

**CITY OF CAMBRIDGE**  
**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**  
City Hall Annex    Inman & Broadway    EXTENSION 344

**To** Robert W. Healy, City Manager

**From** *VS* Kathy A. Spiegelman, Assistant City  
Manager for Community Development

**Date** November 16, 1982

**Subject** City Council Awaiting Report Item #26

Attached please find a letter from Robin Schmidt, Vice President for Government and Community Affairs at Harvard University, regarding an article in the November 5th edition of the Harvard Crimson suggesting room rents be raised to encourage students to live off-campus.

Mr. Schmidt indicates that no such proposal is currently being considered by the university administration. Mr. Schmidt has also agreed to discuss with us proposals which are considered relative to off-campus housing for students.

Attachment

# HARVARD UNIVERSITY

ROBIN SCHMIDT  
Vice President

MASSACHUSETTS HALL  
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138  
617-495-1703

November 15, 1982

Ms. Kathy Spiegelman  
Assistant City Manager  
Cambridge Community Development  
57 Inman Street  
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Kathy,

As a follow up to our conversation Tuesday, I write regarding Harvard's policy on non-resident undergraduate students. As you know, unlike most urban universities, the majority of our undergraduate population, approximately 86%, lives on campus and is assigned to the various dormitories, which are regarded as the centers of undergraduate life.

This year Dean John Fox of the College has chosen to focus his Annual Report on a discussion of how Harvard might best serve its small population of commuter students. College administrators are concerned that off-campus residents may not be receiving the full benefits of a Harvard education because of their distance from many student events.

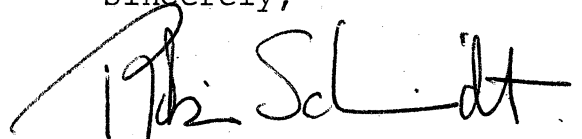
In addition, the Admissions Office, at the urging of various members of the University, is looking at ways to increase the number of local students accepted to Harvard College, particularly from public high schools in Cambridge and Boston. One way to offer more local students acceptance is on a commuter basis.

At this time no specific proposals have been approved by Dean Fox and no committee exists to consider radical alterations in our existing policy.

Increasing room rents specifically to encourage more students to move out of the Houses into off-campus quarters is not, as the Crimson article of 11/5/82 suggests, being considered. In fact, a program of extensive renovations to the Houses is currently underway which, when completed, will considerably improve on-campus housing for undergraduates, thereby making it more desirable.

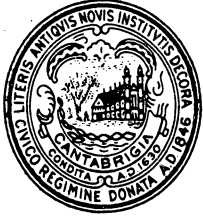
I am fully aware of your concern about any change in Harvard policy which would result in increased competition for already scarce housing. Therefore, when Dean Fox completes his report, I will discuss specific proposals with him and you so that all can be assured that there will be no unintended negative impact on Cambridge residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robin Schmidt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "S".

Robin Schmidt  
Vice President for  
Government and  
Community Affairs

RS:mr



## CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139  
Tel. 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
ROBERT W. HEALY  
City Manager

November 22, 1982

To the Honorable, the City Council:

With respect to Awaiting Report Item No. 23 relative to a proposal to abolish Dudley House at Harvard University, enclosed please find copy of a memo from Kathy Spiegelman, Assistant City Manager for Community Development.

Very truly yours,

  
Robert W. Healy  
City Manager

RWH/mbf  
Enc.

Agenda Item Number Two

S-718

Re: response to Awaiting Report Item No. 23  
regarding a proposal to abolish Dudley Houses.

In City Council,

November 22, 1982

11/22/82

Placed on File