

6

Bennington College  
December 17, 1940

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING, DECEMBER 17th, 1940

The Community Council met in the Committee dining room on Tuesday, December 17th. Present were: Mary Berna, Chairman; Florence Booker; Dorothy Coffin; Carol Haines; Joan Hyatt; Ruth McCormick; Lydia Schoep-  
perle; Molly Stimson; Nancy Victor; Susan Winter; Jean Davidson; Joan  
Strong; Mr. Chapman; Mr. Truman, and Miss Godsill for Mrs. Garrett.

The Council agreed to omit the reading of last week's minutes.

Registration Week: recommendations

The recommendations for Registration Week, which are being handled by Jean Davidson and Joan Hyatt, will be reported to the Council after they have passed the Executive Council.

Reports on House Advisers

The reports made by the house chairmen on their house advisers are due today and will be handed in to the President's office tomorrow.

A member of the Council asked whether the house officers could make any choice as to house advisers. It was stated that advisers are appointed, but suggestions from student officers are welcome.

Election of Freshmen to the Council

Mr. Chapman explained the feeling of the Student Personnel Committee on the election of freshmen to house chairmanship. For several reasons the Council should be wary of such elections:

- 1) There are cases in which freshmen are too awed by upper-class prestige to take active part on the Council.
- 2) Because of the time involved in the chairman's duties, a student who is not sufficiently adjusted might have her program upset by the responsibility.
- 3) Too early participation in the Council activities sometimes leads to boredom with the community government in later years.

The Student Personnel Committee has not suggested the elimination of freshman elections, but has merely advised the Council to scrutinize these promotions very carefully.

Liquor Policy

A questionnaire was sent out to transfer students on liquor policies of their former colleges as contrasted with that of Bennington. Florence Booker read a report on the result of this questionnaire. (See page 64). Some state universities were investigated as well as Smith, Radcliffe, Wellesley and other large colleges. 24 questionnaires were sent out and 16 came back. About half the answers came from first-year students, but there was no outstanding difference between these and the answers of upper-classmen.



COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING, DECEMBER 17th cont'd

Dorothy Coffin stated the results of the questionnaire issued to house chairmen. (See page 67) The purpose of this investigation was to discover how much harmful use of liquor went on unreported to the Central Committee. Mr. Truman stressed the value of information to counselors on the basis of continued observation. The Central Committee, corroborating the opinions of the house chairmen, should be the agency whereby counselors can be warned if their students show symptoms of maladjustment by unwise use of liquor.

It was recommended that the Central Committee put a paragraph in the College Week early next semester, stating that Miss Steven must be informed of all large parties where liquor is to be served.

Housing Facilities in the Sculpture Studio

A petition was read for the improvement of housing facilities in the sculpture studio. (See page 68) The Council approved the petition, and it will be referred to Mr. Tschorn.

Contact of Parents with the College

It was suggested that the college should be more active in keeping up contact with parents. For example, a news leaflet might be issued by the Public Relations Department informing parents about productions and concerts to be held here. This would stimulate their interest in contributing to the new theatre, and would also lessen resentment of some parents toward college policies.

Certain members of the Council felt that the suggested management of parent contact by the college would do away with the independence of the students by causing too much parent interference. It was decided that the students should be assured that their parents are welcome to visit the college and to meet the faculty. But the issuing of forehanded information on productions to the parents was also considered valuable.

Florence Booker and Susan Winter were appointed to make the recommendation to Mrs. Park.

Parking in Front of Fairview.

In spite of the recently revised parking regulations, certain members of the community have retained the habit of parking in front of Fairview. The Central Committee will investigate the reasons for this.

The next meeting of the Community Council will be held on the first Tuesday following Winter Period.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Strong, secretary