

Bennington College
December 18, 1940

EVALUATION OF FACULTY ADVISERS IN STUDENT HOUSES

FRANKLIN: Mary Jo Shelly

Miss Shelly has been an adequate adviser to Franklin House during the past semester. She has attended two of the three formal house meetings which we have had, and when present has entered into the discussion in a very helpful way. This has been the only contact which she has had with the house or with its officers, since her schedule is a full one and she has not been available when house activities were being planned.

A house adviser cannot perform his job alone, but must work with the officers of the house. The extent, therefore, to which any faculty member may actively participate as an adviser in the meetings of any student house depends upon the house chairman and the frequency with which she seeks advice. I have never asked Miss Shelly for advice during the past year; partly because I did not feel it necessary, and partly because I did not want to bether her.

Mary Berna

CANFIELD: Mr. and Mrs. James

Though there have only been three meetings which Mrs. James has attended, and one at which both Mr. and Mrs. James were present, I think that they were very welcome and helpful members of our group discussions at those meetings. It seemed to me that whenever the faculty attended our meetings we had much more lively discussions. The presence of faculty opinion makes a great difference.

Outside of house meetings, we have not had any contact with the James', as a house. I think that in the future it would be a good idea to invite them in for tea or for some such social gathering to start things going!

Dorothy Coffin

STOKES-SANFORD: Mr. Smith

Mr. Smith has advised me frequently throughout this term on matters such as the noise problem and on how best to lead a meeting in this particular house. He has been most helpful indeed in this advisory capacity, and he is to be particularly commended for the way in which he always investigates carefully every aspect of the situation before coming to any conclusion.

As regards house meetings, he participates very little in the discussion. While a faculty adviser who dominates all discussion is far worse than one who says nothing, yet in a house like ours, which consists largely of freshmen and sophomores, some help in stimulating discussion would be most welcome.

Sue Winter

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SWAN: Mr. and Mrs. Chapman

During the Spring term (1940) the Chapmans attended all formal house meetings and a few informal milk meetings. Mr. Chapman, being on the Community Council at that time, was especially helpful to the house chairman in giving suggestions and in adding to the discussions of community problems. Because they lived in the faculty apartment, the Chapmans were in fairly close contact with the students in the house and were acquainted with most of them.

Fall term, 1940 - Mr. and Mrs. Brockway

The Brockways, living off campus, came only to the formal house meetings. These, however, occurred often enough for the house to get to know them, and they made a definite effort to come regularly. They were very much interested in house problems as well as community problems, and were very helpful in offering suggestions in house meetings. They have also kept in contact with the house chairman and showed interest in the general welfare of the house.

Florence Hooker

WOOLLEY: Miss Peplau and Miss Disston

There has been little need for Faculty Advisers in Woolley this term as there have been no difficult house problems. Miss Peplau and Miss Disston have kept in constant contact with the House Chairman and have attended meetings regularly.

Several times I have discussed the students in the house with our Faculty Advisers. This has helped to keep them posted and to clarify my own views.

Relations between house officers and Faculty Advisers have been extremely good all term.

Jean Davidson

DEWEY: Miss Patterson

Miss Patterson couldn't have been more agreeable and cooperative about house meetings. Besides these meetings, the house does not see her often, except around campus. This is to be expected; any running back and forth between her apartment and our house would be unnatural and is not wanted.

Several times, when I have changed the hour of house meetings, I have not let Miss Patterson know in time, and she has not been able to come. This is my fault.

Lydia Schoepferle

BINGHAM: Mr. and Mrs. Bradford Smith

The Smiths have been a helpful addition to Bingham House. They have attended meetings regularly, entering into the discussion in a manner which showed their familiarity with community government and its educational function. The chairman has not met with them to discuss any individual problems of personality or government, but the impression is that they would be glad to assist in any way. Their desire to know the students personally has led to several parties in their apartment and in the house living room, so that there has been a pleasant feeling of their belonging in Bingham.

Carol Haines

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WELLING: MR. and Mrs. Butler

The Butlers have been invited to formal house meetings and have attended as often as they were able to. But for several reasons there has not been very much contact between the house officers and the advisers. Mrs. Butler has been away a great deal, and therefore has only been able to attend a few house meetings. In the first half of the semester, a house supper was arranged in which she and Mr. Butler had an opportunity to meet all the Freshmen, but Mrs. Butler has not been able to come to any recent meetings. Mr. Butler has come more often, and has taken part, for example, in discussions of the Liquor Policy and the War Relief Drive.

Perhaps the house officers should have maintained more contact with the advisers in matters of house government, but Welling House has been outstandingly free of any problems which would raise discussion.

Joan Strong.

McCULLOUGH:

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The house advisers for McCullough are ~~very~~ active members of the house, perhaps because they have not been given much opportunity. I think they both understand and appreciate the educational values of community government, although they have not had a chance to display it.

In the fall, the house officers made the usual gestures to establish contact with them and they retaliated. Nothing more ever came of it. I have the feeling that if an officer of the house went to them for practical advice, they would give it willingly and probably quite intelligently, but neither of them seem to have much interest in the members of the house or house doings. Personally, I have never asked their advice, as I have always found an adviser whom I felt understood house problems better. I doubt if I will ever go to our appointed advisers.

We have had few house meetings this term. The advisers came to one at the beginning, and, since there was nothing of importance to bring up for quite a while, I did not give them any notice. There was an important meeting which they spoke to me of coming to, and I gave them the time, but through some complication they did not arrive until after it was over.

On the whole they are perfectly satisfactory.

Ruth McCormick

JENNINGS: Mr. and Mrs. Truman

The Trumans have been very helpful in advising me when difficult problems of government have arisen in the house. They have attended the few house meetings we have had this term, and have added to the discussions, making (again) helpful suggestions. Mr. Truman gave me some very constructive criticism, concerning the running of a house meeting, at the beginning of the term.

Joan Hyatt

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BOOTH: Miss Deutch

Miss Deutch has been very accessible at all times. She has been at all house meetings, not participating often because there weren't many problems that she could help in.

She gave a party for the house, and has been to many of our Booth gayeties, both the house and individual jobs. Several of the girls are real chums of hers by now.

I've talked with her about conducting meetings, house noise, and how to get our exchange student into the group, and she has spoken to Mrs. Leigh and arbitrated for us when we disagreed with a social plan Mrs. Leigh had in store for us.

All in all, Miss Deutch has been swell in the house.

Molly Stimson

KILPATRICK: Mr. and Mrs. Feeley

Mr. and Mrs. Feeley have been assigned as faculty advisers to Kilpatrick as two students occupy the faculty suite. There has been only one formal house meeting which they attended, and they entered into discussion and were quite helpful. This meeting was on the Liquor Policy for the Carriage Barn, and it was valuable to know the faculty opinion. Another formal house meeting they were unable to attend. They have not attended any other meetings.

It is my fault that Mr. and Mrs. Feeley have not come to Kilpatrick more. The reason is, I think, that there have been only about three formal house meetings. One they attended, another they couldn't come to, and the other (or others) I forgot to tell them about. The informal meetings wouldn't have been helped much by their coming, as they were pretty much routine, and there wouldn't have been much point in their coming.

Nancy Victor