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May 13, 2013

Dear Bexley Residents,

Thank you for your thoughtful input and willingness to collaborate with administration, staff and other students to reach reasonable solutions to the difficulties posed by the closing of Bexley Hall. As the Chancellor mentioned in his letter of Friday, May 10, we have continued to work on the issues you raised and would like to share this progress update as of today.

Mitigating financial impact

To minimize any potential financial strain, displaced Bexley residents will continue to pay the same rate for housing regardless of where they live in the system. Any Bexley resident who moves into a dining dorm will be required to take on a dining plan, however we ask that students in this situation meet with their financial aid counselor to discuss the change's potential impact on their financial aid packages.

Finding rooms for individual students and small groups

Entries for the special Bexley-only housing lottery will be reviewed starting today at 5:00 pm. The process of finding accommodations for students who asked to live on their own or in smaller groups with other Bexley residents is underway. We are working on a plan for assigning those rooms and will communicate directly with the students involved.

Identifying housing options for the large group of Bexley residents

You put together a great list of options and suggestions for housing the larger group of displaced residents—including 100 Memorial Drive, an FSILG, and temporary housing erected on campus—and we are looking at their feasibility. This work will take a few weeks to complete, so we ask for your patience. In the meantime, we strongly recommend that you enter the housing lottery as a fallback to ensure that you have a place to live in the fall.

Forming the Bexley Advisory Group and obtaining community space

In the May 7 meeting, Dean Colombo announced the formation of a group including some number of Bexley residents, the housemasters, and campus leaders intended to help guide us on the future of Bexley Hall. Considering the short time left in the term for more pressing priorities, we recommend that this group to be formed after Commencement. We have also tentatively identified the Pritchett Dining Room in Walker Memorial as a

community space for displaced Bexley residents. We are finalizing details and will soon share specifics on its availability and use.

Release of the engineering reports

As was also discussed in the meeting, we received the engineering reports on April 29 and acted as quickly as possible to make Bexley residents aware of the short-term implications. There is more information in the reports, which we have yet to fully vet, and which does not have immediate bearing on the decision of when and where to relocate residents. We will give your request for access to the reports our careful consideration once the administration and other facilities stakeholders have reviewed and understand the report's contents.

Future plans for the building and site

Additional study is needed to define the next steps. We recognize the desire to preserve the Bexley community, so the advisory group being formed to consider future courses of action will have the opportunity to participate in repurposing discussions.

While these are difficult circumstances, we are pleased by the spirit of mutual cooperation and understanding that everyone is demonstrating. Completing these tasks take time, so we will work quickly but diligently to get back to you as quickly as possible with another update. In the meantime, please complete your housing lottery entry to make sure that you are guaranteed a place to live next fall. Contact Henry Humphreys, Senior Associate Dean, at humphrhe@mit.edu with questions about the process.

Thank you and please contact us if you have additional input for us to consider.

Eric Grimson
Chancellor
Bernard Gordon Professor of Medical Engineering, EECS, MIT

Costantino Colombo
Dean for Student Life