

Bennington College
March 13, 1941

Community Council Meeting, March 11th, 1941

The Community Council met in the Committee dining room on Tuesday, March 11th. Present were: Ann Mills, Chairman; Lucile Bloch; Margaret Brush; Theodora Boothby; Theresa Blumberg; Nancy Cole; Faith Colgan; Muriel Cummings; Nancy Hamill; Eleanor Metcalf; Priscilla Sherman; Mary Berna; Dorothy Coffin; Carol Haines; Mrs. Garrett; Mr. Chapman; Mr. Truman. Sue Hedge, Susan Signourney and Molly Stimson came in at 1:30.

House Chairman's Duties

Ann Mills reviewed the duties of the House Chairmen. She suggested that they all get the handbooks from their old House Chairmen and review them carefully as well as going over the standards of the College. Respect for the College property seems to have become lax and it was stressed that the Council impress upon the Community the need for better social conduct and more responsibility on everyone's part for the appearance of the campus. The Council members were reminded that they were to serve as a link between the Council and the Community and that it was left to their discretion as to what to bring up in the Council. Mary Berna was then asked to tell the Council about the scheduling of house meetings and she informed the members that Wednesday evening was always left open for Formal and Informal House meetings and that any requests to schedule meetings for that evening must be presented to the Council for approval. There should be an informal house meeting every week at which the House Chairman should be present to tell the members of her house what had gone on in the Council meeting. A formal House meeting should be called when the Council found anything of importance that should be discussed in the house and the report of which should be brought back to the next Council meeting. The time of the meeting was dependent on the house and it was suggested that in the next house meeting a time suitable to all should be agreed upon.

A list of Faculty Advisors was read (see page) and it was suggested that in the next to the Council that the Advisors be asked to attend all important house meetings and that if the Advisor was not very well known by the house that the House Chairman make an effort to invite him to a few informal house meetings. Mr. Truman at this point suggested that the House Chairmen give the Advisors warning about the House meeting that they were expected to attend.

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He also noted that the Faculty often had ideas which they should be asked to express to the house for thought and discussion. It was suggested that the House Chairmen use their Faculty more in the problems of the house. The procedure in selecting Faculty Advisors was also discussed and it was thought that this question should further discussed at some later time. It was also suggested that the new Council make more use of the House Council and that problems of that house could be discussed between the House Chairman and the House Secretary. It was noted that four houses had lost Secretaries through the Chairman elections and those houses were asked to hold House Elections to fill the missing positions. The Council was also reminded that there were three guest rooms on the campus at the disposal of the Community and that if possible these rooms should be used. The keys should be gotten from Mrs. Michaels and there would be a charge of a dollar a night for their use.

Central Committee

The activities of the Central Committee were outlined by Dorothy Coffin and Carol Haines. They impressed upon the Council the fact that it was in the hands of the Council and that it should be used to the Council's advantage. Even though action did not necessarily take place, the Committee could help the House Chairmen by discussing house problems with her. There should be no hesitancy in mentioning names and incidents and that through this Committee the Counselor could be asked to cooperate. The House Chairmen were urged not to take too much responsibility and encouraged to share it with this group. It was emphasized that the discussions in this group were confidential and this was to be noted as a qualification for this position in next years nominations. Then each member of the Council was asked to submit a list of the car owners in their respective houses.

Community Chest

The nominations for the new Community Chest Committee were presented by Sue Hedge and Susan Signourney after they had clarified the duties of this Committee. Betty Walsh and Ann Wick's were nominated. Their nominations were approved by the Council.

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Health Committee

Molly Stimson, the former Chairman of the Health Committee came in to submit the nomination of Margaret Brush for this position. Her nomination was accepted and approved.

Free Weekends

Faith Colgan volunteered to see Miss Shelly about the two free weekends this term.

Recreation Council

Faith Colgan, Nancy Cole and Theodora Boothby volunteered to be "liaison" between the Community Council and the Recreation Council. Their names will be given to the new Recreation Council for approval.

Reporter to the College Week

Eleanor Metcalf volunteered to be reporter to the College Week.

Respectfully submitted,

Edith Stevens