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Dear Member of the MIT FSILG Community:

MIT's Fraternities, Sororities, and Independent Living Groups (FSILGs) are an important and distinguishing feature of the MIT community. I recently formed a broadly representative Task Force to assess the current status of the FSILGs and determine how to best preserve and strengthen them to ensure that they will serve the MIT community well in this century as they have for many decades.

Because the contributions of the FSILGs to MIT are important, but not always recognized, the Task Force will document the ways in which they contribute to student life and learning at MIT. There will be special emphasis on contributions to community spirit and service and development of leadership and management skills. The Task Force will also assess key dimensions such as risk management, chapter operations, living environment, and recruitment and will recommend actions and policies that will help FSILGs with shortfalls to reach higher standards.

The Task Force will look closely at the recruitment process, study the existing transition support and problems, recommend improvements to current policies and practices, and suggest how we can better explain chapter missions, values, and educational benefits to potential FSILG members and their parents. This assessment is needed now so that we can better accommodate changes in student, parental, and societal expectations, increases in women in our undergraduate population (now 45 percent), and the shift to on-campus residence during the first year.

We are fortunate to have remarkable and talented student leaders and dedicated and energetic FSILG alumni/ae volunteers, chapter advisors, resident advisors, and dean's office staff. The Task Force will review the roles of each of these groups and make recommendations focused on the refinement of roles and the rededication of efforts on behalf of our FSILG community. As part of that assessment, I have asked the Task Force to suggest how leadership across MIT can help build a spirit of mutual trust and respect.

The full text of the charge to the Task Force, a list of members, and other information about its work can be found at the group's web site, <http://fsilg-task-force.mit.edu/>. I have asked the co-chairs, Professor Patrick Winston, Ford Professor of Computer Science, and Stephen Immerman, Senior Associate Dean for Student Life and Executive Director of Enterprise Services, for initial recommendations by the end of fall term 2003. I welcome your comments and encourage you to contact Patrick Winston ([phw@AI.MIT.EDU](mailto:phw@AI.MIT.EDU), 617-253-6754) or Steve Immerman ([immer@MIT.EDU](mailto:immer@MIT.EDU), 617-253-9743).

Thank you for the commitment that you and many others have already given to this task. I am confident that together we will define and reach important goals that will benefit current and future students.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles M. Vest".

Charles M. Vest