

WILLIAMS COLLEGE WILLIAMSTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS 01267-0476

February 1, 2006

To the Williams Community,

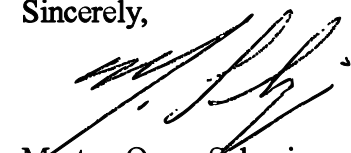
As many of you are aware by now, we have been considering a change to the Williams House System proposal, specifically to consider organizing four neighborhoods instead of five. The four-neighborhood plan has first-year students living in Mission Park, Williams, and Sage, and uses Morgan, Lehman, East, and Fayerweather as upper class housing. We have solicited and received student feedback from College Council from the JA Advisory Board, and from an open forum held on January 10.

After discussions with the Board of Trustees, the decision was made to move forward with the four-neighborhood plan. Its benefits include better neighborhood equity, more coherent geography, larger numbers of students to fill leadership positions within the neighborhoods, more room flexibility within neighborhoods, and a more-cohesive first-year class experience with first-years living in closer proximity to each other around a common dining hall -Mission Park.


The challenges of the four-neighborhood plan -the number of doubles increasing for upper class students, an imbalance of doubles across the neighborhoods, and fewer first-year students having a roommate experience during their freshman year-are outweighed by the benefits. Nonetheless, the Campus Life Office is working on ways to reduce upper class doubles and balance them more among the neighborhoods. Renovations, including common area and bathroom improvements, are being planned this summer for Morgan, Lehman, East, and Fayerweather as they become upper class housing.

Many thanks to those students who took the time to give feedback on this issue, and especially to the members of the CUL for their patience and flexibility as we continue to fine-tune our new upper class residential program in preparation for Fall 2006.

Sincerely,



Morton Owen Schapiro
President of the College



Nancy Roseman
Dean of the College