Update on the FSILG Village

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Why move to Cambridge?

• Continuing a 100-year-old trend
• West Campus Master Plan: a once-in-several-generations opportunity
• Pressure on Boston FSILGs from gentrification
• Regulatory environment in Boston
• 19th century structures, 21st century students
• Accessibility concerns
• ... and because several FSILGs are interested
Why an FSILG Village?

- Integrate FSILGs in campus residence culture
- Opportunity for an FSILG faculty house master
- Shared FSILG space for entertaining, chapter meetings, etc.
- Shared support services and facilities
- Housing opportunities for new sororities and returning chapters
- Reduce property management burden on alumni

What this is . . . . .

- A longer range 3-8 year plan
- At an early stage of concept formulation
- Being driven by concerned alumni with support of MIT
- A voluntary option that will potentially be available

What this is not . . .

- Relief to the short term issues of the FSILG community
- A forum to answer all questions, details are yet to be fully defined
- A mandated approach where one size fits all
**FSILG Village Timeline**

- Jim Champy (’63, PSK), member of MIT Executive Committee, convenes group – March 2014
- Community meeting - before 2014 AILG Annual Meeting
- 3 Senior Administration meetings – Summer 2014
- FSILG Community Survey – Fall 2014
- FSILG Community Focus Groups – Winter 2014-15
- Chancellor requests a detailed proposal – May 2015
- FSILG Village Planning Committee formed – Summer 2015
- Committee engaged with West Campus Planning Committee – Ongoing
- Presentation of “straw man” proposal – September 2015

**FSILG Community Benefits**

- Leadership roles and responsibilities that develop into successful life skills
- Communities within community for IM sports, community service, mentorship, and social interactions
- Pre-frosh who stay in FSILG housing have higher admit rate
- FSILG alumni feel better connected and donate more generously
- Variety of residential options allows students to affiliate with communities with similar goals and interests
Pressure on FSILG Community

Boston
- Age of houses and safety concerns
- Gentrification of Back Bay
- Attractiveness of Cambridge/on campus for this generation of students

Society
- Incoming students’ “handiness” to upkeep 100+ year old structures
- Parental expectations of MIT supervision of students
- MIT owning reputational (and legal) risks for safety, alcohol, sexual assault

MIT
- Demographic shift toward women
- Weakened fraternities
- Freshman in dorms policy
- Meal Policy

FSILG Village “Straw Man”
- Designate plans for ~12 (?) units on West Campus
- MIT may own land and enters into lease arrangements with individual housing corporations or may own both (“Green Hall” model)
- Construction costs financed with cash from existing house sales, alumni support, MIT loans, and MIT.
- Build units of varying size (30 - 50 beds); flexibility in size
- Chapters operate houses independently within institute guidelines
- Shared central plant for utilities, IT and security infrastructure
- Potential to share dining and meeting/entertainment spaces
- House master to connect FSILGs to faculty
Future Issues to Resolve

• What is the best operating design to achieve balance between independence and efficiency while ensuring appropriate connection to MIT?

• What is the financial plan for funding construction given different financial starting points of the various individual houses?

• How is it best to manage the transition to this new independent housing model?

• How do we keep all parties informed to ensure support through long planning and rollout phases?

Next Steps

• Socialize straw man proposal among MIT institute leaders to ensure support and commitment for designation of land

• Present straw man proposal to FSILG community for review and input

• Continue to engage with West Campus Planning Committee to confirm potential sites

• Engage with Panhel on opportunities for new sorority housing

• Engage with interested FSILGs to participate in Phase 1 rollout.