Hotels help ease school's crowding

(Continued from page 1) comfort of hotel rooms, they must take buses to reach the campus.

Richard Collins, the housing director, says that half of the students will be out of the hotel in two weeks and the rest will be out in an additional two weeks. These students will be moved into dormitories with extra people in the current rooms and with common rooms converted to bedrooms.

The administration has no plans for dealing with possible overcrowding next year, even though this is the second year that it has faced the problem. Nearby in Medford, Tufts University also needed to rent space in a hotel, but the two floors are now planned for permanent student residence. Students were asked by letter during the summer whether they wished to live in the hotel. Half of the hotel's current residents are volunteers and the rest indicated that they would be willing to live there. These students are paying the normal dormitory fees and have available 24-hour bus service to the university.

Tufts dormitories are filled to capacity but not overcrowded. The administration hopes that the hotel will solve its housing problems for several years.

The University of Massachusetts at Amherst had 400 to 500 students over its housing capacity last summer. Most of these vacancies resulted from juniors moving off campus. The administration loosened its usually strict policy of allowing only seniors and special cases to live off campus. Other than allowing more students to live off campus, the university has no alternative solution to its overcrowding, even though it has faced this problem intermittently over the past few years.

Some universities in the area have been more successful in estimating the number of students that they would have to house. At Brandeis University in Waltham, enrollment was within one or two persons of the projected figure. The only difficulty that that institution is having is in helping about 40 transfer students find housing. Unlike freshmen, these students are not guaranteed housing, so that some of the campus living space is crowded. Brown University, in Providence, R.I., had anticipated having to find additional housing for just over 100 freshmen but now has managed to accommodate them in the existing dormitory system without any overcrowding.

The overcrowding at these schools is due primarily to two reasons. First, the percentage of freshmen admitted who decided to attend the schools increased. Second, more upperclassmen decided to remain in university housing. This problem has recurred every year but most schools are continuing to solve it on a year-by-year basis.

Fortunately for the university administration, freshmen have cooperated admirably and have withstood the added confusion with little complaint.

Boston University faces a housing problem similar to MIT's this year. BU ended up with 700 more freshmen than they could house. Overcrowding exists in this and other dormitories that could not handle the overflow, so the school is housing 300 students in off-campus buildings bought or rented for this purpose.

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