

02003

Columbia University
48073 Housing

*Ans - JMS
added to committee
not funding file -
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It was, on motion,

RESOLVED that the sum of One hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000),
RF 48021 or as much thereof as may be necessary, be, and it
hereby is, appropriated to COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY toward
support of the program of the Institute for Urban Land
Use and Housing Studies during the three-year period
beginning March 1, 1948, not more than \$37,000 to be
available in any one year.

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LAND USE
AND HOUSING
STUDIES

The following were the considerations presented:

Social Sciences

Previous Interest: None.

General Description: The Institute for Urban Land Use and Housing
Studies was established by the Trustees of Columbia University in
the summer of 1947. An Administrative Board appointed from the
faculties of the Schools of Business, Law, and Architecture, and
the Departments of Economics, Sociology and Public Law and Govern-
ment, is responsible to the Trustees for its operation. Its objec-
tives are the study of the basic and continuing problems of urban
land use and housing, the investigation of specific issues and
current problems arising out of the development of urban land
resources, the combination of the resources and techniques of
several disciplines that can contribute to the solution of housing
problems, and the training of graduate students in the techniques
of investigation and analysis in these fields.

Columbia University has extensive actual and potential
resources for research in urban land use and housing. Several of
the schools and departments already have as members of their staffs
persons who are expert in the field. Courses are offered and
research is encouraged. The Libraries contain a considerable body
of literature on the subject. There are more graduate students
than ever before, many of whom are enrolling in these courses and
demonstrating interest in research in this area. Up to the present
time, however, the resources of the University have been scattered.
The establishment of the new research agency is designed to pro-
vide collaboration among the various groups of scholars and to
utilize more efficiently facilities now available.

2/20/48

Specific studies to be undertaken by the Institute will be determined by the Administrative Board as personnel and financing are available. It is hoped that several of the following studies may be initiated at an early date:

Problems in the Redevelopment of Urban Areas
Public Housing
Financing Private Housing
Provision and Management of Large-Scale Housing Projects
The Analysis and Improvement of Basic Statistical Series on Urban Land Use and Housing

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The Administrative Board would like to start the work of the Institute with the appointment of two major staff members to be responsible with the Director, Dr. Ernest M. Fisher, for the execution of specific studies. They would be chosen to represent the points of view of the economist and sociologist and of the physical planner. To assist these major staff members appointments for a term of at least two years would be offered to younger men.

In addition to pursuing general research projects the Institute will provide a service at cost in connection with specific enterprises upon which its assistance may be sought. It is hoped that the Institute will become a major center for discussion of basic problems and their investigation and for the dissemination of authoritative materials. An Advisory Board consisting of public-spirited men of affairs has been appointed to assist in the development and implementation of this program.

Finances: It is estimated that \$40,000 annually will be necessary for the program in addition to the contribution from Columbia University. The latter consists of two-thirds time of the Director, the services of members of the various faculties, incidental expenses such as office space and the use of other University facilities. The \$40,000 would be allocated approximately as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| 2 major staff members at \$10,000 | \$20,000 |
| 3 research assistants at \$4,000 | 12,000 |
| Clerical, stenographic assistance | 8,000 |
| | <hr/> \$40,000 |

A grant of \$100,000 over a three-year period is recommended. This will keep support in line with that for similar work at the University of Wisconsin and the Social Science Research Council and will permit the Institute to make a good start on its program.

Future Implications: No commitment. The officers may recommend tapering terminal aid if it appears necessary and desirable to insure permanent value and independence to the Institute's program.

Comment: With the recent grants made by the Foundation to the University of Wisconsin for research and training in housing and to the Social Science Research Council for a working committee to promote planning and coordination in this field, aid to the Columbia University Institute should provide strength, diversity and a catalyzing effect at a modest total cost. The grant should also demonstrate anew that neutral Foundation aid can simultaneously provide leverage on private funds and assure independence.

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