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**Residential Life Committee
Annual Report: 2012-2013 Academic Year**

The Chancellor's Residential Life Committee met twice during the 2012 – 2013 academic year. We held these meetings in the early Fall and late Spring semesters. On each occasion, Residential Life director Frankie Minor and Campus Dining Services director Julaine Kiehn informed committee members of the current and planned operations of their respective departments, and discussed opportunities and challenges likely to be encountered in the foreseeable future. Likewise, committee members advised the directors of their impressions and objectives for Residential Life from the perspective of faculty and staff. Since our charge is to advise the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs on matters of student learning relevant to Residential Life, I have stated before that that Residential Life and Campus Dining services are extraordinarily well run operations and Directors Minor and Kiehn are widely recognized as among the capable senior administrators on campus. Nothing this year has altered that impression.

Regarding specifics, the committee is pleased that additional dormitory facilities will be built on the south side of campus. In addition, we strongly endorse the possible demolition of the Jones-Lathrop-Laws complex and its replacement with a new facility. We believe that increasing enrollments, combined with the clear academic benefits of housing younger undergraduates on campus, recommend additional on campus housing. These sentiments should be conveyed to the BOC if and when appropriate. An area of faculty concern, however, remains the scarcity of campus housing for families, graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and similar. Our current, very limited, facilities are scheduled to go off line soon, and there are few plans for replacement. We are hopeful that administration will carefully consider increasing housing options for non-traditional students, research fellows, post-docs, visiting faculty and others with limited expected tenure at MU. The benefits of such housing may not be adequately priced into feasibility studies because these do not capture the academic benefits of attracting such persons to MU. The market for top graduate and professional students, researchers and NTT faculty is extremely competitive, and adequate housing may be one consideration that advantages MU relative to other institutions. Finally, we also remain very concerned about excessive alcohol consumption by some MU students, and encourage Residential Life and Campus Dining services to take a more active role in educating students about how to enjoy, rather than abuse, alcohol. Since many of us associate alcoholic beverages with good food, it seems natural that Campus Dining Services may be able to contribute significantly in this regard.

I'll conclude by reiterating on behalf of the committee that Residential Life and Campus Dining Services are exceptionally well run organizations that contribute immensely to the academic mission of the university. We thank directors Minor and Kiehn for maintaining good lines of communication with the faculty and for their significant campus contributions.

Jay Dow

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Chair, Chancellor's Committee on Residential Life