

## STEERING COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

February 9, 1976

At a meeting of the Steering Committee on February 6, 1976, also attended by Acting President Iseman, Chairman of the Board Merrell Hambleton, Vice Chairman Lila Nields, Omar Lerman and Kathy Halbreich, and many other members of the Bennington College Community, the following two resolutions were passed unanimously.

To the Board of Trustees:

1. In view of the financial problem confronting the College (allegedly so severe that the Board is contemplating a decimation of the faculty among other drastic measures) we hold that the primary and overriding objective of any non-term use of the College's facilities must be the maximum financial benefitting of the College, consistent with its good reputation as an educational institution. (For example, the possibility of a regular summer session ought to be explored.) The avowed aims and prospects of Bennington Summers are disconcertingly ambiguous on this score, and the very formation of a (relatively) independent corporation, whatever the advantages otherwise, may be inconsistent with the clear subordination of purpose that our present circumstances call for.

2. Whatever the programs that use the College's facilities, the faculty asks that it be consulted as to their nature to insure that these activities not prejudice the good name and quality of Bennington College which are the faculty's vital concern, and that these activities not infringe on the faculty's traditional prerogatives.

It was further agreed that:

The letterhead and all other materials circulated by Bennington Summers, whether or not a Jazz Laboratory, will contain this statement: Bennington Summers is a public, non-profit, tax exempt corporation leasing space and facilities from Bennington and is not a part of the College.

In the case of brochures such as the ones we have seen, and in the case of a special letterhead which is used just for the Jazz Laboratory, there will be a statement substantially as follows: This program is not associated with the Black Music Division and the Music Division at Bennington College.