

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT ALBANY  
Albany, New York 12203

DATE: 4 March, 1969

FROM: Walter M. Tisdale

TO: President Evan R. Collins

SUBJECT: Campus Progress Report No. 142 - Graduate Student Housing

Today I followed up on the status of funding for our Stage XV Dormitory (Graduate Student Housing). On 5 February 1969, Mr. Stevens had written a letter to Larry Murray, explaining the special problem and requesting guidance on whether or not an increased amount of funding could be used for Graduate Housing, over and above that used customarily for undergraduate housing. Figures of \$7,500. per bed or \$28. a square foot gross were being considered. Inclusive of dining costs, this would equate to \$8,500. per bed or \$29. per square foot. SUNY had never used such high allowances before and herein was the problem.

Since then, Mr. Stevens has received some guidance from Larry Murray which allowed a little leeway in the price per square foot, but which did not allow the figures of \$28. and \$29. per square foot for this housing.

Accordingly, Stanley Torkelsen was called to Albany last Friday and had a session with SUNY, the Dormitory Authority and the Construction Fund. At that time, Mr. Stevens instructed Torkelsen to change the architecture that had originally been considered, to reduce costs, to approach \$6,000. per bed and to start our Stage XV project moving along different lines. Change of architecture will apparently involve change of materials, possibly using white brick in lieu of precast concrete panels. The exterior capped columns and overhangs will be removed. Other similar changes will be adopted that will not compromise the interior living spaces.

Changes indicated for the interior retained all of the single rooms, double-divided rooms and suites which we had prescribed, and on two of the four halls would maintain very much the same sort of bathroom arrangements. However, on the other two of the four halls, they were to investigate the use of common toilets conveniently placed off the corridors.

Stone is now working along these newly prescribed lines and we may expect a resubmission of drawings within a month which will incorporate these changes.

Although some compromises are apparent in this solution, there are some advantages:

1. We get the project out of suspension and start it moving again. This is of the greatest importance.
2. Although the exterior architecture will change, it still will be a pleasing building; in fact, there are many who feel that some change in the exterior appearance of our buildings is long overdue.
3. The more important aspects of Graduate living, i.e., single rooms, double-divided rooms and suites of single rooms with kitchenettes, have been retained.

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4. The concession of using common toilets in lieu of more private suite arrangements for toilets, in two of the four halls, is the single, greatest concession, but this arrangement has been used successfully before, in both graduate and undergraduate housing, and may not be as disadvantageous as some persons feel.

I will notify all concerned immediately when new drawings are available for review.

Walter M. Tisdale  
Assistant to the President  
for Planning & Development

Cc: Vice President Clifton Thorne  
Miss Norma Edsall