Change on the horizon in east campus region

Planning board satisfied with the rezoning petition

By Leon Lin

Mixed-use towers rivaling the Green Building in height may be on the horizon for MIT’s east campus after members of the Cambridge Planning Board committed MIT’s Kendall rezoning petition at a meeting Tuesday evening. The board is expected to formally recommend the petition to the City Council early next month.

MIT’s petition would allow the denser and taller retail, commercial, rental, and academic development in a 26-acre region owned by the Institute that includes Senior House, the Sloan School of Management, and the Kendall T-stop’s southern entrance. The proposal, prepared by MIT’s Office of Innovation and MIT Investment Management Company, is the product of three years of meetings, community discussions, presentations, and revisions.

The Planning Board meeting came just after the publication of the latest issue of the Faculty Newsletter, which in-
Wal-Mart, despite profit gain, says payroll tax hurt sales

For Wal-Mart Stores, the tax code gave and the tax code took away.

The company reported higher-than-expected fourth-quarter earnings on Thursday, posting $4.16 billion in profits, up 8.6 percent from a year ago. The improvement was largely because of tax credits it had booked in the current year.

But the recent payroll tax increase slowed purchases toward the end of the holiday season, and an Internal Revenue Service survey of payroll tax sales this month.

Wal-Mart said it expected U.S. stores at stores open at least a year to grow 1.6 percent this quarter from the same period in 2012. Same-store sales rose 1 percent in the fourth quarter, below analysts’ expectations of a 1.7 percent increase.

Case ends against five ex-Blackwater officials

WASHINGTON — The federal government’s three-year prosecution of five former officials of Blackwater Worldwide virtually collapsed on Thursday after charges against three of the officials were dismissed and the other two agreed to plead guilty to reduced misdemeanor charges related to records-keeping.

Judge Louise W. Hanyan of U.S. District Court in North Carolina dismissed all charges against the two officials, Andrew Howell, Blackwater’s former general counsel, and Ana Bundy, a former vice president, prosecutors agreed to drop charges against a third, Ronald Shetek, a former weapons manager. The two other officials, Gary Jackson, a former president of Blackwater, and William Matthews, a former executive vice president, agreed to plead guilty to misdemeanor charges related to records keeping. They will each receive three years of probation and four months of home confinement, and pay fines of $5,000.

In 2010, the Justice Department charged the five officials with weapons violations and making false statements. The case was just one of several criminal investigations, civil lawsuits and congressional investigations in recent years involving a company that emerged as a dominant force in the post-9/11 war in Iraq. The defendants, who are due to be sentenced next month, have pleaded guilty to a single misdemeanor charge.

With little sign of movement as the March 1 deadline approaches, the president placed calls on Thursday to Sen. John A. Boehner and Sen. Mitch McConnell, the Republican leaders, in an outreach that Republicans interpreted as a significant increase in the president’s leverage.

If the budget deal is not reached by the March 1 deadline, government operations will be funded on a temporary basis, and a government shutdown must be avoided.

Success of five star movement shows Italy’s anger

ROME — For months, he has been showing his way from pi- zzaiolo to politician. A native of Naples who is tall against tax collectors, corrupt politicians and financial speculation. And when he arrives in Rome on Friday for the final campaign rally of a week, no less surprising is the Internet-savvy comedian Beppe Grillo, the Internet-savvy comedian who is the leader of the Five Star Movement, will ever govern Italy again, political experts say.

“This is a political campaign that is not crisis, in fiscal battle. The level of derision directed at the candidates’ policies, and what they said was his “dangerous,” wrote The New York Times.

Many Republicans, like the 15 who wrote to the president Thursday, signaled that they would not let the issue die quietly. And those who have said that they would ultimately support a filibuster have joined a call from the White House and on Capitol Hill, have given way to more a business-as-usual feeling in the West Wing. The budget debate is taking place alongside immigration and gun control discussions, rather than overtaking them.

It is a lesson, the president told aides this aid, drawn from the experience of back-to-back fights in 2011 over shutdowns and gun control and raising the nation’s borrowing power. He has repeatedly personalized the argument and taken it outside Washington, including a trip on Tuesday to New York Port News, Va., where the strong military pressure will be affected if deep budget cuts are enacted.

The standoff with Republicans may not be a new one, but it is fundamentally different from the previous clashes that have ended with Obama victories. Several of Obama’s advisers who helped guide the administration through the previous fights are no longer at the White House.

The six-term leader, led by the new chief of staff, Denis M. Mc- Donough, is confronting its biggest challenge yet. While McDonough was in the West Wing for past bud- get battles, his portfolio was na- tional security.

Other advisers dealing with the sequester are also new, including Miguel Rodriguez, the top liaison to Congress, who was meeting to aides to congressional Republi- cans for the first time on Thursday. The positions of both aides have seemed to have hardened in recent weeks, rather than moved toward a compromise.

For Obama and team, calm, not crisis, in fiscal battle

By Jeff Zeleny

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama is just seven days away from the fiscal cliff, and he is trying to demonstrate the consequences of the $85 billion in across-the-board spending reductions while not allowing the fight to consume the administration and derail its second-term priorities.

As a result, the sense of urgency from earlier budget fights, which included all-night meetings and dealing news conferences at the White House and on Capitol Hill, have given way to more a business-as-usual feeling in the West Wing. The budget debate is taking place alongside immigration and gun control discussions, rather than overtaking them.

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GOP Senators urge Hagel withdrawal as Democrats move to vote

By Jeremy W. Peters

WASHINGTON — A group of 15 Republican senators insisted Thursday that President Barack Obama withdraw his nomination of Chuck Hagel to be defense secretary, noting the latest in a contentious battle to block the confirmation of their former colleague.

But even if Republicans senators tried to throw up another obstacle, Senate Democrats said they were pushing ahead with plans to hold a final up-or-down vote on the nomination no later than Wednesday.

That vote should proed, Hagel’s confirmation ap- pears assured. Several Republi- cans have said that they intend to drop their attempts to filibuster the nomination.

But given how deeply divided Ha- gel’s nomination has left the Senate, the outlook in the immediate term is murky.

Many Republicans, like the 15 who wrote to the president Thursday, signaled that they would not let the issue die quietly. And those who have said that they would ultimately support a filibuster have joined a call from the White House and on Capitol Hill, have given way to more a business-as-usual feeling in the West Wing. The budget debate is taking place alongside immigration and gun control discussions, rather than overtaking them.

Saying that Hagel’s confirmation would be a “crisis” for the Senate, a group of near-unanimous opposition from Republicans, the group of 15 sena- tors urged Obama to pick another candidate.

“Over the last half-century, no secretary of defense has been con- firmed and taken office with more than three senators voting against him,” they wrote. “The occupant of this critical office should be some- one whose candidacy is neither con- troversial nor divisive.”

Signing the letter were John Cornyn of Texas, the No. 2 Senate Republican; Lindsey Graham and Tim Scott of South Carolina; Roger Wicker of Mississippi; David Vitter of Louisiana; Ted Cruz of Texas; Mike Lee of Utah; Patrick J. Toomey of Pennsylvania, Marco Rubio of Flori- da. The positions of both aides have seemed to have hardened in recent weeks, rather than moved toward a compromise.

Granite State mix sets up early Sunday. However, western Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire will receive 6-12 inches of snow, since coastal areas will remain more inland. Winds will strengthen into Sunday across the whole region, but should only be around 20-30 mph.

Since the storms will slowly move out Sunday night, we will not experience any Arctic air behind the storm. Skies should quickly clear by Monday with relatively mild tempera- tures. The clear weather by then may be the closest thing as another storm arrives mid-week.

Weather: Coastal storm to bring a weekend rain/snow mix

By Roman Kovach

Today’s clear skies will trans- form to a wet and soggy weekend. An arctic air mass over the north plains will send a cold front into a low pressure system. The move will northeast along the coast and quickly deepen as it moves over the region and passes through the key Saturday night. Rain will begin late Saturday afternoon, and should persist through the thanksgiving. Greater Boston could see between 2-4 inches of snow, if a relatively cold period sets up early Sunday. However, western Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire will receive 6-12 inches of snow, since coastal areas will remain more inland. Winds will strengthen into Sunday across the whole region, but should only be around 20-30 mph.

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Extended forecast:

Tomorrow: Cloudy, with rain by late afternoon. High 38°F (3°C). E wind at 10 mph, backing to NE and increasing to 20-30 mph late.

Situation for noon Eastern time, Friday, February 22, 2013

North Dakota: High 37°F (3°C). Low 34°F (1°C). E wind at 10 mph, backing to NE and increasing to 20-25 mph.
Pennsylvania: High 37°F (3°C). Low 34°F (1°C). E wind at 10 mph.
West Virginia: High 37°F (3°C). Low 34°F (1°C). NE wind at 10 mph.
Business, labor leaders urge visa system for low-skilled

By Ashley Parker

WASHINGTON — In an effort to avert the bitter and public feuding between business and labor organizations that helped kill a broad immigration overhaul in 2007, representatives of the two groups released a statement on Thursday outlining shared goals designed to show that, at least for now, they could reach a basic level of compromise.

In the statement, signed by Thomas J. Donohue, the president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and Richard L. Trumka, the president of the AFL-CIO, the groups called for a visa system that would allow businesses to meet their demand for lower-skilled workers, while offering some protections for U.S. workers.

“The United States will always be a nation of immigrants who have contributed greatly to the vitality, diversity and creativity of American life,” the statement said. “Yet, like the rest of America’s immigration system, the mechanisms for evaluating our labor market needs and admitting foreign workers — as well as recruiting U.S. workers — are for temporary and permanent jobs are broken or nonexistent.”

The statement presented three general goals for addressing the issue of immigration by lower-skilled workers: the assurance that U.S. workers should have “a first crack at available jobs;” a new visa program for lower-skilled workers that will adjust to reflect the changing needs to businesses as the economy shrinks and expands; and greater transparency, rooted in demographic and labor market data, in determining the market need for temporary workers.

Traditionally, labor unions have rejected the idea of a guest worker program for lower-skilled workers, which they fear could take jobs away from U.S. workers and depress wages. Business leaders have labored for a guest worker program, arguing that they need low-skilled labor for jobs — in agriculture, for instance — that U.S. workers cannot or will not do.

Bombings in Syrian capital kill at least 42, opposition says

Tripoli, Lebanon — At least three car bombs roiled Damascus on Thursday, including a powerful blast near the downtown headquarters of President Bashar Assad’s ruling party and the Russian Embassy that witnesses said shook the neighborhood like an earthquake. Anti-government activists described the bombings as some of the worst to hit the city in the nearly two-year-old conflict and said at least 72 people had been killed, mostly civilians.

Witnesses, including people who had been living near the ruling party headquarters in the Mazraa district, said the bombings were eroding what little confidence they had left that Assad’s forces could preserve at least some semblance of normalcy in Damascus, the Syrian capital, where armed insurgents have attacked with increasing brazenness.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. The main umbrella opposition group seeking to depose Assad condemned the bombings as it convened a meeting in Cairo. It was unclear whether the blasts had been timed to the Cairo meeting.

Syria’s state-run SANA news agency described the blasts as the work of armed terrorist groups, its standard terminology for the insurgency. SANA said the victims included children and students and hundreds of people had been wounded.

—Anne Barnard and Rick Gladstone, The New York Times

Declaring a year for rebuilding, HP posts lower profit

SAN FRANCISCO — Hewlett-Packard might have gained running room, but it remains unclear whether it can leap successfully to technology’s new post-PC world.

The world’s largest maker of personal computers, printers and computer servers has struggled for growth in a world increasingly full of smartphones, tablets and cloud computing services. Anchored in the traditional hardware, HP is challenged by new devices, which it does not make, and cutthroat competition in its old low-margin businesses, which is pressing margins.

On Thursday, HP reported lower first-quarter revenue, profit and profit margins. Sales were down in all five of HP’s major businesses, which also include software and services.

Chief Executive Meg Whitman declared in an interview after release of the results that “the patient showed improvement.” She said HP was building a number of consumer and business products, including new kinds of laptops and low-energy servers for cloud computing, that will renew the company.

Positive sustained growth, however, is still a year away, Whitman said. “All of the pipe we laid in 2012, and will lay in 2013, will show up in 2014,” she said.

—Quentin Hardy, The New York Times

Scandal darkens doorstep of Spain’s royal family

By Doreen Carvajal

MADRID — The website of the Spanish royal family features pictures of the king, Juan Carlos I, in a blue sash, his bejeweled wife, Queen Sofia, and the couple’s three glamorous children. But most of the photographs of the dashing Duke of Palma, the king’s son-in-law, were scrubbed from the site last month.

The duke’s official biography was abandoned the trouble foundation in 2006, a year before dubious financial dealings surfaced.

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Opinion

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Some PSG workers covered double shifts

I was reading the Tech’s article Friday about MIT in the storm by Jessica J. Pouarian. In the article about additional personnel and workers, you mention that PSG workers were not considered essential staff and that no one showed up at Next House. However, you never mentioned that some of us did work double shifts to cover. I work for PSG at the warehouse and worked double shifts. I showed up and worked a double on Friday spent the night in the break room and worked a double on Saturday. I am not the only PSG worker that showed up and worked, there were other PSG workers who made it in and worked long hours.

Angela K. Bowen

OPINION POLICY

Editorials are the official opinion of The Tech. They are written by the Editorial Board, which consists of Chairman Sarah Ritter, Editor in Chief Anne Cai, Managing Editor Ian M. Gorodisher, Executive Editor Deborah Chen, and Opinion Editor Jacob London.

Dissents are the signed opinions of editorial board members choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to eic@tech.mit.edu. Unsigned letters are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication. Condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority.

The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters, shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of The Tech and hangs the right to edit or publish them in any other format or medium now known or later that becomes known. The Tech makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

Guest columns are opinions articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community.

TO REACH US

The Tech’s telephone number is (617) 253-1541. Email is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure whom to contact, send mail to general@tech.mit.edu. Please send press releases, requests for coverage, and information about errors that call for correction to news@tech.mit.edu. Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@tech.mit.edu. The Tech can be found on the World Wide Web at http://tech.mit.edu.
UPPERCUT by Steve Sullivan

IT TOOK ALL WEEK, BUT FINALLY I CAN PRESENT TO YOU...

MY SUPERMAN SHOE SCULPT-ERMAHERD

DROP! SORRY, KIDS, COULDN’Tvenes THE WIND... WISH I COULD...

IS IT HIS DREAMS THAT SNARE HIS SPIRIT?

DOES A MAN’S WORK BECOME HIS SPIRIT?

LIL’S SECRET WISHES, HIS QUIET CONVICTIONS.

IF HE LIKES TO SEE HIS WORK BROKEN...

FROZEN IN FURM, AND IN TIME?

DOES HIS SOUL SHATTER WITH IT?

Dude, you are crying like a four-year-old, and it is weirding me the heck out.

Should I say

Yeah, I’m too Canadian.

Sudoku
Solution, page 10

6 1 7 2 5
3 7 8 6 9
4 7 1 3 9
3 1 6 5
1 9 3 6 2
5 8 3 1 4 2

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Techdoku
Solution, page 10

2+ 180x 4
10+ 6

24x 75x 12x
12x 1

480x 1

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.
**MOVIE REVIEW**

**Older and better — the Batman is back**

**By Steven Sullivan ALEX WRIGHT**

A massive tank roars through a waterfall into a dark alley. A criminal plateaus with his interrogator as he dangles over the roof of a building. A costumed figure emerges from the shadows to fight for the heart of his city.

Decades before Christopher Nolan gave us these images of a grim, realistic Batman, they appeared in the first Dark Knight tale — a gritty comic book mini-series about an aging Bruce Wayne’s return to the fight against crime. Now Warner Bros. Animation has translated The Dark Knight Returns into a two-part animated feature, and Batman’s stealthy take-downs and heavily-hand- ed flotillas are every bit as fun to watch in real time.

The two movies begin with Bruce Wayne, now 55 years old, returning to his role as Batman to fight a wave of violent crimes in Gotham City. You’ll see Batman ascend Gotham’s towers in fight Two-Face and be broken by the leader of the merci- less Mutant Gang. Batman will observe Joker one last time, and struggle to bring or- der to a Gotham City gone dark in the wake of an electromagnetic pulse. And finally, the Dark Knight will square off against the Man of Steel in a slugfest every bit as block- busting as you would expect (city blocks are literally busted, into rubble and little pieces of glass). If you’ve ever gotten into an argu- ment about who would win in a fight be- tween Batman and Superman, many con- sider the battle in The Dark Knight Returns to be the definitive answer.

**The visual style is true to the dark, unpolished character of the comics, but is sharper and more defined.**

Part I starts off a little too slowly for my liking. Bruce Wayne has many flashbacks to his aging body betrays his inner musings about the nature of his fight against crime and the enjoyment he gets from beating criminals really adds to his personality in the comics. The movies more than hold their own in the action depart- ment, though — it’s fun to watch batarangs whiz through the air and knock guys out of hands, or to hear the grunt of the criminal on the receiving end of Batman’s fist. If you like Batman (and who doesn’t?), you’ll enjoy these animated features. And if you want to read the graphic novel that started it all, Frank Miller’s The Dark Knight Returns is available for checkout from the Hidden Library.

Rating: One batarang out of one.

**The message of the workshop wasn’t just in the choreography. You may not be a dancer. You may not ever think of dancing, nor care about any of the above comments.**

The duo’s final words guiding words, howev- er, pertain to any student who has ever had a passion buried under the daily time man- agement for both is possible, and that it is a matter of attitude. When you are truly pas- sionate about something, making time for it doesn’t seem like just adding another item to your to-do list.

So get up a little earlier. Find spare time during lunch to dance, draw, or write poet- ry. Think back to the magic moment when you were free and first fell in love with the piano, for the sheer joy of making music. Just because MIT imposes huge pressure in making you the best scientist you can be, doesn’t mean you can’t enjoy the other things that make life beautiful. Don’t give up on your dreams.

**Workshop review**

**Do you wanna dance? The ArchiTEKS give dance and life lessons**

By Adisa Krownidvee MIT STUDENT JOURNALIST

The ArchiTEKS are something of a present day legend in the hip-hop scene. The members of this Houston-based crew were finalists of MTV’s America’s Best Dance Crew competition, have collectively garner- ed millions of YouTube views, and are easily recognized by their unique, con- trolled movement style. They travel around the world to teach aspiring dancers, and came last weekend to MIT to perform and hold workshops as part of the Chinese Students’ Club Lunar New Year celebrations.

Workshop teachers Duy Nguyen and Bri- an Fucanan taught two pieces of contrasting styles — one fast and hard-hitting, the other smooth R&B — but emphasized the execu- tion technique necessary to be successful at both. This technique could be summarized in one word: control. Speed control, body awareness in space, and use of dynamics are but a few elements that will transform a dance from simple choreography into a vis- ible manifestation of the music.

A chest pop, for example, is an easy movement to teach anyone with a chest forward, then back — and can be done with- out much effort. But think about where it is placed in the music; if it is on a sharp snare, should it be a quick and clean pop? It is on a low bass, would be best represented by a heavy rebound and control.

If that seems like a lot to think about for one second of dancing, it is. Body control is, as Nguyen and Fucanan said, any dancer’s toolbox for approaching this task. Practicing that control and engaging with the music whenever one learns choreography, not just thinking about the steps, will help make the process more natural.

The visual style is true to the dark, unpolished character of the comics, but is sharper and more defined. Part II debuted on DVD several months after Part I, and it’s clear the animation team learned from their first outing. Part II is much more action-oriented than part I, and as a result is a more exciting movie — there are a lot of dramatic clashes and well- choreographed fight scenes. The focus is off Bruce Wayne, and is instead on Batman and the new female Robin, which makes for a better movie.

The visual style is true to the dark, unpolished character of the comics, but is sharper and more defined, especially in the action sequences. Stacked up against the comic book, the movie is diminished by its omission of Batman’s inner dialogue — his inner musings about the nature of his fight against crime and the enjoyment he gets from beating criminals really adds to his personality in the comics. The movies more than hold their own in the action depart- ment, though — it’s fun to watch batarangs whiz through the air and knock guys out of hands, or to hear the grunt of the criminal on the receiving end of Batman’s fist.

If you like Batman (and who doesn’t?), you’ll enjoy these animated features. And if you want to read the graphic novel that started it all, Frank Miller’s The Dark Knight Returns is available for checkout from the Hidden Library.

Rating: One batarang out of one.

The duo’s final words guiding words, howev- er, pertain to any student who has ever had a passion buried under the daily time man- age.
In vegan heaven
A broad, delicious selection at Veggie Galaxy

By Alex McCarthy

I remember walking down Mass. Ave., the summer after my freshman year, and seeing the “Veggie Galaxy, Opening Soon!” sign on a window. I grew up in Oregon, and spent my fair share of time dining in Portland, arguably the Vegan Capital of the World. So when I saw this sign, it was like I’d crossed 2500 miles in a single step. I looked up the restaurant up online and found it was being opened by the same people who run Veggie Planet, a delicious vegan pizzeria tucked away in Harvard square. Needless to say, I was salivating all the way to opening day on Sept. 5, 2011.

Located on Mass. Ave. in Cambridge, Veggie Galaxy serves a wide variety of vegan foods like mushroom chickpea burgers and stuffed french toast. Despite the anticipation, I had lingering fears in the back of my mind. I’ve gone to more than one vegan venue, full of hope, only to be served a meal as ultra-nutritious as it is unappetizing and overpriced. After my first meal at Veggie Galaxy, I found this couldn’t be further from the truth. When you step across the threshold, you are immersed in a classic American diner. To the right, a bar stretches the length of the room, with patrons digging in with gusto on one side, and cooks flipping hash browns and pouring coffee on the other. To the left, there are booths for small and large parties and raised tables-for-two lining the center. Classic rock permeates the venue through speakers set in a curved ceiling, reminiscent of the earliest diners. The atmosphere is bustling and filled with the buzz of lively conversation.

Once seated, you’ll have to make a hard decision — what to order! Veggie Galaxy has a full selection of choices for breakfast (served all day!), lunch, and dinner, complete with desserts and drinks. My favorite breakfast plate is the Stuffed French Toast, consisting of two big slabs of sourdough French toast, stuffed with vegan vanilla nut cream cheese and topped with strawberry basil sauce and real maple syrup. If that doesn’t already give you a sugar high, you can add the optional mixed berries and coconut whipped cream topping. Honestly, this dish probably has as much sugar and as many calories as your typical dessert, but what I have tasted has been decadent.

Tips: If you’re going for dinner, try to show up close to 5 p.m.; otherwise you can expect to wait 5–15 minutes for a table. Also, try the daily specials, or ask your waiter what’s good that day. If ordering an omelet or a dish with cheese, ask for the vegan option, as they serve both the vegetarian and vegan options.

Veggie Galaxy
450 Mass. Ave., Cambridge
Monday – Thursday open 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. – 10 p.m.
Friday open 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. – 11 p.m.
Saturday open 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. – 11 p.m.
Sunday open 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. – 10 p.m.

I’ve barely sampled the tip of the iceberg when it comes to desserts, but what I have tasted has been decadent.

Locate on Mass. Ave. in Cambridge, Veggie Galaxy serves a wide variety of vegan foods like mushroom chickpea burgers and stuffed french toast.
The petition fails to address a number of issues that graduate students face.

Provost Chris A. Kaiser PhD ’87 announced on Feb. 5 that a Task Force on Housing and Graduate Housing, to be chaired by Urban Studies Professor and former Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD ’75, would conduct a study on graduate housing needs.

“The Faculty Newsletter’s editorial worries that the group “will only yield feedback after construction decisions have been made”

Announcements to the faculty, at Planning Board meetings, and on MIT News have estimated the study’s completion to be anywhere from the end of the term, June, the end of the year, and in 12 to 18 months. Clay declined to comment on a timeline for the study to The Tech.

According to Executive Vice President and Treasurer Israel Ruiz SM ’08, there will still be plenty of opportunities to address specific concerns such as graduate housing within the framework of the petition, which he hopes will pass the City Council by mid-April. (If it does not, the petition will expire.)

“The petition would require a minimum of 240,000 square feet of new residential (market-price) space and a maximum of 360,000 square feet of commercial space, leaving 854,000 square feet in the zone for institutional development, which includes academic buildings, laboratories, and dormitories.”

O. Robert Simha, MIT’s retired planning director, expressed doubts about MITIMCo’s intentions. “One always wants to take people at their word. The track record so far is not always what people would like to believe that they’re interested in transparency and full opportunity to debate this limited amount of land and its use by the institution,” he said. Simha was present at the Planning Board meeting on Tuesday, but he left just as the public hearing began. "I felt they had already made up their minds and did not feel any comments I made would be helpful to them at this point," he told The Tech afterwards.

“The use of MIT’s land for commercial offices has met with opposition from some faculty, including those on the Faculty Newsletter editorial board. But the editorial does acknowledge the significant income ($20 to $30 million annually) MIT would receive by leasing its space to companies.”

Still, King finds a corporate presence on campus unwelcome: “The MITIMCo petition represents major changes to the tradition — I would say philosophy — of MIT as a research institution, proposing to locate two very large commercial buildings in the center of east campus.” The commercial buildings would be located just south of Main Street where there are currently parking lots, which would be replaced by underground garages.

Some faculty members feel that not all of the stakeholders have been heard.

Steve C. Marsh, managing director of real estate at MITIMCo, sees it differently. “If you will give us the opportunity to retain (current) capacity for academic investment in the future, we’ll use this commercial activity to get these knowledge-based companies into our innovation clusters,” he said. “This makes Kendall Square better, makes MIT better. We’re bringing in talent. We’re bringing in an exciting ecosystem. We’ll use that opportunity to revitalize Kendall Square.”

Many community members who spoke at the Planning Board public hearing were similarly enthusiastic about the upcoming of Kendall Square. “The mixed use nature of the plan is so special and so needed. This is really Kendall Square’s moment in the sun. Hopefully it lasts a while,” Brian Dacey of the Cambridge Innovation Center said.

But as the petition process nears its end, some faculty members have felt that not all of the stakeholders have had their voices heard. At the faculty meeting on Wednesday, Provost Kaiser and faculty chair Samuel M. Allen PhD ’75 gave brief presentations about the Kendall Square initiative, which were followed by comments from Jonathan King and literature professor Ruth Perry, who argued that campus planning should involve more than real estate executives.

In an interview with The Tech, King called for more “democratic, parliamentary debate” involving the faculty, which he said has been lacking from the process. While he commented the report of the faculty task force formed last year, he noted that the task force was appointed by the provost and not nominated and elected as, say, a committee on the undergraduate curriculum would be.

To such concerns, Ruiz notes the numerous times that the Kendall initiative has reached out to the community with meetings and brainstorming sessions since April 2010. MIT is next scheduled to meet with the Cambridge Ordinance Committee on Tuesday, Feb. 26. See maps of the MIT petition area’s current and proposed height limits at http://tech.mit.edu/V133/News/graphics/kendall-2.html.
Any MIT student team in the $100K competition is eligible to win $10K if the arts or design are a core component of the proposal.
Reif’s community conversation at Sidney-Pacific

President mentions that the residential system is key to the Institute’s mission to educate

Reif expressed his strong belief in the concept of education being available to everyone, regardless of socioeconomic status.

The online model has proven to be an effective way to instruct, but it lacks essential elements required to educate.

In the recent past, Reif suggested, the opportunity cost of foregoing a degree due to price has been very high: a lack of college degree can leave people with very limited options. However with educational technologies like edX and Coursera becoming increasingly accessible, Reif has identified these platforms as a serious threat to what he calls the “residential model” of higher education: students coming from financially constrained situations will “feel the pressure to forgo the price and get a degree online.”

Reif made a point to say that he used the word “threat” in describing online educational infrastructures not because of his personal investment in the residential system, but because of issues with the online system. With overwhelming support from students and community members in the audience, Reif said, the on-campus experience “incubates new leaders, is a well-spring of knowledge, and acts as a source of new courses for the online model.” While the online model has proven to be an effective way to instruct, it lacks essential elements required to educate.

One of Reif’s key ideas about why the residential system can retain its value is the research and entrepreneurial spirit that having an on-campus community of interacting undergraduates and graduates drives. “Our learning-by-doing and learning-from-peers culture is enabled by our research-based, entrepreneurial enterprise,” he said. “26,000 companies have been created by the 125,000 living alumni … this is an example of what makes MIT unique.”

Reif will be offering a number of sessions in the coming months as a part of his listening tour, along with monthly office hours that are open to any member of the MIT community. “MIT does well at everything,” Reif said. “I need to figure out how to maintain this, and make a difference when everything is done so well.”

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**SPORTS SHORT**

Tashman named NEWMAC player of the week

After averaging 22.3 points and 16.3 rebounds in three games last week, William Tashman ‘13 was named the New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference Men’s Basketball Player of the Week for the third time this season. Tashman, who recorded two double-doubles, helped lead MIT to three wins and a share of the NEWMAC regular season title.

Starting the last week of the regular season against Clark, he matched his previous career best with 26 points and set a new career-high with 20 rebounds, becoming the MIT career leader in that category. He followed that with 13 points and nine rebounds in the Engineers’ upset over No. 5 WPI, giving MIT a share of the regular season title. On Sunday he dominated against Wheelock, dropping in a career-high 28 points on 15-of-15 shooting, and pulling down 19 rebounds. His offensive rebound in the second half was the 1,000th of his career, making him the first player in MIT history with 1,000 points and 1,000 rebounds.

—Phil Hess

**MIT Cheer brings it**

**MIT’s Cheer Squad will compete at the NCA Cheer Championships**

By Nick Lopez

For the first time in school history, MIT will be represented at the National Cheerleading Association Cheer Competition against 150 other schools, which will be on national television when it takes place in April. They will be judged based on the difficulty of the routine, perfection of the routine, the technique and stability of the various stunts and maneuvers they will perform, and finally the overall impression of the routine. To be able to compete at the NCA Cheer Championship, a squad must have received a bid from the NCA by either attending an NCA sanctioned Cheer camp and wowing the judges, or submitting a video of a routine and being selected that way.

The MIT Cheer Squad, which started as a co-ed club sport in 1969, is organized by students, populated by students, and ultimately run by students. You have probably seen them cheering at the MIT football games and basketball games, but they have also cheered competitively since 2004. Whether it be Course 3 or Course 20, or anything in between, chances are that the MIT Cheer Squad has someone representing that major. The members have a wide variety of interests, and what surprised me the most was that there is a good number of men involved as well. As most of the more advanced maneuvers need males to complete, men are a valuable asset to any squad.

The MIT Cheer Squad has someone representing that major. The members have a wide variety of interests, and what surprised me the most was that there is a good number of men involved as well. As most of the more advanced maneuvers need males to complete, men are a valuable asset to any squad.

This year, the NCA Cheer Championship will take place from April 10 to April 14 in Daytona Beach, Florida, and will be televised nationally on CBS. The competition format is such that each team will need to perform two routines, one after the other. The first routine is what’s known as the Game Day routine, where the squad demonstrates how they cheer at a typical sporting event. ‘They may bring banners and flags, but once they start throwing out T-shirts and frisbees to the audience, the routine is shut down. The second routine is the more familiar one you might associate with a cheer competition if you’ve ever seen movies like Bring It On. In this one, the squad performs a two-minute piece set to music, where they demonstrate the cheerleading abilities through the various pyramids, jumps, tosses, tumbling, and partner stunts that they execute.

Needed to say, the MIT Cheer Squad is extremely excited to be going to Nationals this year. This season was actually the first year ever for the MIT Cheer Squad to have a coach, and the results speak for themselves.

Coach Arianna Vahsen-Crosby has the team more focused than ever, and this drive to succeed has them now competing in the National Championships in Daytona. They have the chance to prove to the world that MIT is just as good as any other school when it comes to athletics, and in particular, cheerleading. They hope to show the nation that just because we can do surface integrals with our eyes closed doesn’t mean we can’t pull off a toe touch to back handspring as well. So make sure you tune in to the NCA Cheer Championships this April and show your support for our wonderful MIT Cheer Squad.