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UA68/5/2 Letter re: WKU Art Department

Ruth Hines Temple

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MEMORANDUM TO: Dean Raymond L. Cravens
Dean Paul G. Hatcher

August 4, 1966

Through the years, I have regarded the chairmanship of the Department of Art as an inspiration, a privilege, a challenge, and a sacred trust. It was an honor to have served as the first Head of the Department, Western Kentucky University, Spring - Summer, 1966.

Our gains, though not so great as I desired, have been impressive. I believe them to be sound and in good taste. A few comparisons show consistent growth: an enrollment of 205 in the Spring Semester of 1948; 196 in the Spring of 1966; two faculty members in 1947, eleven full-time; one half-time in the Fall of 1966; a gallery, three classrooms, and three offices in 1947, a gallery, several foyer-galleries, fourteen studios, nine offices, the use of two or three lecture rooms, plus a potential foundry in the Fall of 1966.

The curriculum has developed from a limited number of rather general courses in 1947 to a sequence of clearly defined courses in the Areas of Art Education, Art History, Ceramics, Design, Drawing, Graphics, Painting, Sculpture, and Weaving in 1966. The curriculum has evolved from a limited 24-hour major and an 18-hour minor in the early days to a 54-hour Area of Concentration and a 27-hour minor in 1966. Equipment, of a meager nature in 1947, now includes impressive numbers of substantial pieces, among them potters wheels, two electric kilns, a pug mill, two presses, one recently arriving from England, 11 looms and other weaving equipment, 19 easels, 10 drawing horses. At the request of Dr. Hatcher in April to submit a list of equipment for proposed financing by federal funds under Title VI, it was my judgment to request four Potter's Wheels and major equipment for the foundry. This money, as you know, now has been made available for these purchases.

The acquisition of physical equipment, of personnel, and the development of the curriculum have been accompanied by augmented Gallery offerings, by growing services to our students and ever-increasing contributions of our faculty members to community

**One on leave of absence**
program and enterprises. In every respect, we maintain in 1966 a comprehensive program of Art at Western Kentucky University.

The impressive gains mentioned, represent, I believe, a dynamic beginning for growing developments to be achieved in the fast-paced period we have entered. In relation to these developments, many top priority problems, among others, may be identified, such as professional cataloging of the slide collection; a decision with regard to the use of the nude model; an expanded Art Curriculum; a carefully planned graduate program for the study of which this last Spring a committee composed of Dr. Monroe, Dr. Anderson, and Miss Wallace was appointed; additional personnel in the fields of Art Education, Art History, and studio; the development of an Art Library; acquisition of originals; preliminary study with regard to needs for the new building which is foreseen in the near future.

It is my hope that a balanced growth, Art Education-oriented, may come about under the wise and understanding guidance of an administrator with a comprehensive and cultivated mind, with a catholicity of taste, with heroic will and with indefatigible work. I believe the Department I turn over to you now has the potential of becoming through the years a vast Center of the Arts which may serve as a model for all colleges and universities in the United States.

I am grateful for every personal kindness and every professional courtesy. I extend my best and kindest wishes to you and to each of my colleagues who will participate in the developing enterprise.

Ruth Hines Temple
Head, Department of Art

RHT/mab