

## REPORT ON REGISTRATION WEEK

from the Community Council

### Vagueness about courses:

- \* 1) The freshmen felt that they had gotten into some classes which they didn't want because they had not understood thoroughly the contents of the course. Also, they had since heard of classes they would like to have taken, but hadn't even heard of during registration week. This was discussed by the Council and it was decided that titles of courses have been vague because of an effort to avoid too rigid definition of the program and to allow for any unforeseen alterations. It was mentioned that an elaboration of these titles would not only prevent elasticity of the courses, but would tend to take the place of freshman interviews with the faculty. The House Chairmen and Faculty Advisors should emphasize the accessibility of the faculty and should see that the freshmen become accustomed to using them. It was suggested that a bulletin including descriptions of the courses would be of value as a reference record. The policies to be adopted in relation to the question of defining courses will be discussed further by the faculty.
- 2) The freshmen asked for definite assignments during the first week. This need was decided to be part of the transition of coming to Bennington. The reading list already supplied is adequate.
- 3) Overcrowded classes have resulted from the failure of students to sign up for certain groups at the beginning of each year. It was recommended that groups requiring signing up be starred next year.
- 4) The freshmen thought that not enough was heard from various members of the divisions in meetings with the faculty. They felt that more emphasis should be laid on each course offered, rather than on generalizations by the head of the division.

### Advisors:

- \* 1) Many freshmen were upset by the advisors' questions. It was suggested that Dr. Leigh or the E.P.C. explain the function of advisors before the freshmen meet with them. The House Chairmen might help with this.
- 2) The faculty advisors are to be reminded to be specific and accurate in recommending courses and filling out programs.

Meetings and miscellaneous:

- \*1) The House Chairmen are to be reminded to explain fully the purpose of freshman meetings.
- 2) The freshmen requested that division conferences be followed immediately by question periods.
- 3) The schedules for registration week were hard to follow for transportation reasons. They didn't allow enough time to get from Barn #1 to Fairview, etc.
- \*4) Next year an old student will be asked to return early with the Chairman of each house in order to facilitate the direction of freshmen to their rooms, etc.
- \*5) The Recreation Council Party for the introduction of the freshmen to the administration and staff was not successful. Next year it should be better organized. The House Chairmen should attend and help to act as hostesses.
- \*6) Next year there will be more and smaller parties for introducing the freshmen to the rest of the community. Every house or group of houses will have a party at some time.

In general, the freshmen thought that registration week was extremely valuable and quite successful.

- \* Will be included in the report from the present Community Council to the incoming Council in March 1941, as recommendations to the House Chairmen for September '41.

Jean Davidson  
for the Community Council