

Bennington College
May 28, 1942

The Educational Policies Committee met on Thursday, May 28, at 7:30 p.m. in Eleanor Metcalf's room. Present were Eleanor Metcalf, Dorothy Ayers, Muriel Cummings, Polly Kirsten, Ann Strieby (for Jean Short) and Anne Franke.

Senior Division

It was thought that in some cases where a student did not make Senior Division, she was not made aware of it clearly enough. Faculty members may in trying to tell her as nicely as possible, cover it up so well that the student does not realize what she is being told. Or it may be the fault of the student, who is afraid to realize it, and thus fails to grasp what her counselor is trying to tell her. In either case, it can only be a problem to be watched and it may fail to even be a problem next year with the reorganization.

Registration Week

It seemed generally felt by the Educational Policies Committee members of last year that the E.P.C. could be a definite help to the freshmen but that the system of office hours had failed because it was not worked into the program at all. In this meeting of the new E.P.C. the problem was thought to be entirely changed by the revision of the curriculum. The E.P.C. could only be helpful to the freshmen if they themselves had adequate information on the courses to be given and if time could be found and planned for the freshmen to see the E.P.C. members. It was also thought that the E.P.C. might have a more important function in helping the sophomores and juniors who might be more confused than the freshmen. Nothing was decided and will not be until Eleanor Metcalf has talked to Mr. Jones about it.

Reporting on Students

During the meeting of the old and new E.P.C.'s with Mr. Jones on March 15, 1942, reporting on students was brought up by Mr. Jones as a possible problem. At the meeting tonight it was generally agreed that most reports were inadequate either because of insufficient criticism in the reports, or an absence of understanding on the part of the student about the whole marking system (whether the student is marked on her own ability or on some sort of a standard marking system). Competitive attitudes also arise. The whole marking system, if a need were found for revision, would have to be changed with the help of the faculty and Mrs. Garrett since it must answer certain specifications (student reports going to the government or to graduate schools and so on). Divisional meetings will be called during the last week of college to learn the student opinion.

Survey of Classes

The new system of surveys seems to be working very well and it was thought that the E.P.C. members should plan to write some sort of a report on the information they had received in case Mr. Jones would like these.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Franke

Anne Franke, secretary