

Minutes of FSILG GPA Publication Committee Meeting Conference Call

24 January 2008

Present:

Steve Baker, AILG Chair and TXi Alumni Treasurer
Jim Bueche, AILG Treasurer and CP Alumni President
Danny Eads, Former IFC President
Mariah Hoover, AXO President
Kaya Miller, FSILG Office
Angela Wu, Former Panhel VP of Recruitment

Not Present:

Dan Geer, TDC Alumni President and Former AILG Chair
LGC Student Representative

1. The Committee convened at 5:30 pm.
2. SB summarized the charge to the Committee as follows:
 - Identify the current GPA release policy;
 - Identify who has requested GPA information and why;
 - Propose a new policy (or reconfirmation of the existing policy) for approval by the AILG.
 - Report the new policy to the AILG Plenary for adoption at its February meeting (prior to publication of the Fall 2007 grade information).
3. KM presented the current FSILG GPA Release Policy:
 - The FSILG Office verifies membership of each chapter / ILG in consultation with living group presidents. Membership includes only those students who are currently registered at MIT for the applicable semester.
 - The FSILG Office makes a serious effort to insure that its membership lists are accurate. Each list is verified at least twice each semester. KM believes that current membership lists are fairly accurate.
 - New members are not included in their living group's GPA calculation for their first semester of membership. (Freshmen are not included in GPA calculations for the entire year.)
 - The FSILG Office obtains grade information from the Registrar's office and calculates GPAs for each chapter / ILG, and aggregate GPAs for each of the 3 peer groups (LGC, PHC, IFC), plus an all-FSILG average.
 - The FSILG ranks each chapter / ILG within its peer group and among all FSILG's as a whole. This information is not published.
 - An "Honor Roll" is created and publicized to the FSILG community, consisting of the living groups with the top third GPAs across all FSLGs. The Honor Roll is presented in random or alphabetic order, NOT in grade point order, and with no grade information displayed.
 - The four peer-group GPAs (PHC, LGC, IFC, and all-FSILG) and the Honor Roll are distributed to all IFC, PHC, and LGC presidents and the AILG list (via email). No individual chapter / ILG GPA data is published.
 - Each chapter / ILG can obtain its own GPA on request. The FSILG Office will distribute this information only to chapter presidents or key alumni volunteers.
 - International fraternity / sorority offices can receive the same chapter GPA information as chapter presidents and alumni volunteers on request.
 - Sororities (PHC groups) may obtain GPAs of all other sororities upon request by the responsible officer.

- Any chapter / ILG may opt out from inclusion in the Honor Roll. When a living group opts out, its GPA is still used to calculate the peer group average and the all-FSILG average. At present, WILG has opted out.
4. Discussion about the current policy:
 - Having GPA information is useful to help improve scholarship within the living group and as a motivational tool.
 - Very few undergrads have expressed privacy concerns with current policy.
 - National Sororities require and expect this information in any case, not only in aggregate, but also for individual members.
 - Publishing aggregate peer group GPA information allows for benchmarking against peer group, and also allows for comparison with prior year's performance: is chapter / ILG improving, steady, or worsening?
 - Many groups use this information for awards.
 - Current policy seems to work well.
 - Current policy is a good compromise between individual's privacy and goal of fostering scholarship among chapters.
 - Policy satisfies the minimal requirements that chapters / ILGs need it to do: it provides them with enough information to benchmark themselves and establish how they are doing, but not enough to create unhealthy competition between living groups.
 5. Possible changes to current policy:
 - There were no suggestions for change; Committee unanimously agreed that policy is appropriate as currently written.
 6. Other Issues Discussed:
 - An all-campus GPA would be useful, but it was agreed that pursuing this goal is beyond the scope of this Committee.
 - The Committee agreed that having a process that permits chapters / ILGs to obtain some GPA information about their individual members directly from the Registrar or FSILG Office would be useful. (Exactly what type of information would have to be determined – could be the individual's exact GPA, or perhaps where individuals fall with a GPA range). The Committee recommends that a future AILG / PHC / IFC / LGC committee be charged with exploring feasibility of such a policy in consultation with the Registrar and FSILG Office. It was noted that this policy would have to be voluntary, with participation by living groups determined solely by them.
 7. Motion: A motion to reconfirm the existing policy without changes was made (by Eads), seconded (by Bueche), and passed, unanimously.
 8. The Committee adjourned at 6:30 pm. No additional meetings are planned.

Respectfully,

Steve Baker ('84, Theta Xi)