

MINUTES

Art Policy Committee Meeting Thursday, June 18, 1964
President's Office,
Bennington College.

PRESENT: Mrs. Winston, Chairman, Mr. Ruebhausen, Mr. Bergmark, Mr. Feeley, Mr. Black, Mr. Olitsky, Mr. Longo, Mrs. Meyer, Mrs. McCullough, Mrs. Friedman, Mr. Stroud. (Mr. McCullough came towards the end and Mrs. Hadley took minutes)

The gift of oil paintings by Mr. Graves was reviewed. These paintings (about six oils) were given in 1956. At the time they were valued at \$71,000 and the College has paid \$432 insurance on them every three years since 1956.

There is reportedly among these paintings a Homer, Eastman Johnson, ~~Sedart~~. However, the authenticity of these paintings is questioned.

PROPOSAL: The Graves paintings will be authenticated by some authority at the Metropolitan, or some other suitable institution, either by the paintings being sent to the Museum or someone from the Museum coming to Bennington.

The group next went to the Barn Studio to view recent acquisitions. Of particular interest was a Paul Klee, either water color or push-noir. Perl's Gallery, New York, was suggested as a place to further identify the work.

Paul Feeley pointed out the space needs as outlined by the Art Faculty is a result of much thought and many meetings.

Mr. Reubhausen asked how it compared with the Taylor-Leiberman report.

Mr. Feeley indicated the T.L. Report didn't really express the Art Faculty's need, and it does not allow for a gallery.

The specific areas listed in the Faculty Report were discussed. In particular, the separation of student and professional exhibits was disapproved of. Mrs. Winston read a letter from Lawrence Alloway which promoted the idea of putting student and professional exhibitions on an equal footing. Paul said the confusion came from the fact the Art Faculty wanted space for "work in progress" that wouldn't need a full gallery situation.

Mrs. Winston asked that a statement be further refined and finished that could be used for raising money for the new visual arts center, and for appeals for donations of artistic works.

She indicated it should be simple and direct, yet express the excitement of what teaching art has been at Bennington and will be with the new gallery and projected curatorial experience the girls will have.

Mr. Feeley raised the possibility of using space in existing buildings which will be freed when space becomes available in new buildings. In particular he mentions the theater and studio areas on the third floor of commons as space for a new gallery. Using the North entrance the 3rd floor becomes the second floor, and by installing a freight elevator large sculpture and canvases could be carried up and down. The building is fireproof and the floors he believes could stand the loads. It is in a central position and the new visual arts working building would probably not be too far removed. He thinks it a very good setup for a museum.

Mr. Reubhausen asked about using the dining rooms as exhibit space. Mr. Feeley and Mr. Blake were thoroughly against that. They felt that exhibits need a space where they can be viewed not eaten with. They had no objection for using paintings as decoration in the dining rooms.

The matter of priority of the two projected buildings was raised and Mr. Feeley felt that it should almost be a simultaneous process, that gallery museum space is enormously important to the teaching process at Bennington, that it is "teaching in an open area where the students see the toughest stuff available."

Mr. Reubhausen asked for more study and review of the museum and wanted more thought on how you determine the size for reading purposes.

The faculty recommended that student sculpture and paintings should go on the grounds, dining rooms and houses. But space for just viewing paintings is needed, and tradition has already determined the size of the museum.

Jane McCullough read a statement she had prepared for sending out to prospective donors.

The proposal of this committee to take a trip soon after the trustee meetings to view various college art centers was discussed and voted on. The vote was practically unanimous to take the trip.

Mr. Reubhausen in defining the roll of this group said, the art faculty should determine "What is the opportunity of the Arts at Bennington", that this statement should come from their own creativity, which is then translated into space needs and then translated into dollars and finally into architectural drawings and the buildings themselves.

The art acquisition policy was discussed but no decisions were made.

Stacy

*TPB FYI.
EWS*

Bennington College

AGENDA

FOR JOINT TRUSTEE-FACULTY ART POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday June 18, 1964 - 8:30 p.m.

(Place of meeting to be announced later)

- I. Review of minutes and comments of meeting April 16, 1964 at Bennington.
- II. Further exploration of definite space needs for proposed:-
 - (a). Visual Arts Building - see minutes of Faculty Art Policy Committee meeting March 2, 1964.
 - (b). Definite space needs for proposed Art Gallery.
- III. Mrs. McCullough's statements defining Bennington policy on:-
 - (a). The acceptance of art acquisitions from potential donors
 - (b). An announcement to be sent to a selected public re Bennington and its proposed (1) plan for a Visual Arts Building
(2) An Art Gallery and its program of beginning curatorial study thru loan exhibitions and college holdings.
- IV. Paul Feeley -
 - (a). Report on college holdings of works of art
 - (b). Display of art holdings, if possible
 - (c). David Smith gift
 - (d). Other proposed gifts
 - (e). Program planning for 1964-65

X Becca this is why the committee needs the minutes of this meeting

V OTHER BUSINESS