

Old Business

Sprinkler Update

- David Pritchard reported that the new sprinkler heads are in place. The contractor is getting a permit to install a backflow valve. After that the actives will hold the annual sprinkler and egress inspections.
- Cost of work is tracking close to estimate (around \$8,000 - \$9,000).
- Stephen Baker wants to look at the work before making final payment.

Cook Update

- The Board asked the undergrads for their initial impressions of the new cook. The undergrads reported that they were very happy, and that dinner attendance has significantly increased.

New Business

Stewart Howe

- Farmey Joseph expressed displeasure with Stewart Howe, and the poor job they did printing our last Delta Digest.
- Discussion resolved around the fact that this comes up occasionally but that there are not better alternatives.

- The point was made that alumni database and contact management is Stewart Howe's strong suit, not newsletter printing.
- Tom Davis suggests that we could get someone else to actually print the Delta Digest.

Fall Alumni Event

- Baker queried the undergrads if there was any sort of alumni event planned for Head of the Charles weekend. Response was that there was none, and the weekend already had too many other MIT events.
- Urges undergrads to get a fall event going to bolster alumni activity.

Annual Meeting

- Those present were polled to determine what day of the week would be good for the next annual meeting. No days in particular were worse than any other.
- A straw date of Wednesday, October 30th was set for the Annual Stockholders' Meeting. The meeting would begin at 6:45pm, with dinner at 6pm for those who could make it.

House Improvements

- Question was raised on what house improvements would be targeted next now that hot water/heater system and sprinklers are done.
- The FY2002 capital expenditures budget is already used up because of those two projects, but we need to start prioritizing for next summer.
- Potential upcoming projects are to replace the windows in 64, or redo floors which are in the worst shape and may have safety implications.
- Target was set to have a proposal for the annual meeting.

Risk Management

- This was a long discussion between the alumni and undergrads about what the undergrads currently do to manage their risk.
- Bryan Adams summarized the talk that Dan Trujillo (a new MIT residence dean, also known as the "Alcohol Czar") gave to the undergrads on September 9th. The main take away from that was that it was better to formalize and write down an "imperfect" policy than to have no policy at all. The policy must reflect what actually happens.
- The undergrads discussed the current situation. The general consensus was that the actives already have good common sense policies for typical "open" (advertised, BYOB), and "closed" parties which are organized and run by the entire house. There was concern over what were described as "medium" parties - events which start out as personal parties of a few people, and then grow larger to the point that they become similar to "closed" parties, but without the oversight.
- Reminder came up often that the key of Risk Management is to reduce the chance of something bad happening, and should not focus on liability.
- Board members expressed concern that we need to defend against the ebbs and flows of awareness as the years go by.
- Suggestion was made that the Risk Management policy should be discussed and voted on annually, to ensure that it is discussed every year.
- The chapter was tasked to write down and formalize what they currently do for risk management, and to come up with more solid policies for the "medium" parties.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting is tentatively scheduled to occur immediately after the Annual Stockholders Meeting on October 30, 2002. The Annual Stockholders Meeting begins at 6:45pm.

Meeting adjourned