

April 4, 1966

We wish to call to the attention of the student body the proposal for changes in EPC policy now being presented at student house meetings. Because student-faculty communication has always been a unique and integral part of Bennington, and because it has been the subject of much discussion over the past year, we feel that careful consideration of this issue is in the best interests of the community.

The recent proposal provides for student discussion of departmental, inter-departmental, and general educational policy via a questionnaire to be distributed to students and returned to divisional EPC representatives. We fully support this proposal.

We do not, however, support the second provision which seeks to make optional the class EPC meeting and abolish the representative's written report. It is explicitly stated in the proposal that these optional meetings will be called "at the request of either the student or the faculty member at any time during the year when a problem or issue necessitating discussion arises." We contend that it is as useful to support a teacher as it is to challenge him and that this proposal denies us the opportunity to do so. Furthermore, we believe that because meetings will tend to be called only in instances of extreme dissatisfaction, they will atrophy and disappear.

As for abolishing the written report, we agree that the comments and suggestions obtained from questionnaires will be valuable to the division, but we also believe that comments which emerge from class discussions are equally valuable and should be presented to the division in the form of a written report. If, as stated in the Constitution, the opinions of the Student EPC are sought by "The Faculty and/or the Trustee Educational Policies Committee," to be truly representative of the student body, the SEPC must have at its disposal both individual suggestions and group evaluations. To do otherwise is to deprive SEPC of the effectiveness which it now has the power to exert. We strongly feel that if revisions are going to be made, as they should be, we should recognize that the fault lies not within the system, but in how the system is applied.

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