

HARVARD COLLEGE

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

4 UNIVERSITY HALL
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138

May 23, 1983

Cambridge City Council
City Hall
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Councillors:

I write in response to a question raised in last week's City Council meeting regarding current Harvard College policy for off campus residency.

Harvard College is seeking to maintain the overall size of its undergraduate population at the levels of recent years (around 6,500). The College continues to emphasize the value of the residential experience, and statistics show that the number of students living off campus is at an historic low. In the fall of 1952 there were about 600 non-resident students; in the fall of 1977 about 500 non-resident students; and in the fall of 1982 about 380 non-resident students. We estimate the number of undergraduates (men and women) currently living in Cambridge to be 227. (Eleven of these are living with their parents.)

A recent study of non-residency by a Faculty Council subcommittee concluded that the College should strive to insure that all students who wish to live on campus are able to do so. The College has therefore made two changes in policy. First, in order to encourage a few students to move off campus, it has decided that such students may retain affiliation with a residential House if they lived in that House for two terms or more. (The current limit is four terms or more.) Second, students moving off campus will now be guaranteed on campus housing if their plans should change.

It is difficult to predict what the effect of these decisions will be. The hope, of course, is that some students may decide to move off campus, thereby creating space for others, currently living off campus. (We have a number of students anxious to receive on campus housing.) It is unlikely that there will be significant net changes in the size of the off campus population as a result of these changes. We do hope to change the composition of the on and off campus populations.

*Delivered at rostrum at City Council
meeting of 5/23/83*

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Cambridge City Council

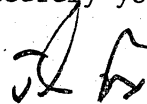
May 23, 1983

It is perhaps worth stating that the College is very dependent on maintaining the size of the residential population in order to collect sufficient revenue. We must maintain the current size of the residential population.

If you should have any further questions about this matter, please feel free to call me or Tom Dingman, Assistant Dean of Harvard College at 495-1555.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'JBF', written over the typed name.

John B. Fox, Jr.
Dean of Harvard College

JBF:mln

21.

S-317

Comm. from John B. Fox, Jr., Dean of Harvard
College Re: questions raised by the City Council on the policy of said University regarding students living on and off campus.

In City Council,

May 23, 1983