

Copy: Jeff

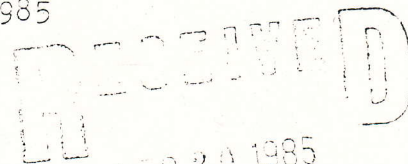


Donald D. O'Dowd  
President

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA STATEWIDE SYSTEM

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99775-5560

December 11, 1985



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Vice President  
for Development

Ms. B. J. Griffin  
Office of Development  
Oakland University  
Rochester, Michigan 48063

Dear B. J.:

Thanks very much for sending me a copy of Jeffrey M. Haight's paper on "Saints and Sinners". It does recall a lot of events and memories which have become rather dim with the passage of time and the interference from two other universities.

As best I can recall, Mr. Haight's recreation of the events of the mid-sixties surrounding the acquisition and installation of Saints and Sinners is very accurate. I would only add that Warren Cooksey envisioned the installation of the Saints and Sinners statue a number of years before the project was actually organized and funded. I suspect he started talking to me about this proposal as early as 1970 and probably discussed it with Woody even before that. I know that Dr. Cooksey had developed a genuine affection for this particular piece of sculpture and very much pictured it as an adornment for the University campus.

After a time I got to know Marshall Fredericks, probably through the Cookseys, and became better acquainted with his work and frankly I was charmed by it and by him. Marshall's work has a lightness of touch, wonderful good humor and a whimsical quality that characterizes few sculptors of this or any other era. He is also a masterful technician and his work has a great deal of technical integrity. This combination seemed to me a good one for the University. I judged that the type of work that he was creating would have a long-term appeal to students particularly as their attitudes and ideas were changing in the mid-seventies toward the direction that we see so firmly entrenched today. It was a guess as to what the future generation would value and I think maybe we guessed right. As you know a lot of people were critical of the acquisition and installation of the statue, arguing that it was too representational, dated and reminiscent of another era. That was probably true in the early seventies - I suspect it is less true today.

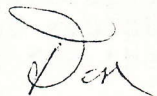
University of Alaska

I believe the individual figures were indeed named for members of the administration and at times the several figures were clearly identified with various members of the central office and the individual colleges.

As I read through the document I wondered if Warren Cooksey was a member of the Foundation Executive Committee. I know that he was quite active in Foundation affairs although that may have been primarily through his role in the President's Club.

In any case, it is an excellent paper and is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge.

With love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dan".

DDO:dm