UNIFIED PROPOSAL

FOR THE

MIT RESIDENCE SYSTEM

Developed and Presented by the

STRATEGIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE CHANCELLOR

In Conjunction with

UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATION
INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL
DORMITORY COUNCIL

October 7, 1999

MOTIVATION & APPROACH

- **Student leaders' common desire to create a fundamentally better residence system**

- **Considers the entire scope of the residence system**
  - ▲ **Major problem with the RSSC: too limited to residence-selection issues**

- **This proposal results from an expansion of the RSSC report's scope.**
  - ▲ **Detailed consideration of ideas in the RSSC's Characteristics section**
  - ▲ **Broad consideration of entire system allowed us to develop better residence-selection proposals.**

COMMUNITY-BASED PROCESS

- **Process completely open and transparent**
  - ▲ **Contributions from students, staff, faculty, and alumni**
- **Included many of those most involved with housing issues**
- **Based on previous Institute documents**
  - ▲ **Task Force, Clay Report, Institute Dining Review, Senior Surveys**
- **Used RSSC's community input, including Design Contest proposals and forum input**

- **RESULT: A CONSENSUS FOR CHANGE.**
  - ▲ **Feedback to date uniformly positive.**

RESIDENCE SYSTEM OBJECTIVES

- **1. HOUSE. System must provide accommodations that are safe, clean, well-maintained, affordable, and available.**
  - ▲ Implies needs for new housing and maintenance programs
- **2. HOME. System must support its residents, allowing them to develop close relationships in a friendly and welcoming home.**
  - ▲ Implies need for informal support systems
  - ▲ Implies needs for system diversity and personal choice
- **3. COMMUNITY. System must be a pillar in building a true MIT community and providing valuable out-of-classroom education.**
  - ▲ Implies need for time to participate
  - ▲ Implies need for funding and spaces to foster community interaction
  - ▲ Implies need for programmatic improvements

RESIDENCE SYSTEM OBJECTIVES
(CONTINUED)

- **House, Home, and Community build from basic to higher-level in a logical progression.**

HOUSE → HOME → COMMUNITY

- **You can't have a home without an adequate house;**
- **You can't have community without an adequate home.**

COMMUNITY INTERACTION AND STUDENT SUPPORT

- **Stakeholders:**
  - ▲ House Fellows
  - ▲ Housemasters
  - ▲ Other faculty members
  - ▲ Graduate Resident Tutors
  - ▲ Alumni
  - ▲ Student peers

COMMUNITY INTERACTION AND STUDENT SUPPORT

- **Programs:**
  - ▲ **Campus-Wide Events**
  - ▲ **Dining**
  - ▲ **Rewards & Recognition**
  - ▲ **Community Facilities**

ORIENTATION AND RESIDENCE SELECTION

- **Strengths**
  - ▲ **High rate of student satisfaction with the residential experience**
  - ▲ **Benefits FSILGs add to the system**
  - ▲ **Merits of the residence halls**
  - ▲ **The four-year housing guarantee for undergraduates**
  - ▲ **Pre-Orientation programs**

ORIENTATION AND RESIDENCE SELECTION

- **Residence Hall and Room Selection: Two Phases**
  - ▲ **Phase 1: Preliminary summer choice, via literature and other media**
  - ▲ **Phase 2: Orientation lottery followed by internal room assignments with positive upperclass involvement**

- **Orientation**
  - ▲ **The central purpose of orientation should be to create the feeling of joining a single, campus-wide community. (Task Force on SL&L)**
  - ▲ **Orientation programs should integrate all aspects and members of the community.**
  - ▲ **Goals and purposes of Orientation**
  - ▲ **Sample Orientation schedule**

ORIENTATION AND RESIDENCE SELECTION

❖ Theme Houses

- ▲ Theme houses add diversity to the housing system; therefore they should be supported.
- ▲ The Student Life Council (see below) should approve the creation of new theme houses.
- ▲ Theme houses must maintain their characters by a selection process.

❖ New Member Recruitment and Selection for FSILGs

- ▲ MIT encourages freshmen to investigate all upperclass housing options.
- ▲ The IFC sets guidelines for new member recruitment, in conjunction with the Student Life Council (see below) and RLSLP.
- ▲ MIT ensures that FSILG recruitment fits into the academic calendar.
- ▲ The IFC will retain autonomy to regulate all aspects of recruitment.

ORIENTATION AND RESIDENCE SELECTION

- **Fall and Spring Dormitory Lotteries**
  - ▲ Lotteries will be held each semester for the following semester's undergraduate housing.
  - ▲ Registration in the lottery will be mandatory.
  - ▲ Students will have the option to remain in their current residence, and not enter the lottery; however, they will be required to register this squatting option on the lottery website. This will greatly reduce the perceived barriers to entering the lottery.

- **Housing Guarantee**
  - ▲ Housing will continue to be guaranteed for 4 years for undergraduates.
  - ▲ Crowded housing is preferable to a lack of housing.
  - ▲ Short-term solutions may be necessary for the transition period.

ORIENTATION AND RESIDENCE SELECTION

❖ Financial Support for FSILGs

- ▲ MIT will provide direct financial support during the transition.
- ▲ Houses in particular financial trouble may apply for additional support.
- ▲ MIT will make a one-time contribution to IRDF of $25 million.
- ▲ MIT will buy houses for the two sororities that are currently unhoused.
- ▲ MIT will support any single-sex fraternity that chooses to become coeducational.
- ▲ MIT will support FSILGs that wish to move closer to campus.

❖ Graduate Students in FSILGs

- ▲ FSILGs may choose to be listed as graduate housing options.
- ▲ However, the system should not rely on graduate students as a primary source of financial support for the FSILGs.

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