

Bennington College
October 2, 1940

The Educational Policies Committee met on Wednesday, October 2 at 6:30 o'clock in the Committee dining room. Present were Vida Ginsberg, Phoebe Arnold, Antoinette Larrabee, Sylvia Thayer, Mary Berna, Enid Klauber for Elizabeth Plimpton, and Margaret Dudley.

Evaluation Study

Mary Berna reported that the Evaluation Staff is issuing Time Study sheets to the student body again this year. They are covering the period from October 21 to November 18. The house chairmen and the EPC are asked to cooperate with the Evaluation Study and explain the sheets fully and carefully in house meetings. The importance of obtaining complete returns is to be stressed, and it was suggested that the personal value of these records be pointed out. The experience of many students last year was that the Time Study gave them valuable information as to the way they were actually spending their time, and helped them to apportion it better.

Freshmen Orientation

A discussion took place of the meetings held for Freshmen at the beginning of the year by the faculty of the various Majors. It was agreed that the following points should be covered by these meetings in the future:

1. The aim and scope of the Major.
2. What courses are offered to Freshmen, majors and non-majors, and where they lead to.
3. Why broad introductory courses are given (in the cases where this is true).
4. Just how much time each course counts; what fraction of the total program.
5. The number of papers required and why. The writing program explained.
6. The chairman of the meeting should introduce himself and each of the other faculty members, and tell what each one teaches.

Winter Period

The secretary reminded the committee that Major meetings should be held before Thanksgiving to discuss the Winter Period. It was suggested that it might be a good idea for the Winter Period to be the subject of a College Bulletin in the near future. The existing bulletin about Winter Period is old, and a new one might give more concrete examples of work done recently by students in the different Majors. This might give students and those interested in the college a clearer idea of the purpose and use of the Winter Period, and help students to determine what they will do. The secretary was instructed to make a recommendation to this effect to the proper source.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Dudley, secretary.