

THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE

DRAFT

February 24, 1975

Original Statement 11/24/1974

VEG RESPONSIBILITIES

(Teske's attempt at a revision of 11/24/74 statement.)

OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of the VEG are: (1) to provide through advocacy and review visual art of high quality to the Evergreen and the Olympia communities. (2) to assure aesthetic compatibility of the visual arts to the Evergreen and the community environments and (3) to strive for cooperation and harmony between the Evergreen community and the external community.

SCOPE:

1. The VEG will have full judgmental jurisdiction for all visual arts of a permanent nature acquired through purchase or donation and exhibited by the school in public or "neutral" spaces; that is, murals, sculpture, etc.; with the exception of "1/2% funds for the arts," administered by the Washington State Arts Commission, for which the VEG is willing to act as a consulting body in the general selection process. The VEG will further have full judgmental jurisdiction for all arts of a non-permanent nature, classified for public exhibition and exhibited in the neutral spaces of the college. In this scope are included visual artworks of both external and local artists, spontaneous or planned classroom arts, or works of individuals or groups which are exhibited in college neutral spaces. The VEG, except when it chooses to delegate its responsibility as below, shall have full responsibility for previewing, selecting and defending all such exhibits. Further, all such arts may be exhibited only by written permission from the VEG.
2. The VEG will have no jurisdiction over visual arts exhibited in other than the public, neutral spaces so designated by the VEG after consultation with Facilities and the Academic Space Desk; that is, arts occurring and/or exhibited in private, assigned spaces.
3. In order not to abridge the rightful academic freedom of the faculty, and in order to insure an atmosphere in which creative activity can flourish, the VEG hereby delegates to the members of the faculty full responsibility for those classroom arts (including works in various degrees of completion, works by individuals or groups under the sponsorship of a faculty person, and arts exhibited for the benefit of an academic group such as a program or group contract) which are to be exhibited in public, neutral spaces of the college. That is, the VEG delegates irrevocably to the responsible faculty member the authority for previewing, review, selection and censorship. The VEG will have no authority to preview or censor in any fashion such works before or during their exhibition.

(Note: Though it delegates to faculty members the initiative for exhibiting artworks generated by academic programs in public or neutral spaces, the VEG retains the responsibility for mediating with faculty members any grievances brought on grounds of taste and suitability for exhibit by any other parties. The VEG pledges itself to act as mediator. It cannot always accept the responsibility to defend the aesthetic quality of such works, although it may frequently choose to do so. The VEG in these cases will not pass judgment one way or another but will function as an intermediary whose aim will be to bridge and narrow the differences. The VEG recognizes that it has no punitive power, nor any right to detract from the respect due to a faculty member, student or staff as an equal partner in the Evergreen community.