

HELEN

Bennington College

To F. E. P. C.

Date 4/8/75

From Lionel Nowak

Re:

Meeting, Wednesday, April 9 - 4:15 p.m. - Dickinson 117

Agenda: Minutes
Letter from Jay Ashe
Transfers
Interdivisional
Other Business

GAIL

Minutes
Faculty Educational Policies Committee

April 2, 1975

A meeting of the Faculty Educational Policies Committee was held on Wednesday, April 2, 1975 in Dickinson 117 at 4:25 p.m.

Present: Brown, Calabro, Cohen, Ford, Fredericks, Glick, Guy, Nowak, Parker, Rogers, Smallman, van der Linde, Welter.

Minutes

The report of Alvin Feinman's comments was criticized, as well as the section on Mid-term and Final Reports; therefore those portions of the March 26, 1975 minutes will be rewritten. The Committee approved all other parts of the minutes.

Before proceeding further, the members of FEPC agreed to terminate meetings no later than 6:20 p.m. unless exceptional circumstances dictate otherwise.

Photography (Appendix I)

The group picked up its discussion of problems regarding placement of Photography within a division. The following motion was proposed and passed:

MOTION: that Photography shall become part of the Visual Arts Division; and that appropriate curricular arrangements are to be worked out by the Secretary of the Visual Arts Division, and by the faculty member in Photography in conversation with the Curriculum Subcommittee of the Faculty Educational Policies Committee.

VOTE: Yes 6; No 5.

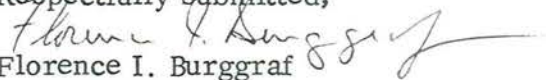
Graduate Program Proposal (Appendix II)

The Administration's proposal was described as a vision of a graduate program: a composite of current practice and new elements tacitly agreed upon by FEPC during former discussions. Disagreement was expressed about various aspects of the proposal, but full discussion had to be terminated due to the lateness of the hour.

The Chair appointed Jane Ford and Donald Brown to represent FEPC in interviewing candidates for the Literature Division.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Florence I. Burggraf
Secretary

Suggested corrections for FEPC Minutes of March 26, 1975:

Committee on the Future of the College

Alvin Feinman appeared before the FEPC to express his concern about the Committee on the Future of the College. It disturbs him that this committee has to do with educational policy and new directions, matters which are inherently of prime concern to the faculty of the college, and that the committee's operation appears to by-pass (an insult?) both the faculty and the FEPC (although he understands that FEPC has already announced its intention to deliberate on the college's future). He urged strongly that the new committee should advise the faculty as soon as possible what specific concerns and problems require so exceptional an undertaking. FEPC members assured Alvin that they appreciate his concern.

Mid-term and Final reports (Appendix II-III)

Ron Cohen asked for Committee criticism of the letter he plans to send faculty and for approval of the proposed new Instructor's Final Report form. There was some resistance to the requirement that all Final reports be typed, the Committee feeling that completely legible longhand should be acceptable; otherwise the Committee approved both the form and the letter. A question of the form of the summary letter and the matter of TBC's was postponed for later discussion.

PROPOSAL

MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMS AT BENNINGTON COLLEGE

- ✓ 1. Candidates for the Master's degree will be accepted on the recommendation of the relevant division.
- ✓ 2. Candidates requesting financial aid will be awarded aid on the recommendation of the Financial Aid Committee. The amount of tuition reduction will be determined on the basis of their parent's financial statement and their personal resources. Like undergraduate aid applicants, they will be expected to contribute a reasonable sum from their own earnings, savings, and loans. In 1975-76, for example, most undergraduates receiving financial aid will be expected to contribute \$1,250 towards the comprehensive fee, as well as meeting their own personal expenses.
3. The total amount of aid available for graduate students in 1975-76 will be approximately \$23,000. The College is already committed to supporting the concluding year of two fellows admitted under the present regulations. Each will receive total tuition grant (\$4,980), room and board (\$1,300) and a stipend (\$1,500) for a total of \$15,560. The further sum of approximately \$7,500 will be available as follows: \$6,000 toward aid in tuition (including room and board) and \$1,500 as stipend for teaching. These figures will be adjusted annually as the overall financial aid budget is adjusted. For 1976-77 a total of \$25,000 is projected with \$5,000 available for teaching stipends and \$20,000 for tuition assistance (including room and board). At present 21 percent of the undergraduate student body receive aid, and the average grant is approximately \$2,600 (42 percent of the total cost). Although the small number of graduate students (four in 1974-75) makes it difficult to establish equity on the basis of percentages, it is our expectation that the Administration and the Financial Aid Committee will act to prevent gross inequities between the amount and kind of aid available to graduate students and that available to undergraduates.
- ✓ 4. Future graduate students may teach under the following conditions:
 - ✓ a) their teaching should not interfere with their progress towards the Master's degree and should contribute to their professional development;
 - ✓ b) they should not be solely responsible for designing or teaching courses or for writing mid-term and final comments;
 - ✓ c) they should be reimbursed for their teaching from the sum set aside for graduate student teaching and added to the instructional budget. ~~1975-76 this sum will be \$1,500.~~
- ✓ 5. The ECC will review all graduate student programs and will recommend individual candidates for the Master's degree. Candidates for the degree will be expected to complete four terms of work in residence, to take one course each term outside of their area of concentration, and to produce a final project which is to be evaluated by the relevant division.