

Bennington College  
September 24, 1957

Memorandum

To: Mrs. Brown

From: William C. Fels

The Faculty Library Committee met to discuss the site question and asked me to convey the sense of the meeting to you.

The individual members of the Committee, speaking for themselves and for other members of the Faculty, voiced strong feelings about the several possible sites, but the Committee as a whole did not reach a consensus. The Committee prefers not to make positive recommendation for or against any one site. It prefers to state certain considerations it feels are important, confident that the Trustees will explore them before arriving at a decision.

East Parking Lot Site: The Committee's reservations with regard to this site were its closeness to the Student Houses and the resultant feeling of congestion or "huddling" of the campus, the likelihood of higher cost, the questionable possibilities for expansion and the difficulty of interior planning occasioned by the limitations of the site. The Committee hopes that the Trustees will explore the possibility of siting the building somewhat to the East of the projected site, or at least of swinging the South end toward the East. The Committee would not favor using the East Parking Lot site if the costs associated with building on it were substantially greater than the cost of building on another site. The Committee is not satisfied that the possibilities of expansion on this site have been explored sufficiently. The group also is certain that a satisfactory interior plan has not been developed and would not favor the site unless one could be developed.

Cricket Hill Site: There was no strong support for this site. There was the feeling that it closed off unnecessarily an attractive and developed area. There were the apparently but not really conflicting suggestions that it was "squeezed" and yet offered the best possibilities for expansion. Of the three possible locations in this general area the middle position was preferred to those closest to the Barn and farthest from the Barn (the 'Meadow') but, as I mentioned, the site found little favor at all.

West-of-Barn Site: There was some feeling that the site on the West of the Barn deserved greater consideration than it had had. One member of the Committee, speaking for himself and others not on the Committee, expressed an understanding of the site's limitations yet felt it had a certain logic as a library site that had made it seem the inevitable location to several members of the faculty. If the further exploration of this site would not cause undue expense or delay, the Committee would be pleased to see the exploration made.

The Committee realizes the necessity for a timely decision by the Trustees. It does not wish to press any particular site (though its individual members would be glad to!) but it does hope and trust that the Trustees will not arrive at a final decision without giving careful consideration to the questions it raises in connection with the East Parking Lot site and, if time and arrangements permit, to the possibilities of the West-of-Barn site.