Planning for Student Housing
in a Period of Enrolment
Expansion: Enrolment Increases
at Queen's University in 2003

for Student Housing
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. and Beyond and The Implicatio~ Executive Summary

This report attempts to consider a number ofvariables in examining problems in
student housing that will be faced by Queen's University as it undergoes expansion in the next decade. The planning issue as defined in this report is how to plan for student housing during
a period of enrolment expansion. This report begins by looking at a number of factors that
may explain why there is likely to be an increase in levels of student enrolment in the next
decade, and consequently, an increasing demand for suitable and affordable student housing. Of particular concern is the peak demand which is forecast for 2004-05. This report looks briefly into a consultant's report to the Council of Ontario Universities which summarizes the demographic and workforce changes Ontario is likely to experience in the next ten years, with a focus on the 18-24 age group. The consultant's report identified four factors that will likely to lead to a substantial increase in the demand for post-secondary education in the province. They are: Ontario secondary school reform beginning in 2003, a steady increase in population ofthe 18-24 year old cohort, higher participation rates in post-secondary education, and a rise in the demand for post-secondary education due to changing workforce requirements. The most consequential ofthese four factors is the change to Ontario secondary school requirements, which will decrease the normal duration of high school from five years to four years, leading to a "double cohort" ofgraduating students in 2003. The peak ofthis increase in post-secondary school demand is projected for the year 2004-05. The implications for universities ifthey do not plan to increase their capacity to absorb this swelling ofapplicants are both economic and social. An economy thrives when it has an abundance ofhighly educated and skilled members of society. Therefore the availability of a university education to young students is essential for the growth and development ofthe provincial economy. Further, students in Ontario have the right to access quality post-secondary education if they meet the qualifications required for admissions. In practice, this means that a competitive university, such as Queen's, must ensure that it has sufficient capacity to absorb this increase in demand for student housing or forgo the opportunity to enroll new students and gain associated benefits with a larger student population.

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Chapter Two examines some of the latest designs in student housing that are being !
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