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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Child Care Center 1818 4th Street South Minneapolis, Minnesota 55454 (612) 627-4014

**Date:** January 10, 1991

To: Tom Gilson, Management Planning and Information Services

From: Patty Finstad, Director U of M Child Care Center

RE: Report on Twin Cities Campus Child Care Alternatives for Students Who Cannot Afford Child Care, per the Legislative Request: Chapter 293, p. 1730 (1989)

Per your request, here is our response to Legislative Report # 17 which describes the ways in which lower income students on the Twin Cities campus have access to alternative means of affording child care:

- 1. Child care centers in the Como and Commonwealth student housing communities have lower parent fee rates because they are student parent cooperatives. They also offer a sliding fee to students (2-20% reduction), with most students being eligible for between a 14-20% reduced fee. This subsidy is made possible from funds provided to the centers by the Student Services Fee committee, from parent sponsored fund raisers, and from grants obtained by the centers' staff.
- 2. The University of Minnesota Child Care Center has offered a siding fee to student parents since its opening in 1974. Reduced rates up to 50% are available depending on family income levels.
- 3. The University now provides free child care resource and referral services to assist students in finding affordable child care off campus in convenient neighborhood locations.
- 4. The Student Services Fee committee of the MSA has made a substantial commitment to child care, reflecting student needs and opinions documented in several surveys. This committee approves the allocation of about \$40,000 per year to subsidize campus child care for students.
- 5. Students may have their financial aid budgets revised to include child care expenses. However, loan money is usually the only funding available for this need. Theoretically, students may use work-study funding to help pay child care expenses, but at the revision stage, there may not be any work-study funding available.
- 6. The Project HELP center in General College administers a variety of grant programs intended to assist low income students in paying for child care services. Financial sources include Title XX funds, non-AFDC Post Secondary funds, and private or foundation grants.
- 7. Income eligible children attending any of the three campus child care centers receive free or reduced meals and snacks as the centers maintain contractual agreements with the Mn. State Child Care Food Program.

8. Students who are eligible for any child care assistance programs through local county social service agencies are referred to those agencies by campus child care personnel. The centers maintain contractual agreements with local welfare departments to ensure that qualifying University students receive such services.

If you have any further questions regarding this report, please do not hesitate to contact me at 627-4014.

cc: Theresa Robinson, Director Transportation & General Services

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA TWIN CITIES

Child Care Center 1818 4th Street South Minneapolis, Minnesota 55454

(612) 627-4014

Date: January 16, 1991

To: Tom Gilson, Management Planning and Information Services

From : Patty Finstad, Director U of M Child Care Center, Transportation and General Services, Support Services and Operations

RE: Report on Twin Cities Campus Child Care Facilities per the Legislative Request: Chapter 591, Sec. 7

Per your request, here is our response to Legislative Report #17, second part.

The University Twin Cities campus has not prepared a child care facilities request to the 1991 legislature and has no plan to do so in the future. A new U of M Child Care Center replacement facility is currently planned using a combination of three funding sources: Parking services funds, an interest free long-term loan, and fund raising efforts approved by the University Foundation.

Plans to relocate the Child Care Center have been necessitated by three main circumstances: (1) the need to construct a new parking ramp on the west bank campus at the current child care site to alleviate serious over flow problems, (2) the inability to meet current state health, safety and building codes due to inadequate conditions of the child care building, and (3) the demand for more available, affordable and high quality child care space on the University campus.

If you have any further questions regarding this report, please do not hesitate to contact me at 627-4014

cc: Theresa Robinson