

Williams College Oral History Project Interview with David G. Healy
June 18 & 19, 1998

Interview Length: 75 pages

David G. Healy (b. 1949) served as the Vice President for Administration, Treasurer and Secretary of the Board of Trustees of Williams College from 1990 through 1998.

In his interview with Charles Alberti, Healy discusses some of the issues and crises that faced him when he arrived at Williams, immediately following what he describes as a national trend for colleges to overspend and overbuild. Healy talks about Will Reed, his predecessor in the position, and some of the “alligators” Reed left for him to handle, going into detail about the College’s relationship with the bookstore, the Pine Cobble development, Mount Hope, and the Williams Club in New York. He explains that the Williams Club deal he helped to broker was the only time he saw the Board become divided.

Healy talks about the Third Century Campaign and the gift from the Class of 1940; the Bicentennial celebrations in 1993; the diversification of the student body in the early 1990s and the corresponding issues and questions that arose; protests over and investment in the Quebec Hydro plan; town-gown relationships and the collapse of the Berkshire economy in the early 1990s; Berkshire Capital Investors and investment in Williamstown institutions; and President Oakley. He also touches on the Office of Personnel and complications within it, and the hiring of President Payne. Healy’s pride in Williams College comes through strongly in his interview.

Two of the three tapes from this interview are available to researchers.

The transcript of this interview and the accompanying audio file (if available) may be accessed only in the Archives/Chapin Reading Room.