

Community Meeting Minutes

Community Meeting was called to order at 7:45 on Monday, March 26, 1956, in the Carraige Barn.

Attendance:

There were approximately 120 people present at the meeting.

Announcements:

Carrie McLeod and Dean Brockway gave the community a description of the National Student Association Convention which they attended March 9, 10 and 11 at Smith College. The subject of the conference was "Student-Faculty-Administrative Relations."

Nominations for Executive Secretary:

Janet Wells, who was elected Executive Secretary for this term, has resigned. The nominations that are compiled tonight will be voted on March 28 in a preliminary ballot to reduce the number of candidates to three. Final voting will take place on Monday, April 2. The new Executive Secretary will assume her duties immediately.

Lisa Starr gave an introductory explanation of the duties of the Executive Secretary. Nominations are as follows:

Bourne Gafill	Barbara Nowak
Helen Allentuck	Deborah Miller
Peggy Wurtzbarger	Mary Lou Earthrowl

Report on Cleaning Up Commons:

Debbie Miller, of the Public Relations Committee, reported to the community on the committee's plans for an effort to make the students realize their responsibilities pertaining to the sloppy condition of Commons lounge. She asked that the girls observe these three rules:

1. Keep table tops in the lounge clear and clean; use ashtrays and wastebaskets.
2. Use coat racks instead of chairs, etc., when discarding coats at mealtime. If there is no room for your coat on the rack, take it to the dining room with you.
3. Don't admit any dogs into Commons.

New Business

Faculty-Student EPC report on Yellow Slips:

After meeting together on the subject, Chairman of Student EPC, Carrie McLeod told the community that the committee decided a new blue slip, entitled "Bennington College Special Vacation Slip" is a good solution to the yellow slip problem. It is set up exactly as the front of the blue weekend slip that is currently in use. The back lists classes to be missed. Notification of counsellor and instructors is imperative, but is not listed on the form. Reasons for missing these classes are to be written on the back of the form, and the girl's signature is to be placed at the bottom. This form is to ap-

ply to missing classes at Thanksgiving, Long Weekends and at the ends of terms. Comments from instructors on how they feel about the girl's missing their respective classes will be made after that class and filed in the Student Personnel Office with the rest of the girl's records.

A discussion followed. Pam Cook asked why should not the missing of regular classes during the term be under the blue slip ruling also. Carrie answered that the problem of "universal skipping" happens only on the vacations. Therefore, since the problem arises only on such occasions, at other times it would be unnecessary to use the slips. Kay Crawford thought that the comments should be on the blue slips themselves instead of coming through from the instructors separately; she thought that the student would not have the impression that she should not see these comments if it were done as she suggested. Bourne Gaffill asked if the committee could foresee any way to stop the skipping entirely instead of simply finding an effective filing system of recording the cuts. She asked if the new slips would be more effective than the old yellow ones. Carrie answered that it is a matter of the student's responsibility to decide if she is to skip or not, even moreso with the proposed blue slip than with the yellow. Heather Roden inquired as to whether this blue slip is a suggestion before the community or if it had already been decided upon for use. Carrie replied, "A suggestion." Gretchen Lindblad asked how the administration felt about the new slip. She felt that it is an administrative problem, and not one for the students to solve themselves. Dr. Burkhardt answered that they thought this particular mechanism is about as consistent with the tradition and policy of the college regarding cutting classes that we could have. The student takes the responsibility of making her decision alone; no preventative will be given on taking time off. This slip is simply a record of her making up her mind on leaving early. The Student Personnel Office will send around a sheet asking instructors to comment on the special leave of a particular girl. That data will go into her folder. The present yellow slip is now filed with counsellor's signature. Janet Wells asked if students could take initiative to not cut classes before vacations to alleviate the necessity of any type of form. Judy Piper answered her by saying Judicial has always reminded the girls not to cut but it has never worked successfully.

Kay Crawford moved a vote of confidence be taken on the special vacation slip proposed by the Faculty-Student EPC Committees. The motion was carried and a vote was taken by secret ballot. Results of the vote will be posted in Commons.

Kay Crawford asked if there was any provision for orientating new students to the system each year, if passed. Lisa said that a provision would be made.

Dean Brookway told the community more about the Woolley Memorial.

Ruth Ring presented Dr. Burkhardt with a check for \$300 for the Bennington College 25th Anniversary Fund on behalf of the Bennington College Madrigal

Singers.

A motion was made and carried for adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Ann Berry
Jane Ann Berry, Recording Secretary