

Sent by Mr. Leigh
to all students - 9-5-34

Bennington College
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Organization of the Bennington College Community

I. The Community shall consist of the student body, faculty and staff.

II. Student Houses.

- 1. The membership of the student houses shall consist of all members of the community living in the houses, and of such other members of the community as the houses invite.
- 2. The chairman of the house shall be elected by the members of the house and shall represent it on the Community Council and take charge of the morning check up on attendance.
- 3. There shall be a House Council elected by the members of the house. One member of the House Council shall be the house secretary who shall keep the minutes of all house meetings on permanent record.
- 4. Any house may remove its chairman at any time by a vote of lack of confidence, in which case a new election shall be immediately held.
- 5. The chairman of the house may call a house meeting at any time.

III. The Community Council.

- 1. The Community Council shall consist of the heads of the various houses elected in the houses and three representatives of the faculty and staff chosen by the Faculty Committee on Student Personnel, and the President of the College ex officio.
- 2. At its discretion the Council may ask any house to recall its representative.
- 3. The Community Council shall supervise all elections. Elections for the Community Council shall be held in June and there shall be a vote of confidence or lack of confidence in the houses in December. Vacancies shall be filled as they occur by elections for the unexpired term in the house concerned.
- 4. There shall be a freshman representative-at-large elected by the freshman class at the end of the first term.
- 5. The officers of the Community Council, consisting of chairman and secretary, shall be elected by the Council. At these elections the retiring members as well as the new members shall vote.

- 6. The Community Council shall meet as often as the fulfillment of its functions requires. In the case of the absence of a Community Council member a substitute may be appointed.
- 7. The Community Council shall exercise the ordinary legislative, executive, and judicial functions of the community government. It is empowered to make decisions, rules, and to define the standards in all matters concerning the welfare of the community. All rules and definitions of standards made by it are binding on the community, after being posted on the College bulletin boards, until they are revoked or amended by the Community Council, or by the Community acting under the following procedure: any 10 per cent of the Community that desires to revoke or amend a rule may present a signed petition stating its proposal in writing to the Council. If the Council does not accept this proposal it must call a Community Meeting which shall act upon the proposal of the petitioners and the community decision is controlling.
- 8. If the Council, after the Community Meeting, disagrees with the community decision, it shall resign and new elections shall be held in the houses.
- 9. The community may at any time demand new elections of Council members in the houses.
- 10. At its discretion or on the authorization of a vote of the Community, the Community Council may constitute committees to carry on special functions.
- 11. At the discretion of the Council, its chairman may appoint a member of the Council to serve on any student committee.
- 12. House or Community meetings shall be called by the chairman of the Community Council acting at the request of the Community Council.

IV. Organization of Committees.

A. Central Committee.

- 1. The Central Committee shall consist of:
 - a. Four student members of the Community Council.
 - b. Two members of the faculty or staff of the Community Council.
 - c. The chairman of the Community Council ex officio.

They shall be elected by the Community Council. The committee shall elect its own chairman and secretaries.

- 2. The function of the Central Committee is to deal with all violations of the rules and standards.

B. The Educational Policies Committee.

- 1. The Educational Policies Committee shall consist of a member from each major division of study and the chairman of the Community Council ex officio. The members are elected by the trial major and major students in their respective divisions during the first week in October.
- 2. The member elected from each major division shall appoint a sub-committee, within the division, consisting of a member representing each class.
- 3. The functions of the Educational Policies Committee are:
 - a. To consider problems in connection with the educational policies of the College and to bring them to the attention of the faculty and students.
 - b. To promote the most efficient work relationships between groups of individual students and faculty members.
 - c. To be consulted by the faculty and staff when the committee's opinion as representative of the student body is wanted on matters of educational policy.
 - d. To canvass student opinion when necessary.

C. The Buildings and Grounds Committee.

- 1. The Buildings and Grounds Committee shall consist of a member of each house elected by that house during the first week in October. The committee shall elect its own chairman and secretary.
- 2. The functions of the Buildings and Grounds Committee shall be:
 - a. To take charge of all matters concerning buildings and grounds.
 - b. To act as the student fire officials.
 - c. To supervise the making of traffic regulations.
 - d. To keep in touch with the Faculty Committee on Buildings and Grounds.

D. The Social Committee.

- 1. The Social Committee shall consist of a member from each house elected by that house during the first week in October, and two members of the faculty or staff chosen by the Faculty Entertainment Committee. The committee shall elect its own chairman and secretary.

2. The functions of the Social Committee shall be to:
 - a. Have charge of social activities in the College.
 - b. Make and enforce regulations relating to these activities.

E. All committees shall report to the Community Council.

- V. Changes in these by-laws for the organization of the College Community can be made by a majority vote at the Community Meeting, provided the proposed change is posted on the College bulletin boards at least one week in advance of the Community Meeting.