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Bennington College
September 9, 1940

EPC REPORT ON THE GUIDING SERVICE

The proposal that the guiding service be taken over on a volunteer basis by members of the student committees was discussed in the first meeting of the EPC this term. There was general approval of the policy, and the practical aspects of the suggestion were considered. It was strongly felt that, despite willingness of the Community Council and EPC members to assume this task, it would prove too great a demand upon the schedules of students who are already the busiest on campus. This is particularly true of the chairmen and secretaries of the committees, who are in addition Seniors and working on Senior Projects.

With no desire to shirk a responsibility, which we all feel, of seeing that the College is presented to visitors in the best manner, the EPC nevertheless feels that it would not be possible for the two committees to handle this job in anything like a satisfactory way. But a number of suggestions for the proper handling of the matter arose in the EPC meeting, and the secretary of the EPC, working in cooperation with Mary Berna, Helen Cummings, Gertrude Streeter, and other interested students, worked out a tentative plan which has been approved by Mrs. Leigh.

There are fifty-six hours a week during which the guiding service operates. This time can be divided into twenty-one periods (seven four hour morning periods, seven one hour lunch time periods, and seven three hour afternoon periods.) There have to be two guides on call during each period, except during the lunch hour, when one is sufficient. This means that thirty-five people could manage the whole thing, if each took one period a week.

There are several groups of responsible citizens of the community who are not as fully occupied as the Council and EPC. These are the twelve house secretaries, the eight members of the Recreation Council who are not chairmen of sub-committees, and the approximately eighteen students who serve on the sub-committees of the EPC. This is a total of thirty-eight students, and would provide a permanent nucleus for the guiding service. Further volunteers could apply to the Reception Office and file their schedules there.

It is suggested that a meeting be held of the thirty-eight permanent guides, and their cooperation requested. Then they can elect a chairman, who will be responsible to the Community Council and the Administration for good guiding service.

Experience has shown that the most satisfactory method of scheduling the guides is for each girl to be responsible for one several hour stretch of time per week, and no more. This helps to ensure a feeling of responsibility and make the service more dependable, so it is suggested that this plan be followed.

The Council and EPC members are also to file their schedules in the Reception Office so that they may be called upon for special guiding duty for important visitors.

Margaret Dudley, Secretary of EPC