July 30, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. R. Bowen Loftin

SUBJECT: CBE Request: President to appoint a Committee to Establish Guidelines for Accepting Statues or Sculptures on Campus

At meetings in May and June the Council for the Built Environment (CBE) discussed a request from the Class of 2006 Agents, submitted by Mr. Jonathan Winkler, to place a life-size sculpture of Texas A&M’s 22nd President, Dr. Robert Gates on campus.

The discussion in May revealed a lack of knowledge or clear understanding of the criteria used in allowing past statues to be placed on campus. It was determined that as with the CBE decision to develop a policy on art collection, the University would benefit from the establishment of formal guidelines to direct acceptance of statues and sculptures. Mr. David Woodcock, then-Chair of the Design Review Sub-Council, was charged with gathering background information and history on other campus statues and providing a report to the full CBE.

Mr. Woodcock reported his findings in June. In his research on the history of statues on campus he discovered there were no known principles that governed the decisions to accept statues in the past. From the timelines and details collected, it appeared each statue was considered independently. Communication among the various university stakeholders prior to the placing of some statues was deemed minimal, if existent, in certain cases. Discussion at the meeting concluded that adoption of guidelines to direct the decision-making process for such gifts is merited.

The CBE voted unanimously to recommend the President appoint a committee to establish guidelines for sculptures and statues. Pending the creation of a policy, the agenda item for consideration of a Gates statue is tabled.

Karan L. Watson  8-28-12
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
Co-Chair, Council for the Built Environment

Rodney P. McClendon  Date
Vice President for Administration
Co-Chair, Council for the Built Environment

R. Bowen Loftin  8/31/12
President

cc: Sub-Council Chairs, Council on the Built Environment
Patti Urbina, Program Coordinator, CBE

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