I. SCOPE. The Committee on Housing is an advisory and fact finding body appointed by the Provost. Its responsibilities pertain to the fields of planning, operating and maintaining campus housing, both on campus and off campus. In order to provide it with necessary continuity and specialized knowledge its permanent members include the Dean of Women, Dean of Men and the Director of Housing. An additional observer for the past year has been the Director of Planning who served as technical advisor and direct liaison between this committee and the Campus Planning Committee, of which he is a member.

As guidance, the committee has attempted to follow the intent of the resolution adopted by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee faculty last school year. This resolution, it will be recalled, asked that "a modest program of dormitory construction" be initiated. The facilities mentioned were intended to provide housing for: (a) single undergraduates, (b) married students, (c) graduate students, and (d) faculty and staff. (Faculty Minutes 6/15/63 Doc #239)

II. ACTIVITIES

Single undergraduate and graduate housing:

a. The committee reports that the University has been very active in this area. If the proposed purchase of the adjacent Milwaukee-Downer College campus is accomplished prior to next September, the present inefficient system utilizing widely scattered former private homes for dormitories will be abandoned. Instead, the students will be housed in the present Milwaukee-Downer dormitory facilities. Although this is intended only as an interim measure until permanent structures can be erected, it will prove much more efficient and economical to administer and maintain.

b. The 1961 Leeseburg Dormitory Demand Study indicated a need for campus housing at UW-M. When Mr. George Berry, the new Director of Housing, assumed his duties he conducted a new survey to update the 1961 report. The Berry Report concludes that: (1) demand for adequate neighborhood housing substantially exceeds its availability, (2) a number of women students under 21 presently reside in inadequate and unsupervised apartments, and (3) that by Fall of 1965 the minimum demand for University affiliated housing will exceed 500 beds. This conservative figure is based upon a demonstrated shortage of 439 beds in the Fall of 1963.

c. The committee gave its unanimous and enthusiastic endorsement of a plan submitted to it that called for the erection of a 500-bed high-rise housing unit adjacent to the Student Union.

Married student housing: The committee added to its endorsement of the high-rise unit a recommendation that it include provisions for housing married students. Present specifications call for sixteen married student apartments to be included in the building. Accommodations for foreign students and other special groups were likewise recommended.

Faculty and staff housing:

a. In a study made of a number of universities and colleges that provide some manner of faculty and staff housing a general pattern was discernable. Permanent housing is seldom attempted. Rather, interim facilities are provided for a "get acquainted" period. This period varies from one to three years at the institutions polled.

b. It was suggested that as a first step in this direction the University designate certain of its buildings for faculty and staff housing. These buildings include: (1) certain former residences presently used for dormitories but no longer needed
as such, (2) the Bell house on the Milwaukee-Downer campus, (3) several private residences leased by the University and possibly no longer needed for office space, (4) private residences acquired with the purchase of Milwaukee University School, (5) space in the apartment building at 2600 East Kenwood Blvd, if not required to house Peace Corps trainees, and (6) possible future donations to the University.

c. Reflecting the interest shown by the committee a beginning has been made in this area. The six dwelling units acquired with the University School will become available for this purpose in July. They may be rented by incoming staff and faculty for a period of from one semester to one year. Department chairmen have been notified of this arrangement. Additional units may be made available in the near future.

Sorority and fraternity housing:

a. The committee received a request from the Panhellenic Council’s Housing Committee asking that rental space be made available in any new dormitory construction to provide them with meeting and storage facilities. The request was tabled pending receipt of a policy statement defining what moral and organizational support the University is willing to give sororities and fraternities.

b. Because there seems to be no such policy, the committee has requested that one be adopted.

III. SUMMARY. The Committee on Housing has established a close working relationship with the Campus Planning Committee, with one member of that committee sitting regularly at our meetings. The committee has continued to voice its concern over a rapidly developing shortage of suitable student housing. It is gratified to see that this concern is shared by the school administration as evidenced by its planning a large high-rise housing unit to be ready for occupancy by August 1, 1967.

The committee has also tried to point out the importance of housing in other areas. The slowness of sorority and fraternity housing developing is impeding the development of a strong school spirit. The administration will soon be called upon to express its attitude toward such development. Staff and faculty housing can be a significant aid to attracting the best people to UW-M in the coming years of great expansion. Steps have already been taken in this direction.

The committee is grateful for the active support it has received this year from all members of the administration approached. It views this year not as a year of great accomplishments, but as a door opening on an exciting period of expansion and improvement in the field of housing.

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

L. Ades, Chairman
G. Berry, Ex-officio
R. Kriehn, Secretary
J. Leer
L. Stamatakos, Ex-officio
B. Sullivan
E. Weber
C. Wollaeger, Ex-officio