

tl;dr: Burton Conner to be renewed; working together on supportive transition plan; Hall and Carton to lead formation of new undergraduate community in New Vassar Street residence hall

Dear students,

The [MIT 2030](#) capital planning framework guides the renovation, renewal, and construction of academic, residential, and student life spaces across campus. As part of this effort, the Division of Student Life (DSL), Department of Facilities (DoF), and Office of Campus Planning (OCP) collaborate to prioritize long-term housing renewal projects so that future generations of students can have an exceptional student life experience. (We also work together to make short-term capital improvements that benefit students now. [You can learn more about that work here.](#))

As many students may know, for the last several months, we have been discussing whether East Campus or Burton Conner would be the next residence hall to be renewed. After careful deliberation and in consideration of facility conditions, we have decided to take Burton Conner offline at the end of the 2019-2020 academic year. The targeted completion and re-opening date for Burton Conner is August 2022.

Improving our residential communities is exciting news; the Burton Conner community will have an updated space when it reopens. We understand, though, that this may be unsettling and create uncertainty for our students. Our highest priority during this transition process will be to keep the lines of communication open with Burton Conner residents and other communities, to listen to students' ideas, and to ultimately make the renewal period go as smoothly as possible. [You can learn more about Burton Conner's renewal in this FAQ.](#)

In addition to this important renewal news, I also want to share a milestone in the New Vassar Street residence hall project: we have asked Professor Steven Hall, current associate head of house in Simmons Hall, to become head of house for the new undergraduate community. Supporting him as associate head of house will be Naomi Carton, associate dean of graduate residential life in DSL and housing director in the Westgate graduate community.

In the coming months, Professor Hall and Dean Carton will work with student leaders, DSL staff, and faculty to form a founders' group for the New Vassar Street community. Chancellor Barnhart and I will formally charge the group

with various goals and responsibilities for helping to create a new residential community that will have its own identity, governance system, and support network. [Please read this story on DSL News for additional details about their appointments.](#)

I hope you will join me in supporting the Burton Conner community and congratulating Professor Hall and Dean Carton. I look forward to working with all of you, and with faculty and staff, as we take these important steps into the future for housing at MIT and for our entire campus.

Best regards,
Suzy