Dear Students,

I'm writing to update you on the transition to House Communities next fall. If you are a first-year, sophomore, junior, or don't plan to graduate this year, please take a moment to read this message.

Membership in one of the six House Communities will be randomly assigned to you. Starting with the Class of 2020, every incoming student will receive their House membership the summer before they matriculate. In this transition year, we're starting the membership designation process for current students now.

Your House membership will not affect your memberships in other groups or organizations, and it is not the same thing as a room assignment. Room assignments will be made in the spring through room draw. As always, you might choose to live in your House Community, in live learn communities and academic affinity programs, in recognized Greek Letter Organization and Society facilities, or in off-campus apartments. Regardless of where you live and whether or not you are on campus in any given term, you will always be connected as members of your House Community.

Each of you will be notified in late February which House you'll be joining. Because each House Community will include up to 700 current students, you'll already know many of the students in your House. Although you can't "choose" your House, we want to give you the opportunity to tell us if there are a few students (anywhere from 1 to 5, in addition to yourself) with whom you would like to be assigned House membership. It will be a simple process. Follow the link below for details.

You are not required to be part of a group. Many of you may prefer to "go solo," just as you did coming in to Dartmouth as a first-year student. If you do wish to form a group, you have the next four weeks to make the request.

**The choice whether to be part of a group is yours. All members of a group must agree before a group request is submitted, and all must confirm their agreement through the group registration process( http://www.dartmouth.edu/~orl/housing/communities/resources/). You may only be part of one Membership Group request, and all groups must be finalized and confirmed by December 9th.

**The Membership Group Application portal will open on Wednesday, November 11th and remain open through December 9th. This will NOT be a first-come, first served process, so it doesn't matter when you submit-as long as your group application is complete and confirmed by the December 9th deadline.

In setting this timetable, we're recognizing that some of you may want to do this before you leave for break, some will want some time after exams to get to it, and those of you who are away this term may want time to get in touch with friends to decide what you want to do. As long as your request is complete by December 9th, it will be recognized and we will do our best to honor it.
If you'd like to chat with someone as you consider your options, please feel free to contact your UGA, your Community Director, a member of the Residential Education or Housing staff or your Undergraduate Dean any time before the December 9th deadline.

We'll also be holding a Town Hall update next week, on Thursday the 12th from 7-8 p.m. in Common Ground. Dean Biron, Vice Provost Ameer, and some of our House Professors will join me to share updates on the planning process and ways you can become involved over the next six months. You should also feel free to volunteer or send your questions by return blitz to this account (division.of.student.affairs@dartmouth.edu)

We look forward to hearing from you.

Mike Wooten
Associate Dean of Residential Life