The CSE report on student housing

The Committee on Student Environment’s interim report that this week’s lead story, is of great importance for all undergraduates. This forthright and blunt statement will guide the changes in the MIT housing system.

The report covers two crucial aspects of undergraduate education. In this article, I will discuss the portion on the CSE’s recommendations for curriculum improvements. Both committees have proposed major revisions in the current system.

If put into practice, the proposals of this report will change the trend toward a residential campus for all undergraduates. This forward-looking scheme will keep students close to the academic and extracurricular environment.

We strongly endorse the trend toward on-campus housing for all students, and we support MIT’s academic and extracurricular initiatives.

We heartily support this suggestion. While MIT cannot afford the lavishness of Harvard’s dorms, such living groups as Burton-Cross should be upgraded.

1. Better dormitory environment. Everybody wants better living, and the report provides it. The Committee’s improvements in every dormitory will be amazing.

2. A diverse community of living groups. The Committee recognizes the high value of diversity of MIT undergraduates and the unique characteristics of each living group. It wisely recommends mailroom and independent living groups. It promises more personal balance among fraternity, independence, and Institute-owned housing.

3. Support the breadth of the improvements proposed for all living groups—fraternities as well as dorms. The Committee’s acceptance is that students wish to live off campus is also commendable.

4. Funding of construction and remodeling. College housing usually cannot be financed exclusively from student rents. Thus the construction of new dorms and remodeling of old must be financed from capital funds.

Unfortunately, MIT has not received the lavish grants to provide Harvard and Yale with enviable living groups. To obtain the necessary funds for its proposals, the Committee recommends a major fundraising effort.

We endorse such efforts to obtain funds for improving current and implementing the Committee’s proposals. We will be impressed if without an attempt to obtain new funds.

The proposals of the Committee should rank in importance alongside MIT’s academic expansion, for the residential system is separable from the complete educational program. Strong living groups can be a constructive instrument in MIT’s task of educating its students. For these reasons, MIT should include student bodies and can have a superior residential system, as well as an unparalleled academic community.

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