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Illinois University
The Board Bill

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
THE BOARD
BILL—

STATEMENT

Mr. Joe or Miss Mary Student

University of Illinois

IN ACCOUNT WITH

MRS. LANDLADY
CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, ILL.

4-30-26	To Room Rent, One Month	14	87
4-30-26	To Board, One Week	7	05

The Results of a Study of Student
Living Costs at the University
of Illinois

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TO PARENTS whose sons or daughters go to college, the question of cost of a university education is important. Several items entering into this cost are fairly constant—fees, books, study supplies, etc.,—and other items, such as clothing, laundry bills, entertainment and incidentals, vary with the students' individual tastes and means. But the two most expensive items—board and lodging—are usually of most interest in a discussion of student living expenses.

Appreciating this fact, in April, 1926, the President of the University of Illinois sent a questionnaire to all students then in attendance at the University departments at Urbana, except students residing with their parents, requesting information about the amount of room rent per month, cost of board per week, the number of students in a room, and the place where the board was obtained.

Usable answers were received regarding room rent per month from 5,964 students (4,243 men; 1,721 women), or 63.5 per cent of the second semester enrollment at Urbana. Of these replies, 3,778 were from members of organized houses and 2,186 from students living in unorganized houses.¹

In reply to the question about cost of board per week, usable answers were received from 5,944 students (4,231 men; 1,713 women), or 63.3 per cent of the second semester enrollment at Urbana. Of the total replies, 3,772 were from members of organized houses and the remainder of 2,172 from students rooming in unorganized houses.

Amount Spent for Rent

The average room rent per month, obtained by an analysis of the answers to the questionnaire, was:

- \$14.81 for men students
- \$15.01 for women students
- \$14.87 for all students reporting

The room rent paid per month ranged from \$5 per student for a room occupied by three students to \$35 for a room occupied by one student. However, the ordinary range was from \$10 to \$20 per month per student. Of all students from whom replies were received, 60 per cent paid from \$12.50 to \$15 per month for room rent; the highest per cent paying any single rate was 35, paying \$15 per month.

An analysis of the reports received from seventy-four social fraternities showed that the average room rent for men students living in organized houses was \$15.81. Reports representing thirty-two social sororities, the four residence halls of the University, and

¹"Organized houses," as used here, includes fraternities, sororities, residence halls, church houses, Y. W. C. A., etc., while the term "unorganized houses" is applied to all rooming houses, private homes, etc., which do not have governing bodies of their own.

four other organized houses, showed that \$15.08 was the average room rent per month paid by women living in organized houses. The average room rent per month for men and women students living in organized houses was \$15.56, as found from reports from 114 groups representing 3,778 students.

The average room rent per month for the various classes of fraternal organizations and organized houses was:

	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Average</i>
National Social Fraternities.....	\$16.07	\$15.16	\$15.81
Local Social Fraternities.....	15.04	15.00	15.03
Professional Social Fraternities.....	14.52		
Organized Houses (Y. W. C. A., Church Houses, etc.).....		14.95	
<i>Average.....</i>	<i>\$15.81</i>	<i>\$15.08</i>	<i>\$15.56</i>

The average room rent per month paid by men students living in unorganized houses, as reported by 1,764 students, was \$13.40 and for women students living in unorganized houses, as found from the replies of 422 students, \$14.78. The average room rent per month for men and women students living in unorganized houses, representing 2,186 students, was found to be \$13.67.

The average room rent per month paid by students living in unorganized houses, according to the number of students in a room, was:

<i>Number in Room</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Average</i>
1	\$14.58	\$16.27	\$14.96
2	13.14	14.33	13.35
3	13.17	14.43	13.48
4	13.20	15.00	13.29
5*	12.50	17.50	14.16
<i>Average.....</i>	<i>\$13.40</i>	<i>\$14.78</i>	<i>\$13.67</i>

*There were only six students, or three-tenths of one per cent, who reported they shared a room with four other students.

In addition to the room rent per month the questionnaire filled out by unorganized students supplied information concerning the number of students in a room. The per cent of unorganized students living in single rooms, double rooms or three or more students in a room is shown below:

<i>Number in Each Room</i>	<i>Men Per cent</i>	<i>Women Per cent</i>	<i>Average Per cent</i>
1	18.1	21.8	18.8
2	69.4	62.1	68.0
3	11.2	15.4	12.0
4	1.1	.2	.9
5	.2	.5	.3
<i>Total.....</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>

Amount Spent for Board

The average amount paid for board per week as found from an analysis of 5,944 replies to the questionnaire, was:

\$7.12 for men students
6.89 for women students
7.05 for all students reporting

The minimum expenditure for board per week was \$1.50, paid by a student who prepared meals in her own room; and the maximum expenditure was \$15 per week, the usual range being from \$5 to \$8.50 per week. Only 740 students paid more than \$7.50 per week for board, or less than 13 per cent of the total number reporting. Of the students represented in this report, 57.7 per cent obtained board for \$7 per week.

The men students living in organized houses paid less for board per week than the men living in unorganized houses, while the reverse is true regarding the women students. The average board per week for organized men was \$7.07, for unorganized men \$7.19, for organized women \$6.93, for unorganized women \$6.78, for organized men and women, \$7.02, and for unorganized men and women, \$7.11.

The average board per week paid by students living in organized houses was:

	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Average</i>
National Social Fraternities.....	\$ 7.07	\$ 6.91	\$ 7.02
Local Social Fraternities.....	7.13	7.52	7.18
Professional Social Fraternities.....	6.99		
Other Organized Houses (Y. W. C. A., Church Houses, etc.).....		6.89	
<i>Average.....</i>	<i>\$ 7.07</i>	<i>\$ 6.93</i>	<i>\$ 7.02</i>

The average board per week paid by students living in unorganized houses by place of boarding, was:

	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Average</i>
Boarding Club.....	\$ 7.20	\$ 7.16	\$ 7.20
Cafeteria	7.43	6.03	7.12
Restaurant	7.09	7.19	7.10
Private Home.....	6.93	6.53	6.76
Cafeteria and Restaurant.....	7.89	5.04	7.64
Club and Restaurant.....	7.53	7.64	7.54
Other Combinations*.....	6.45	5.69	6.13
By working for meals at organized houses.....	7.27		7.27
Place not indicated.....	7.24	6.91	7.20
<i>Average.....</i>	<i>\$ 7.19</i>	<i>\$ 6.78</i>	<i>\$ 7.11</i>

*Includes those who prepare a part or all of their meals in their rooms.

Students filling in the questionnaire were asked to give the place where board was secured. A summary of this information shows the following:

<i>Organized:</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Per cent to total</i>
Fraternities.....	2,479	65.7
Sororities.....	826	21.9
Other organized Houses.....	467	12.4
<i>Total..</i>	<i>3,772</i>	<i>100.0</i>
<i>Unorganized:</i>		
Boarding Club.....	674	31.0
Cafeteria.....	130	6.0
Restaurant.....	536	24.7
Private Home.....	253	11.6
Cafeteria and Restaurant.....	114	5.2
Club and Restaurant.....	71	3.3
Other Combinations*.....	89	4.1
By working for meals at organized houses...	86	4.0
Place not indicated.....	219	10.1
<i>Total.....</i>	<i>2,172</i>	<i>100.0</i>

*Includes those who prepare a part or all of their meals in their rooms.

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