

NEW VASSAR FOUNDERS' GROUP

Vision Statement

We will found a caring, respectful, and inclusive community, where any student can live and thrive on any floor.

Charge and Living Community Goals

Guided by the vision for the New Vassar residence hall, the Founders' Group will create and sustain a living-learning community that helps students to unlock their full potential, both academically and personally; to cultivate new friendships and positive relationships with faculty, staff and peers; to further a diverse, equitable, and inclusive living climate; to develop a healthy and well-balanced lifestyle; and to explore their sense of purpose and passion for lifelong learning and discovery.

The group's work will account for the following:

- As [stated](#) in February 2019, the New Vassar residence hall will be home to a brand new community and will not serve as a "swing dorm."
- The New Vassar residence hall will be a dining community where residents are required to participate in the meal plan program.
- Room-assignment policies in the New Vassar residence hall will advance the vision to create an inclusive and open community, where any student is welcome to live on any floor.

Expected Outcomes

The group will be responsible for the following deliverables:

- Establish community values to serve as a foundation for an inclusive, welcoming, and supportive community where any student can live and thrive on any floor;
- Develop a system of shared governance that promotes teamwork, accountability and collaboration between the house team, Division of Student Life (DSL) and residents;
- Develop a framework for house peer-mentoring and student life and learning programs that advance residents' physical and mental health and that supports their academic success during their transition to college as well as throughout their entire time in the community;
- Engage in furniture selection and planning of communal spaces; and
- Identify strategies for involving faculty in house life and promoting learning by making and collaborating:
 - This work will focus in part on ways to foster connections between the New Vassar makerspace and the Metropolitan Storage Warehouse makerspace.
 - This work will focus in part on developing strategies for how the dining hall, marketplace, and community kitchen will benefit the New Vassar residents and the MIT community.

Expectations for Founders' Group Members

- Members are expected to attend all meetings.
 - The first lunch meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, October 31, from 12-1:30 pm.
 - Lunch meetings will occur every other week on Thursdays from 12-1:30 pm.
- Members will be responsible for soliciting community input on New Vassar programs and initiatives.
- Members will develop the following documents to be shared with members of the MIT community:
 - An interim report by January 31, 2020
 - A final report and recommendations by June 1, 2020

Founders' Group Membership

The Founders' Group will include the following MIT community members:

- Don Camelio, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Residential Life
- Naomi Carton, New Vassar Associate Head of House; Associate Dean, Graduate Residential Life
- David Friedrich, Senior Associate Dean, Housing and Residential Services
- Steven Hall, New Vassar Head of House, faculty (co-chair)
- Kate McCarthy, Associate Dean, Student Support and Wellbeing
- Suzy Nelson, Vice President and Dean for Student Life (ex-officio)
- Judy Robinson, Senior Associate Dean, Residential Education (co-chair)
- Assistant Director, Residential Life/Area Director (to be determined)
- Graduate Resident Advisors (to be determined)
- Undergraduate students (4-6) selected through a process and who commit to the goals of the residence and to living in the community