Charge:
The Student Selection Task Force is charged with reconciling the ideals for College Halls – with a division of 1/3 Sophomores, 1/3 Juniors, and 1/3 Seniors and a random selection process – with the idea that students can apply to College Halls in groups. The Housing office will be preparing different means by which we can make that work from a logistical standpoint. This task force, a mix of faculty, students, and Residential Life professionals, will discuss these scenarios and recommend the mechanism to be used for the first round of College Halls selections. We may also look ahead to the revisions needed for the second round of selections, given the premise that students will have the right to return to their College.

Committee Membership:
- Cynthia Cyrus (Chair) and Mark Bandas (Ex Officio)
- 3 faculty members: Tom Schwartz, Jen Gunderman, Brian Heuser
- 3 OHARE staff members: Jason Jakubowski, Jim Kramka, Randy Tarkington
- 3 students: Devin Brooks (ENG ’13), Mark Cherry (A&S ’13), Rachel Bass (GPC ’12)

Observations about the College Halls Selection Process:
There are four important features of the housing selection process that govern all housing selection processes at Vanderbilt: 1) fairness, in that everyone has the same options; 2) choice, students are not forced into a particular experience; 3) seniority; and 4) random selection.

There will be a distinct College Halls application process in which students can apply as groups of up to six students, and in which the students will be required to commit to the idea of an “engaged community.” The application will have a series of radio-button questions to guide the student to an understanding of what an “engaged community” will ask of him/her. (Sample statements of affirmation are included in the appendix.) The College Hall application process will occur after off-campus decisions are made, but before the LLC decisions are announced.

Within each college, classes will be represented equally (1/3 senior, 1/3 junior, 1/3 sophomore), and sexes will be represented proportionately (50/50). Floors and suites may be coed; bedrooms must be single sex.

The privilege of renewal is already a campus tradition; elsewhere on campus, if one wants to stay and has at least 50% returning members in the group (and if the application is accepted), then the ability to remain is understood. In College Halls, any member of the college may choose to remain in a subsequent year. Under a self-governance model, however, the community of a given college may choose to consider a given disruptive student’s strong
negative impact on the community and prohibit his/her return, mirroring McGill’s “concern for community” measure. (The Faculty Director is asked to adjudicate if too many students are asked not to return; this should be a rare exception to our campus process.)

**Recommended Student Selection Model for Year One:**
1) Each individual may put his or her name on only one ballot, and must agree to adhere to community ideals.

2) Students apply as individuals or groups of 2–6 students. **Students apply to a particular room type, and ballots for all room types are available simultaneously.** Up to four students may submit applications for single or double rooms, following the regular campus process. Groups can be any combination of Sr/Jr/So; this will affect seniority points. Seniors have 4 points, Juniors have 3 points, and Sophomores have 2 points. Points on ballots are averaged.

   **EXAMPLES:** a six person ballot with 4 seniors and 2 juniors \((4 \times 4 + 2 \times 3) = 22\) points; the average points on the ballot is 3.7 points. A six person ballot with 6 seniors averages 4.0 points. A one-person ballot for a senior averages 4.0 points.

3) All ballots will be ranked from the highest average to lowest average (4 points to 2 points).

4) Four-point ballots will select first with a random selection among them determining the order of room selection. This gives equal weight to all 4-point ballots regardless of room-type desired. So, a senior seeking a single has the same chance of getting her room as a group of six seniors getting a suite for 6. (The only difference is that there are many more singles than suites for 6.)

5) The number of seniors, juniors, and sophomores assigned to rooms will be tracked dynamically so that no more than 1/3 of all spaces can go to any cohort. (This is an approximate, not an absolute ideal; numbers may vary slightly to allow for a combination of randomization while still avoiding the need to break up groups.)

**Recommended Student Selection Model for Year Two and beyond:**
Residents of the college who wish to return must apply anew each year. Unlike some other parts of campus, the colleges do not allow “squatting” – the automatic retention of a particular room. Instead, the selection process will first run locally (within a college), and the rooms will be distributed to returning members of the college sequentially: 6 person, 5, 4, down to 1 person rooms. This allows the students to reconfigure their groups for the following year while retaining the emphasis on community-building that is fundamental to the college halls model.

After the returning members of the college have participated in room selection, the process will run a second time for new applicants to the College, with the goal of a final balance of 1/3 seniors, 1/3 juniors, and 1/3 sophomores.
APPENDIX: APPLICATION STATEMENTS OF AFFIRMATION

To be included as radio-button statements of affirmation on the application:

- **I affirm** the importance of being a good student-citizen of Vanderbilt University and I pledge to promote the values espoused by our Community Creed -- Scholarship, Honesty, Civility, Accountability, Caring, Discovery, Celebration -- in College Halls.

- **I agree** to advance the cause of diversity by valuing human difference and through fostering an environment of open, constructive dialog in College Halls.

- **I promise** to care for and support my fellow students in College Halls, during times of both challenge and celebration.

- **I commit** to actively participate in the civic, social and intellectual life of College Halls.

Additional information, to be included elsewhere on the application:

- I understand that my behavior and participation in a College Hall is subject to review by the Faculty Director and staff and that inappropriate behavior or lack of engagement may result in the loss of the privilege of residing in the College Hall.

- If accepted, I agree to participate in any assessments of college, hall, or program.