Energy conservation is an issue we all care about. To keep our room rates as low as possible and comply with the state energy guidelines, we are required to maintain room temperatures to 68 degrees during the heating season.

There will be some variation in the buildings because of the different control systems, but we maintain 68 degrees in as many rooms as possible, though some rooms may be a little higher.

Hot water is pumped through fin type baseboard convectors in each room. There is an opening at the top and bottom of the convector. The convector has a damper control knob on the front which must be in the open position (turn knob to left) so that air can flow freely through the heated fins and convect heat into your room. It is important that bedding, furniture and other articles be kept clear of the convector openings to maintain convection.

If you come back to a cold room, you may have left your window open and have to wait for the building controls to respond in order to receive heat. If opening the damper or valve does not help, check to be sure belongings (furniture, bedding, carpet) are not pushed up against the convector or radiator. A free flow of air must be maintained around the heating unit so air can pass through to heat your room.

All of our buildings receive steam from the U.W. Central Heating Plant which is used to heat water for hot water systems or to use directly. The flow of steam is controlled by outside sensors and thermostats located throughout the buildings.

Some helpful hints:

1. Help conserve energy through common sense habits.
2. Close your drapes or blinds at night.
3. Open your drapes or blinds on sunny days.
4. Don’t leave windows open.
5. Dress warmly.

Please share this information with your roommate.

Mark Engbring
Maintenance Supervisor
University Housing/Lakeshore