

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
LAWRENCE

OFFICE OF
THE CHANCELLOR

December 12, 1944

Dr. F. C. Allen
107 Robinson Gym
Campus

My dear Dr. Allen:

I do not want to engage in, nor do I approve of, newspaper discussions of our internal problems, but now that the controversy has somewhat died down, I should like to make clear my own feelings in regard to the painted design on the auditorium floor.

The building does not belong to any one department but is used for basketball games, concerts, basketball practice, organ practice, organ lessons, lectures, convocations, occasional plays, vesper services -- a wide variety of uses.

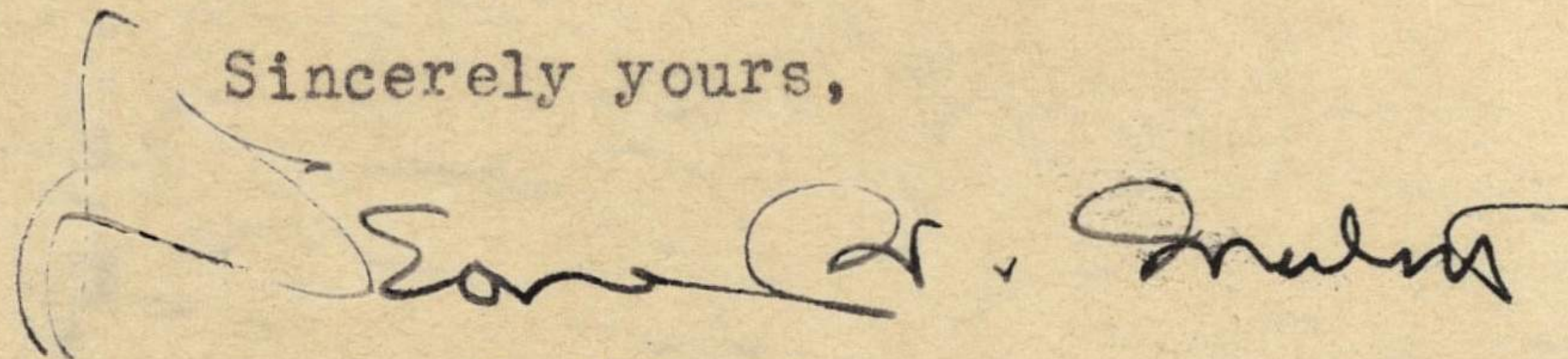
I do not feel therefore that in view of this wide variety of uses any one department should undertake to decorate the building without reference to or consultation with the others involved. It should be borne in mind that many of the vesper services and concerts are given in that building with all of the seats removed from that floor. This painted basketball court therefore becomes a conspicuous and unrelated part of the decoration of the building. I shall personally look forward to the day when the floor is again done over with the same design that it had in former years. Until then, I suggest the Buildings and Grounds Department see what carpet might be obtainable to cover the aisles for occasional concerts.

As a basketball floor, the painting is grand. The difficulty is that it is not a field house only, and I feel we should do as little as possible to mar the effectiveness of the building for all of its various purposes.

In the past it has been customary in getting buildings redecorated to confer with all those using the building and to use the Department of Design as consultant on color schemes and decoration. I think in so doing we are on the safest possible ground.

It is at least too bad to do anything which has caused so much discussion and feeling on the part of a great many people.

Sincerely yours,



Deane W. Malott
Chancellor

cc D. M. Swarthout
E. C. Quigley
C. G. Bayles