

Bennington College  
November 3, 1942

A meeting of the College Council was held in the North Dining Room on Tuesday, November 3, at 1:00 p.m. The following members were present: Mr. Brockway, Geraldine Babcock, Mrs. Garrett, Miss Greenwood, Miss Peplau, Marjorie Handwerk, Eleanor Metcalf, Chairman, Edith Stevens; absent: Jeanne Gaudy, Phyllis Preston, Mr. Jones

Election of the Student Educational Policies Committee

The method of electing members to the student EPC is undergoing revision due to the recent changes in the College curriculum. The reason for discussing the problem now is so that the discussion would not come at the same time as the voting. The decision of this committee will have to be approved by a Community Meeting. The following three possible plans were read:

1. A slate would be made up by the faculty and student EPCs consisting of about eighteen nominees. This would then be voted on by the whole student body.
2. A slate would be made up by the faculty and student EPCs as in the above plan. House meetings, consisting of two houses meeting together, would then be held, each of the student EPC members taking one of the meetings. The slate would be presented at these meetings and there would be discussion of the nominees, discussion of the qualifications for the job and possible suggestions of other nominees. The slate would then be taken back to the faculty and student EPCs for the final appointment.
3. Nominations would be made by all the students by a ballot box vote in the store. The student and faculty EPCs would make final appointments from these nominations.

It was suggested that when the slate is posted for voting, the nominees would be divided into six groups following the courses listed in the Bulletin. This is similar to the old system of electing a representative from each division, but would be clearer when the final selection is made. Only students would vote for the student EPC. The vote would be controlled to a certain extent by the fact that only responsible people are put on the slate. The elections come in the second term.

The suggestion was made that all student EPC members be selected from the Senior Division, but the majority of the Committee felt that the suggestion was not practicable because 1) it would emphasize a line between the Junior and Senior Division students, and 2) with a number of girls accelerating, students elected to the EPC might leave in the middle of their term of office and break the continuity.

11-3-42

#2

The Committee agreed that a girl representing a division need not necessarily be a major in that field. She may have worked in the division and may know its teaching problems sufficiently to be able to be of value to the EPC. It was felt that something should be done about breaking down the divisional system. Mrs. Garrett said that it was very important to get the members of the Community to think about the College as a whole. New factors in teaching problems have not been considered as much as the old ones, and a fresh approach might solve many of the old difficulties. However, some of the smaller divisions felt very strongly against having a student outside that field represent them.

Eleanor Metcalf said that the EPC should be as small as possible in order to get work done efficiently. For purposes of continuity, the former EPC will meet several times with the new EPC.

VOTED: to accept the revised first plan (below).

A slate would be made up by the faculty and student EPCs. This slate would then be presented to the houses for discussion. Each of the student EPC members would take one of the meetings to lead the discussion of the nominees, the qualifications for the position and possible suggestions of other nominees. After the house discussions, the ballot would be set up and the voting would be done by the students. There would be no requirement as to the number of nominees. If there was a name on the slate which was not approved by the students, the recommendation that it be removed would be referred back to the faculty EPC.

#### Chairmen

Eleanor Metcalf said that being chairman of two committees was quite a responsibility and took a great deal of time and effort. The College Council is not made up exclusively of chairmen from other committees. The Council agreed that if the representative from some committee feels that the work is taking too much time, she may resign and the committee may send another student to take her place on the College Council.

#### International Student Service

Miss Greenwood received a letter from the ISS asking the College to observe November 17th as International Students Day to commemorate the 106 Czechoslovakian students who were shot by the Germans. There will be a student music program that evening, and the Council decided to dedicate the program to the commemoration.

#### Community Meeting

The Council discussed plans for a Community Meeting sometime in the near future to talk about 1) elections of the Student Educational Policies Committee and 2) Winter Period. The meeting will be held on November 23rd.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Sigourney, Secretary,  
College Council