

Notes from West Campus Village Student Design Workshop January 21, 2017

Steve Baker reported on previous work of the Student Design Committee. 14 students participated in the first workshop session in November. Following that session, the committee launched an online survey that received a subsequent 108 student responses.

The student consensus called for no more than six or seven FSILGs in the Village, around the number of groups expressing serious interest, with the feeling that any more houses than that could lead to mandatory moves. Steve reiterated that this is all completely voluntary and summarized other major points and preferences from the survey:

- absolute independence
- individual entrances
- no interior access
- not like a dorm
- row houses, mixed sizes
- opposition to common space
- suites, with some opposite opinion
- variation in bed count
- secure private entry
- flex space (available as groups overflow), mixed opinion
- no common TV room
- commercial kitchen in all houses, chef-ready
- no big meeting room
- no FSILG office in space
- no mandatory meal plan
- choice on dining
- no shared dining room
- very divided opinion on professional house manager, hence offer option

Steve will put the tabulated survey results on the website.

Tom Stohlman asked the participants what spaces they liked and a diverse and creative list emerged:

Zesiger Center
Central lounge in Baker House
Maker space in Theta Delta Chi basement
Living lounges at Simmons
Margaret Cheney Room, MIT's Women's Community Center 3-310
Kitchens adjoining lounges on East Campus
Harold W. Pierce Boathouse
Big common room, Zeta Beta Tau
Stratton Center, lounge, couches and view
Café under atrium
Sol LeWitt floor in building 6C atrium
Large rooms for 4-6, Alpha Epsilon Pi
Glass walls in Math Department
New House kitchen areas, whole first floor
Study rooms, new Sloan building E52, second floor
McGovern BCS building 46 atrium
Sloan cafeteria and dining room
Ocean Engineering Lounge
New music practice rooms, building 14, Hayden
Front stoop, Delta Tau Delta, 416 Beacon Street
Course VI Lounge
Cypress Engineering Design Studio, windows, building 38
Hayden Library, couches with river view
Fifth floor, Stratton Student Center
McCormick Hall Penthouse
Lobby couches, first floor, Stratton Student Center

Gabriel Kozlowski and Roi Salgueiro Barrio from the Center for Advanced Urbanism briefly presented visuals depicting major concepts of the plans for West Campus. The central theme is the extension westward of the Infinite Corridor through the athletic fields and eastward to Kendall Square. The addition of two major north-south axes will integrate the campus north of the railway tracks. They also noted the densification of residential space on the Vassar corridor.

Tom referenced a document “One Community - One Campus”, ~ 90 pages.

Steve talked through the program statement handout as an introduction

to the workshop.

Participants formed small groups, discussed design alternatives, and a spokesperson for each summarized their major design aspects:
Ten story high-rise plus six row houses, three plus three, open in the middle or six in a row, with 25-30' front lawn, with grill, hoops, 10' rear for trash. High rise to include retail, food court, meeting space suitable for sororities, dorm structure above faculty resident.

High-rise next to Simmons, six houses with entries on a corridor.
Common space in a revamped Student Center.

Mini student center, 24 hour convenience store, apartments above, visiting scholars, overflow space for full houses, alternating setbacks, first floor at street level, accessible.

Ten story with Vassar Street entrance, ground floor gym, laundry, common rooms, six houses with corridor between entrances.

Three level space, Green/LEED, top and bottom flexible, divisible, autonomous space, middle level, "sandwich", residential.