

Bennington College
December 8, 1940

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING, DECEMBER 3rd, 1940

The Community Council met in the Committee dining room on Tuesday, December 3rd. Present were: Mary Berna, Chairman; Florence Booker; Dorothy Coffin; Carol Haines; Joan Hyatt; Ruth McCormick; Lydia Schöpperle; Molly Stimson; Nancy Victor; Priscilla Sherman for Susan Winter; Theodora Boothby for Jean Davidson; Joan Strong; Mr. Bradford Smith for Mr. Chapman; Mr. Truman; Mrs. Garrett; Mr. Leigh. Charlotte Watson, Sue Hedge and Susan Sigourney came in at 1:30, and Jean Davidson came in at 2:00.

Packing for Winter Period.

The house chairmen were reminded about the instructions for packing, issued recently by Mrs. Michaels. These will be explained in house meetings this week, and the students are to be cautioned about packing blankets and other college property with their own things.

Registration Week Program

The Registration Week Program will be revised this semester. It was proposed that two or three members of the Council, and the same number from the E. P. C., be appointed to meet with Mr. Leigh and Mrs. Garrett to submit to them, for final consideration, the community recommendations recently assembled.

Carryover for the Incoming Council

Nancy Victor and Ruth McCormick volunteered to help the Council officers prepare the time schedule for the incoming council. This schedule will include such routine duties as a) planning free weekends, b) appointment of student collectors, and c) the customary reviewing of the standards before the formal dance.

The revision of the Procedure will also be undertaken this semester by the Chairman, the Secretary and the Central Committee.

Before the end of her term of office, each house chairman is to complete a threefold report which will include:

- 1) An outline of the house chairman's duties, to be passed on to the next in office,
- 2) a report, due before Christmas, on the faculty advisers connected with her house. This will be based on the advisers' functions, listed at the beginning of the term. (See page 4)
- 3) A report will also be due, as decided upon by the Council, (see page 55) on problems raised in the house during the chairman's term of office.

It was suggested that the Council hold a discussion of the house adviser program, after the reports are made, to determine the success of the plan. The reports by the house chairmen are to go to the Central Committee.

The New System for Paying Bills

In order to provide a central system for paying bills, two cupboards have been arranged in the store and are rented to the Bennington Laundry and King & Co. for use in collecting bills. The system is to be announced in the College Week.

Early Leave for Winter Period

It was requested that the house chairmen make it clear to the community that permission must be obtained by those who wish to leave before their last classes this semester. Application cards may be had at the switchboard, and must be handed in to the Central Committee before next Tuesday at 1:00 P. M. Permission for early leave, and for late return after Winter Period, will only be granted under special circumstances.

Health Committee

The Health Committee has called a Community Meeting for this Wednesday, December 4th. The recently proposed health insurance system will be discussed.

It was recommended that a paragraph be inserted in the College Week cautioning the community on the use of Benzedrine. The publicity of this plan was questioned, however, because it was felt that it would be too suggestive to experimental minds. It may be more advisable to handle cases privately. The question will be brought up at the next Health Committee meeting.

Community Chest

The Community Chest reported the changes made in the bylaws by the Committee.

The Council recommended that overspecification be avoided. Emphasis should be on the Council, rather than on community meetings, as the approval agency for Chest drives. The procedure of bringing statutory changes to the attention of the student body through community meetings alone is considered overtechnical and unnecessary. It was suggested that such changes be acted on immediately, and be submitted to the community at the discretion of the Council. This will assure flexibility and prompt action.

Article V-E-f in the bylaws will be omitted.

The Council recommended that a clause be added stating that the Student Treasurer is ex-officio a member of the Community Chest.

The bylaws, as revised by the Chest Committee and the Council, were voted on and accepted by the Council. (See page 60)

The bylaw pertaining to revision of the bylaws will be amended next March.

Student Treasurer

The changes in the bylaws concerning the Student Treasurer were presented by Charlotte Watson.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING, DEC. 3rd cont'd

The new treasurer, formerly nominated by the old with the approval of the Comptroller, will be approved also by the Council.

A vote was taken, and the bylaws, as revised, (see page 61) were accepted.

Relation of the President to the Community Chest

Mr. Leigh stated that, according to a plan approved by the Executive Committee, defense organization drives are dealt with through the President's office. Such activities, however, are referred to the student committee existing for that purpose. The recent action with the Community Chest was based on this plan. Mr. Leigh stressed the fact that the War Relief drive represents the cooperation of the President with the community following the Executive Committee's decision. He had understood, from the minutes of the last meeting, that the Council took a negative attitude on this matter, for example in the suppression of the suggested comparison with other college drives. The educational advantage of such a comparison would be considerable, in view of Bennington's unfortunate tendency toward isolation and the consequent inertia in such humanitarian activities.

Mr. Truman explained that the Council had misinterpreted the proposal as presented by the Community Chest. Since the drive was apparently offered as a facility for those who wished to contribute, the Council felt that such a comparison with other college achievements would not fit in with the voluntary basis of the drive. From this standpoint it seemed to be a mere incentive toward contribution, inappropriate because sales pressure was discouraged.

In view of Mr. Leigh's statements, however, it was agreed that although there should be an effort to keep contributions within the means of students, the comparison would be valuable both as an incentive and as an educational measure.

On the basis of this discussion, the Council will not restrict any reasonable promotion of the present drive.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Strong, secretary

negotiation
problems and proposals
open faculty
with the decision
with relevant
problems