

Bennington College
March 5, 1941

F. 4. 26

The Educational Policies Committee met on Wednesday, ~~March 5~~ at 6:30 p.m. in the committee dining room. Present were Vida Ginsberg, Phoebe Arnold, Antoinette Larrabee, Sylvia Thayer, Elizabeth Plimpton, Mary Berna, and Margaret Dudley.

Annual Report

The secretary read the annual report of the EPC which she was scheduled to read to the community at 7:30. She explained that it was more in the nature of a speech than the usual report, because Mary Berna was instituting a policy of more interesting and briefer Community Meetings, in line with discussion of the matter last year (p. 29). Specific details of EPC accomplishments of the past year are all in the minutes for the benefit of the new committee, the secretary pointed out, and a list of suggestions for the coming year can be given directly to the new officers.

Continuity with next EPC

General discussion was held about recommendations to the new EPC. The following were formulated:

1. In May, make plans for the Freshmen Orientation Week in conjunction with the Community Council. Consider the following: (a) give copies of the paragraph "Freshman Orientation", p. 40 of these minutes, to all faculty chairmen, with any further suggestions you may have, and (b) consult Mrs. Leslie and faculty chairmen on the advisability of devising a substitute for the standard reading list given to the Freshmen. (see p. , minutes).
2. Conduct a survey this term of student opinion on the success of the Health Committee lecture series and the desirability of having a regular course along this line next term. Find out if students want it, and what the content should be.
3. Consider the advisability of having a course in Group Leadership taught again. Mr. Leigh used to do this, and it was open to all members of the Community Government. It counted as 1/4 or 1/3. The present EPC recommends that this course be given again, either by Mr. Leigh or Mr. McCamy, and that all house chairmen and officers in the government be strongly advised to take it.
4. Policy of the EPC toward seminars. The present EPC feels that seminars in which students and faculty participate are a very valuable thing for the EPC to sponsor whenever there is opportunity. However, they can't be pushed too far on account of time limitations and risk of faculty boredom. In other words, an ambitious plan for a whole series is likely to fold up after the first two. Much better to plan one at a time, around a specific topic. The Social Studies Senior Division students and faculty had a highly successful one last term on a current book. Literature and Drama had some joint poetry-reading ones this year which were of dubious success. Keep it in mind, and try to get suggestions from students and faculty on the subject.
5. Survey of Courses. Work on a better plan. Have separate questions pertaining to foreign language courses. Try to get faculty ideas

on the subject; what do they want to know about their teaching?

6. Organize an afternoon meeting soon at which students from each major are asked to tell about their Winter Period experiences.

7. Find out from the General Meetings Committee if and how you can help them re the Philosophy Series this term - propaganda, supplementary meetings of any kind.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25.

Respectfully submitted
Margaret Dudley, secretary