Annual Report of the Housing Committee, 1965-66

The Faculty Committee on Housing is an advisory and fact finding Committee with responsibilities in the fields of planning new facilities, operating and maintaining campus housing units, and evaluating the overall housing program including off campus housing. In addition to the Faculty members appointed by the Chancellor, the Committee is served by two ex-officio members, the Director of Housing and the Dean of Women.

Committee discussions and related actions, as well as developments in the housing area during the past year, include the following:

1. Mr. J. Albin Yokie was appointed Director of Housing at the University effective August 16, 1965. Mr. Yokie had previously served as Housing Director at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

2. Substantial physical improvements were made in the facilities of the University Residence halls. These improvements were completed in the fall, and brought the units up to minimum safety standards.

3. There currently are 296 students living in the residence halls. This included 92 men and 204 women. One hundred and two live in Holton, 54 in Johnston, 78 in McLaren, 36 in Marietta, and 26 in Stowell.

4. Stowell House will not be used for student housing in 1966-67. The unit has proved to be uneconomical to operate.

5. Marietta House will become a cooperative house primarily for graduate women students next fall. There will be space for about 40 students.

6. Work is progressing on planning a new dormitory. At the present time, it is anticipated that the new facility will house 1,251 students. If everything goes according to plans, this dorm will be ready for occupancy in the fall of 1969.

7. During the course of the year, the Committee has spent considerable time reviewing University regulations regarding off campus housing. The Committee found areas of inaccuracies, inconsistencies, and impracticalities. The Committee further found that many regulations were supposedly in force, but were not and have not been enforced for some time, primarily because of lack of staff. In principle the Committee feels that a complete re-writing of all off campus housing regulations is necessary, and it is involved in this task at the present time.

8. The Committee urged the University last December to provide the necessary funds to the Housing Department so that a staff member responsible for liaison in the area of off campus housing could be employed as soon as possible. The University reacted favorably to this request and Mr. Robert T. Seay has been employed as Assistant Director of off campus housing. He will begin his duties on May 1, so that there will be time to work on the off campus housing program for next fall. It is the hope of the Committee that this new effort will improve opportunities for the finding of adequate housing for all students requiring off campus facilities.

9. The Committee has discussed at length and is keenly aware of the need for housing facilities for married students and new Faculty members. The Committee will continue to concern itself with this matter.

Recommendation for Action by the Faculty

The Committee recommends that effective in 1966-67, two students be added to the membership of the Housing Committee, one student selected by the president of the University Student Government, and one student selected by the Inter-Dorm Council.

Housing Committee

T. Crabb, Chairman
F. Cunningham, Secretary
R. Fenske
W. Komsí
P. Kramer
C. Wollaeuer, ex-officio
A. Yokie, ex-officio