

## Update on FSILG Village Initiative –July, 2016

The concept of an FSILG Village began as part of the West Campus planning process, with the initial discussions spearheaded by FSILG alumni. The idea is to ensure there is an “FSILG option” space on West Campus for MIT chapters that wish to move from Boston or Brookline or begin anew the West Campus. The initial alumni proposal was reviewed with MIT senior administration. Today the collaborative study effort now includes over three dozen students, alumni and MIT staff.

The idea is to:

- Construct purposefully built student housing based on the model of the MIT FSILG communities
- Create a voluntary option for FSILGs that desire to move on campus
- Provide housing for new organizations, particularly the growing sorority community

Under the leadership of Steve DeFalco '83, MBA '88 the FSILG Village Steering Group has created three Working Groups to develop a more specific proposal. Two Working Groups began work this summer, one to benchmark and learn from similar efforts at other universities and the other to analyze finances and community sustainability. The third working group, a student-led design group, will focus on creating a space that is appealing to students and incorporates features that support sustainability and the best practices of the MIT FSILG communities. Some of this work is documented at the Association of Independent Living Groups website at <http://ailg.mit.edu/committees/fsilg-village/>.

The overall goal of the FSILG Village endeavor is to ensure a vibrant community for future generations of MIT students. Fraternities, sororities and independent living groups (FSILGs) are an integral and historic part of the MIT community: 43% of undergraduates belong to an FSILG. MIT's FSILG are not stereotypical. They all have a strong focus on academics and acceptance of others. They provide an additional layer of student support and the opportunity to be part of a distinct and caring community. Data from MIT Alumni Association surveys indicate that FSILG alumni are more satisfied with their MIT education, exhibit greater entrepreneurship and business leadership, and are more generous donors.