



VILLAGE OF AURORA

456 Main Street
Aurora, New York 13026
villageclerk@auroranewyork.us

(315) 364-7293
DPW (315) 364-5239
auroranewyork.us

September 11, 2024

To Marie Chapman Carroll
Chair, Wells College Board of Trustees
111 S 15th St, PH P301
Philadelphia 19102

Dear Ms. Carroll

As the Village of Aurora's Community Preservation Panel, we are acutely sensitive to the immensity of the project the Wells College Board of Trustees is laboring under. However, we feel obliged to weigh in on two important issues.

First, the purview of this committee is the Village of Aurora-Wells College Historic District, and with special stringency, legally designated village landmarks. The majority of the Wells College campus is contained in the historic district and many of the buildings are designated landmarks, including: Long Library, Main (and separately the Dining Hall), Morgan, MacMillan, Glen Park, Pettibone, Zabriskie, Cleveland and Smith (the Sommer Center). There are others, the power station and boathouse among them. This requires that special measures of care be taken to preserve their historic and landmark status. We trust that the Board is well aware of the college's historic status and invite you to reach out to the village's Community Preservation Panel if questions arise.

Second, we are concerned with plans for disposition of the Minerva statue—concerns that we know you have heard voiced abundantly. Wells College is indisputably linked with the Village of Aurora. The legacy of Wells College will remain with the village. While Minerva is not specifically designated a landmark, the alcove in front of Main Building, itself a historic landmark, was built specifically for the Minerva statue. Minerva has become not only a symbol of the college, but also an icon of the Village of Aurora. We recognize the changing situation for which you have responsibility, so we understand if your decision will be to relocate the statue. but we do hope that the Minerva statue will either find a place on what was the Wells College campus or at some other location in the Village of Aurora.

With best wishes for fortunate resolution of your difficult task, we are

James Burkett, chair
Jeffrey Blum
Chris MacCormick
Claire Morehouse
Julia Rossmann
John Wendler, alternate