

Bennington College
March 13, 1942

The old and new Educational Policies Committee met on Friday, March 13, 1942 at 2:30 p.m. with Mr. Jones in his office. Present were Helen Levine, Margaret Klaw, Joan Strong, Cynthia Jenkinson, Hilda Wheelwright, Nika Pleshkoff, Eleanor Metcalf, Jean Short, Dorothy Ayers, Muriel Cummings, Polly Kirsten, and Anne Franke.

Survey of Classes

The value of class surveys was discussed and it was brought out that undoubtedly the surveys fill a valuable need but that the method of conducting them is bad. Some faculty members tend to take them too seriously while others do not take them seriously enough. It was suggested that the faculty come to the student E.P.C. member when they felt the need of a survey and talked over with the member the questions to be asked. However, it was considered doubtful if the faculty would ever ask for a survey. Mr. Jones suggested that a plan might be worked out whereby faculty and student E.P.C. would hold joint meetings often. These meetings would serve as a clearing house for all divisional problems including student criticisms of classes. The student E.P.C. member could gather information through her subcommittee. No decision was reached concerning the surveys but Mr. Jones said that a joint meeting of faculty and student E.P.C. would be held soon and the problem would be further discussed then.

Reporting on Students

The term reports must satisfy two important qualifications. First, they must be translatable into orthodox marking systems so that students transferring to other colleges or applying to graduate schools will not be hampered by any lack of understanding of their records. Second, they must avoid any tendency toward vicious competition. It was mentioned that sometimes faculty are vague in giving the comments on reports and that perhaps the cause is in the transfer of the report from the faculty member teaching the class to the girls' counselor. It was decided that this was a serious problem and should be discussed and solved if possible in the near future.

There was a short discussion of the coming alumnae weekend, of the farm program and of the college reorganization. There was also a short discussion on the misunderstanding in some divisions such as Drama-Dance and Art, of Bennington as a professional school. Mr. Jones said it would be clear in the new college bulletin that Bennington is a college and not a professional school.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Franke

Anne Franke, secretary