Statement and Recommendation of the 

Housing Committee 

1. Of the 16,768 students enrolled in the first semester of 1968-69, 4,735 were married. Many of these full-time or part-time married students, of course, reside in their own homes or the homes of their spouses and no special problems are associated with their housing.

Nevertheless, the Housing Department positively identified 804 of these 4,735 married students as residing in facilities other than their own homes during the first semester of 1968-69. It is believed that the 804 figure is undoubtedly low because many students who live in rental units while attending UWM indicated that they are living in their "own home" when surveys are conducted.

The building of approximately 100 units for married students would provide housing for that portion of these 804 students who need it most.

2. There is insufficient private housing at present which is available at rents which married students can afford to pay, and there is limited prospect that the situation will improve.

On February 24, 1968, the FHA director for Wisconsin reported on the low level of vacancies in apartments throughout Milwaukee and the immediate need for at least another 800 more units for low and moderate income families. In the immediate vicinity of the campus, from North Avenue to Kenwood Boulevard, between Lake Michigan and the Milwaukee River, the vacancy rate of rental units since 1948 has been less than 1.8%, in spite of the fact that hundreds of new units have been built within this area in the last 10 years. It should be noted that many of the new apartments are of the luxury type.

A survey made by the Housing Department indicates that the major concentration of the student population living in units other than their own homes -- both married and single students -- is in this area.

3. Because many married students have small children, the wife is often unable to work, and the average income of married graduate students is estimated at approximately $4,000 per year.

4. Budgeters recommend that ideally not more than 20% of the total family income be expended for shelter. This magnitude of rental within the vicinity of the University and in buildings of acceptable standards does not exist.

5. Private developers have said repeatedly that in the UWM area high land costs, restrictive building codes, rigid zone ordinances, and high property taxes prohibit them from building apartments with rental rates at a level that graduate students can afford to pay. The fact that several unmarried students may pool their resources to pay a high rental
makes it even more difficult for married students, particularly those with children, to find facilities at reasonable rates.

6. As the UWM Graduate School grows, and as professional schools are added, the shortage of housing for married students will be intensified.

7. Since at present no facilities are provided, nor have plans been made, for the housing of married students at UWM, it is imperative that the University take immediate action to provide suitable housing for such families as soon as possible.

8. The Housing Committee, therefore, recommends that the Faculty go on record as:

a. Approving in principle the construction of married student housing on the UWM campus.

b. Recommending that the Administration proceed with all deliberate speed with the planning of married student housing.

Housing Committee
M. Knapp, Chairman
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