

October 3, 1940

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Faculty was held on Thursday, October third, at 1:00 p.m. in the conference dining room.

Present: Mr. Park, Miss Patterson, Miss Shelly, Mr. Troy, Mr. Tucker, Mr. Whittinghill, Mr. Leigh and Miss Griffiths, Secretary. Dr. Chassell, Mrs. Garrett, Miss Jones and Mrs. Leslie met with the committee.

Absent: Mrs. Park.

Program for the Semester.

The Committee decided to take up the discussion of educational problems according to the plan agreed upon at the end of last semester: i.e. the using of alternate weeks for the discussion of administrative problems and major educational problems. It was agreed that for the discussion of administrative problems Miss Foresman, Mr. Tschorn and other administrators be invited to meet with the administrative group and that the faculty members meet or not as they wish. For discussion of educational policy it was agreed that Miss Hill, Mr. Fergusson and Mr. Lauterer should be invited to meet with the committee and that those administrators dealing with primarily educational problems could also meet with this group at their option.

Mr. Leigh presented a classification of the questions suggested last spring by fifty percent or more of the Faculty as suitable for evaluation and by the Executive Committee for this year's discussion. It was agreed that items III, VI, and VII (see Appendix I) should be selected for early discussion. These will involve item I from time to time.

Evening Meetings

It was reported from the Committee on General Meetings that for the second semester of the year there would be continued the experiment with a continuous series running from week to week through the semester in place of the intensive series which has been a part of the series heretofore. Also, it was agreed that the lecture fund would be devoted largely or entirely to the support of honorary resident lecturers or fellows who might be used in various ways. The committee will where ever possible choose the lecturers from displaced foreign scholars who can make specific contributions to the lecture series or other aspects of the College program.

Williams College Broadcast

Mr. Leigh described briefly the proposition that two Williams students made to him regarding Bennington students giving weekly programs on the student station which broadcasts to

Williams faculty and the town community.

It was decided that Mr. Tucker and Mr. Perry would investigate the situation at Williams and report to the Committee whether it is a worthwhile activity for the Benningtin students. It was agreed that the members of each division should discuss the activity necessary for the Williams or nearby commercial stations as an educational outlet for student work or faculty performance. A possible schedule would be appearance once a month each for Music, Drama, Literature, Social Studies, etc. The schedules for the various majors could be adjusted to the output or need, not by any equality, in the number of things each major would be responsible for in an appearance. The President was requested also to have inquiries made regarding the possibility of Bennington College using a commercial station in Troy, Albany or Pittsfield, rather than the Williams College station.

Defense Council and Activity

Mr. Leigh reported that he had been serving since last June as the center for information and activities in relation to national defense. The committee agreed that this was a satisfactory arrangement, and that all matters concerning defense and related problems should be referred to the President's office. Also, it was agreed that matters involving policy would normally be referred to the Executive Committee and other appropriate committees by the President.

Discussion of Educational Policy

There was some discussion of question VII (see Appendix I) dealing with vocational and general education. A starting point was the statement of the aims and basic assumptions of the College as defined in the Educational Plan in 1929. The proposal of using the term Liberal as a definition of the College program was discussed, also the problem of immediate student interest in Commercial Art versus Art education offered at the College. It was pointed out that a certain stigma is attached to the term Commercial Art which confuses students. There was agreement that no realistic analysis of the present situation indicates any wisdom in students turning to more immediate technical or narrow vocational training now than heretofore. The major activities of the College are as directly related to American life and culture as they were before. It was recognized, of course, that the advent of war would dislocate people and occupations in an unpredictable and probably drastic manner.

The discussion will be continued at the next meeting on educational policy to be held two weeks from today.

There was a short meeting of the administrative group at the end of the meeting at which it was decided to meet next Thursday and that each officer will bring a set of problems for discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacquelin Griffiths
Secretary