

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,

Robin Schmidt
Vice President for
Government and
Community Affairs

RS:mr

28 S-705

Comm. from Robin Schmidt, Vice-Pres., Harvard
University Re: Harvard's policy on non-resident
undergraduate students.

In City Council,

november 15, 1982

- 11/15/82 -

COUNCILOR
FRANCO

Copies to all Councilors

Made part of record

of Council no objection

Copies sent to All Commissioners + copy to
The City Manager 11/16/82