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Subject: West Campus Village Update - February 2018
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Hello MIT FSILG Stakeholders,

We would like to update you on the West Campus Village initiative. In the past several months we have been collaborating ever more closely with MIT staff, especially those from the MIT Office of Planning. Our common goal is to create a lively new center of campus life on the West Campus, providing housing for fraternities, sororities and independent living groups (FSILGs) – all integrated into MIT's plans for West Campus revitalization.

A Steering Committee is directing the next level of planning under the overall leadership of Suzy Nelson, Vice President and Dean for Student Life, and Tony Sharon, Deputy Executive Vice President. The current Phase 2 planning effort aims to develop West Campus Village “strawman” models that describe how the funding, the management agreements and the design of the Village could work. This pre-work would inform a detailed design and feasibility study that MIT would still need to agree to undertake.

The Steering Committee has created three working Taskforces, each led by an Association of Independent Living Groups (AILG) member and an MIT staff person. The Village Concept Taskforce, directed by Steve Baker '84 MArch '88 and Jon Alvarez, Director of MIT's Office of Campus Planning, has been very active in the last months. The group reviewed the input from last year's Student Design Workshops and presented those results and additional information at a stakeholder meeting on December 4, 2017. The meeting was attended by over 30 interested MIT and FSILG community members. The attendees also discussed a potential site that has been identified on Vassar Street to the west of Simmons Hall. The taskforce will be implementing a third student survey and is planning ongoing stakeholder meetings.

Stephen DeFalco '83 SM '88 and Patrick Rowe, a Director of Real Estate at MITIMCo, head the Business Model Taskforce. They are developing lease models and capital cost estimates. Finally, the Community Building Taskforce is led by the authors of this update - AILG Vice-Chair Pam Gannon '84 and Bob Ferrara '67, Senior Director of Strategic Planning and Alumni Relations in the Division of Student Life.

To date, eight FSILGs have formally indicated their desire to participate in this next level of the planning process: Alpha Epsilon Pi, Alpha Tau Omega, Delta Tau Delta, Pi Lambda Phi, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Sigma Nu, Sigma Kappa, and Student House. Other chapters have sent representatives to planning meetings and expressed informal interest. More chapters are always welcome to participate.

On January 17 of this year, the West Campus Village Steering group organized

house tours for MIT administrators and members of the planning department to familiarize them with examples of MIT chapter houses. Seventeen interested MIT staff members and alums visited Theta Xi, Student House, Alpha Phi, Kappa Sigma and Pi Beta Phi. We were especially pleased that Prof. Krystyn Van Vliet, MIT's new Associate Provost, was able to join the tour.

The next stakeholder meeting will be held on Monday, March 5, at 7:00pm (dinner at 6:30pm) at the Flowers Dining Room in Maseeh Hall. Updated information on the West Campus Village is posted on the AILG web site, ailg.mit.edu/west-village. Also, please feel free to e-mail west-village-feedback@mit.edu with any questions or comments.

Thanks,

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