Letters To The Editor

Decisions Regarding Status of Residence Halls Should Be Deferred

The Tech received a copy of this letter addressed to President Charles M. Vest, Provost Mark S. Wrighton, Senior Focus, and dome William R. Dickson '36, Dean for Undergraduate Education and Student Affairs.

As you are no doubt aware, the much talked about housing plans are a source of great concern to many within the MIT community. Unfortunately it appears that the Strategic Housing Planning Committee has been formulating these proposals with minimal input from faculty, alumni, and students. We are unclear as to the educational benefits of any of these proposals. We understand that there is some urgency in regard to the renovation of Senior House, and that if it is not renovated this summer the building will continue to deteriorate.

However, we believe that there is a grave risk of damaging, if not destroying, the best features of the Senior House, East Campus, and Ashdown community should these renovations take place without significant input from those who would be affected by any moves that may follow.

We therefore respectfully ask that any decisions affecting the status of these dormitories be deferred until such time that faculty, alumni, and student input can be taken into account. We are not asking for inaction in regard to Senior House renovations. We would like to propose the following in an effort to satisfy the need to renovate Senior House and also allow for input from faculty, alumni, and students:

1. Renovations of Senior House be such that residual, faculty, and house managers are consulted regarding the renovations and anyitable changes in the status of the dormitory in an undergraduate residence hall.

Opinion Policy

Editorials, printed in a distinctive format, are the official opinion of The Tech. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, editor in chief, news editors, and opinion editors. Dissents, marked as such and printed in a distinctive format, are the opinions of the signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial. Letters to the editor represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newsroom and are written by students and the staff. Letters to the editor are limited to 200 words. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters and cartoons must bear the author's signatures, addresses, and telephone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. No letter or cartoon will be printed anonymously without the express permission of the editor in chief. Prior to the deadline, all letters become property of The Tech. To Assess Options

The Tech received a copy of the following petition, which has been circulating among the resident of Ashdown House.

We, the undersigned, believe that the decision to eliminate Ashdown as a graduate housing option is proceeding in an impromptu and fast manner. We believe that many members of the MIT community would greatly benefit if housing decisions were postponed until Jan. 31.

This delay would allow time for: (1) graduate students to research the benefits and value of retaining Ashdown as a graduate housing option, (2) presenting our findings as well as our own independently considered options, (3) the MIT administration to coherently communicate its short and long term goals, and (4) an accurate assessment of the impact of the various proposals on alumni donations.

We request that you take into consideration the short amount of time we have been given to evaluate these issues, as well as the heavy academic demands students face at the end of the term.

Thomas H. Burbine G
Chair, Ashdown House Executive Committee