Baker House Room-Assignment Action Plan

1. Please describe, in detail, your house’s updated room-assignment process for first year students. This should include details of the process over the summer and the process during REX and Orientation.

As described within the updated Baker House Rooming Policies, MIT’s Housing and Residential Services submits the list of incoming first-year students assigned to Baker. Baker’s Rooming Assignment Committee (RAC) will assign all first-year students randomly to temporary rooms, taking students’ summer preference sheets into consideration. First-year students have the chance to stay with their pre-assigned roommates or find new ones during the post-REX first-year assignment process. First-year students are generally not placed within single rooms, unless requested through an Institute-approved housing accommodation, and should be distributed evenly across all floor communities.

During REX and Orientation, RAC encourages first-year students to look for compatible roommates.

After FYRE, all Baker first-year students (from both the summer lottery and the FYRE lottery), meet in Baker to find roommates and complete room preference sheets. Once all first-year students have made roommate matches and completed all forms, the Baker RAC conducts a meeting to perform assignments. First-year students with Institute-approved housing accommodations are assigned first.

First-year students who desire to stay together in their summer assignments will be allowed to if all roommates agree to do so. If this is the case, those first-year students do not have to submit forms at the rooming BBQ. If any one roommate decides they would like to move, then the summer assignment is voided, and all residents can move.

2. How does the process allow for students who are overwhelmed to opt out of exploration and moving?

Within Baker’s rooming processes, there isn’t an expectation for residents to move after being assigned to the building or a specific room. By leveraging the preference forms, hosting open forums to aid first-year students in finding compatible roommates, and maintaining flexibility between staying in summer assignments or relocating, Baker House residents have more ease and options through the established processes.

3. What is the level of upper-level student involvement? Are the first-year students being assigned through an algorithm or another way?

Within Baker’s rooming process, upper-level student involvement is maintained mostly within the diverse membership within RAC. RAC members are one (1) to two (2) each from the
sophomore, junior, and senior classes (also known as permanent members), in addition to the Internal President from House Exec as ex officio. First-year students entering Baker are not assigned with the use of algorithms. Rather, the contents of their preference sheets, including room type, preferred sleep schedules, study environment, and what residents like to do on Saturday nights, are taken into full consideration when reviewed by all members of Baker’s RAC.

4. Please describe your house’s upper-level student room-assignment process. This description should include any information about mid-semester room switches.

Within Baker House, upper-level residents are assigned based on separate applicant pools by academic year and Baker-specific “sub-pools.” They are assigned in the following order within the space of three (3) days, and the order of residents within each pool is randomly ranked (again, students with valid medical and disability concerns are given special consideration first):

- Day 1
  - Rising Seniors (Resident Peer Mentors (RPM), House Exec Members, RAC members)
  - Rising Seniors (Current Baker Residents)
  - Rising Seniors (Transfers into Baker)
- Day 2
  - Rising Juniors (RPMs, House Exec Members, RAC members)
  - Rising Juniors (Current Baker Residents)
  - Rising Juniors (Transfers into Baker)
- Day 3
  - Rising Sophomores (RPMs, House Exec Members, RAC members)
  - Rising Sophomores (Current Baker Residents)
  - Rising Sophomores (Transfers into Baker)

Before the above process commences, Baker’s RAC consults with the House Manager to learn if any rooms would be unavailable for the upcoming academic year. These rooms are communicated to the House as unavailable for assignments. Room preference sheets are distributed to all returning Baker students and those interested in moving into Baker from other Houses.

During each rooming day, RAC meets to review the submitted preference sheets by pool order (outlined above). All application evaluations are reviewed holistically, taking into consideration preferences, balance and makeup of Baker, and expressed preferences from the Baker House team. Residents are encouraged to be available during meeting times in case there’s a need to contact them for more information or clarity to aid in application evaluation for assignments.

Residents requesting one another as roommates are placed together, regardless of ranking and pool placement. Current Baker residents who decide to remain in their current room for the next academic year are not guaranteed to do so. However, due to seniority in some pools, residents could keep their rooms for another year.

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Within the academic year, Baker residents can perform room switches. Consultation with Housing and Residential Services and the Baker House team is taken into consideration before final decisions and moves are made.

5. What is the role of the AD in these processes?

A new Assistant Director/Area Director will be on board at the end of August. The AD will be available to assist with the assignment process and address student concerns along with the Heads of House.

6. What forms of evaluation are being considered for assessing the effectiveness of the new process? What ideas do you have for evaluation?

Baker’s updated rooming process will be evaluated using the assessment tools being developed by DSL.