Grad housing committee develops first-year plan

The Graduate Student Council's Housing and Community Affairs Committee has been meeting with the Graduate Student Housing Office to determine the most equitable distribution of on-campus graduate student housing until MIT has enough on-campus housing for all graduate students. Our consensus will be discussed and voted on at the full Graduate Student Council meeting tonight.

One framework of our discussions consisted of housing statistics of each on-campus housing, and housing the graduates. Our goal was to find the best policy that provides quality housing for first-year graduate students.

The committee reviewed current housing statistics that guided our discussions are given. As of September 1987, there were 586 applicants for single housing and 147 applicants for married housing. Also, 229 percent of their spaces to first-year graduate students and 147 applicants for married housing. About one third of the first-year students are from Detroit. Are their narrowly-focused preoccupations? Let first-year students focus their point of the educational system. Also the action and attention are misdirected.

The framework of our discussions consisted of housing statistics. Of particular interest was the planning and the "Albany St." plan. The "Albany St." plan would change the existing housing system. The proposal is that all first-year graduate students live in one-year nonrenewable leases. The "Albany St." plan would guarantee housing for all first-year students, regardless of their academic performance. This proposal would mean an annual lottery for remaining graduate student housing. The version of the plan proposed by Mark Engel ("First-year students at MIT," The Tech, Oct. 17), our plan consists of compromises by all parties involved in the discussions. Of the 19 people present at the end of the meeting, 12 supported the proposal, and 7 supported the intensity of convictions and the extreme differences of opinion.

Julia Vail G. Chair
GSC Housing and Community Affairs Committee

Freshman housing plan could create undesirable rooming matches

The Graduate Student Council supports the Housing Campaign for the Future. The overall strategy is that the problem of graduate housing will exacerbate the problem of undergraduate housing, which is now grossly insufficient. Why isn't MacVicar as concerned with communication problems between two graduate students in the same lab that exist because one lives in Brookline and the other in Somerville? The current housing system is crowded and the extra space is needed to relieve the overcrowding. MIT needs its fraternities, but for other reasons than to supply the space for the extra 1200-1300 students whom the Institute cannot afford to house in the dormitory system. The effect of the reform would be immediately devastating, if not annihilating, for many independent living groups, including some of the fraternities which are older than all of the dormitories.

Under the current housing system, living groups have developed unique personalities. This "house" character will become more subtle. The dormitories are not completely eliminated, if the proposed reforms are implemented. Differences have arisen from the preservation of minority groups and the emergence of a few like-minded minorities, even though they are just as likely to be as attractive to students as the traditional dormitories. The action and attention are misdirected.

The action and attention are directed towards MIT, since it is mostly a personal conflict with a widely-spread traditional bigotry. The new housing policy is supposed to eliminate these problems and communicate with each other. We do not see how the proposed policy would resolve conflicts any differently from the present one. In fact, it makes matters worse by eliminating any temporary self-selection in the living groups.

The majority of the freshman housing committee undoubtedly meant well, but they might have been misguided in their intentions.

Victor Steinitz '87

Make graduate housing campaign for the future fund-raising goal

The Graduate Student Council supports the Housing Campaign for the Future and is determined to make graduate housing its top priority and set a goal of at least $70 million to achieve.

Michael Warwick G.

Graduate Student Council