

COMMUNITY MEETING MINUTES

Community Meeting was called to order December 5, 1955 at 7:45 in the Carraige Barn. There were approximately 100 students and 20 faculty members present.

Vijaya Gulhati gave the Community a short account of the convention she attended last month at the University of Massachusetts. India was the subject of the National Student Association Convention.

Kay Crawford explained the election procedure of community government to the community, and the heads of each committee with an opening gave short descriptions of the duties of their committees. Nominations were then open for community government, which were as follows:

Executive Secretary (One opening)

Marjorie Roberts	Marcia Sang
Helen Allentuck	Patricia Sullivan
Jane Berry	Janet Wells (later nominated
Louise Carty	by petition)

Judicial Committee (one student opening; one faculty opening)

Student	Faculty
Patricia Falk	Mr. Wilcox
Terry Connelly	Mrs. DeGray
Honora Feguson	Mr. Calabro
Bobby Israel	Mr. Hanks
Judith Cohen	Mr. Trow
Helen Allentuck	Mr. Sherman
Marjorie Rickard	Mr. Feeley
Nancy Poling	Mr. Shapiro
Joan Rosenthal	Mr. Hyman
Louise Carty	Mr. Donahoe
Bourne Gaffil	Mrs. Hasenclever
Carole Glover	Mr. Carrier
Joanne Goldstein	
Judith Powers	
Anne Harriss	
Eleanor Feller	
Nina Gelles	
Honey Stern	
Mary Lou Peters	

Non-Resident Term Committee (one opening)

Anne Harriss	Judith Cohen
Eleanor Feller	Patricia Sullivan
Louisa Perkins	Carole Glover
Jane Schneiderman	Patricia Flagg
Helen Coonley	Noel Bausher
Jane Eisner	Lucy Grier
Helen Isaacs	Jane Berry (later nominated
Mary Lou Earthrowl	by petition)

Recreational Policies Committee (two openings)

Lucy Grier	Judith Cohen
Denise Vando	Helen Coonley
Harriet Turteltaub	Happy Blunt
David MacFee	Jane Berry
Daisy Sharples	Connie Richardson
Kathryn Durant	Ana Berliant

Preliminary elections will be held on Wednesday, December 7, followed by the final elections on Monday, December 12.

A discussion of the yellow slips for missing a class followed. Mr. H. P. Smith said the faculty decided to leave the slips in Mrs. Haskell's hands because they (the faculty) did not want to appear impunative. He added that the college is run on a no-cut system and that, in the end, it should be up to the student's personal judgment to think it necessary or unnecessary to cut a class. Miss Schlback added that the only times that the skip trouble is apparent is at the end and beginning of vacations. Mrs. Haskell asked what the Educational Policies Committee could do for this problem. Carrie McLoed answered that yellow slip users would at least be recognized as such, and not illegal-cutters, since these yellow slips are filed in the Student Personnel Office as part of the student's records. Delinquents that neglect to file the yellow slips should be punished, Carrie continued, but she could find no punishment for such listed in the Standards and Rules. Gail Gutterman asked what the definite purpose for yellow slips was. Lisa Starr answered that yellow slips were for reasons of leaving and a reminder for the teacher that the student would not be attending his class. The slips require the student's counsellor's signature to be valid. Mr. Hanks proposed a change to the constitution, stating in words to the effect of that the matter of class attendance is solely a consideration of the student government and not that of the faculty. Kay answered that the function of both student and faculty EPC is to handle educational policy; therefore, it would be the concern of the faculty EPC also. She added that we need the cooperation of everyone, and that the students should not be handling an administrative function. Mr. Burkhardt stated that the no-cut system works quite satisfactorily on a day-to-day basis and is a matter of individual students and instructors. Thanksgiving and Long Weekend and the end of semesters is what the administration is concerned about. People know what is going to happen in advance; the calendar dates are listed and published so all will know. Yellow slips are for notifying administration and faculty of premeditated early leaving. It is the responsibility for the student and is a matter that the student herself should decide. We welcome a better system that is an improvement on the yellow slip. Someone asked why our Thanksgiving vacation is not a permanent one. Mr. Burkhardt said that at the end of the war, the girls asked for one and it was granted to them on the condition that extra days were not lost. However, each year it gets a little worse in relation to class-cutting, and constant pressure must be applied to all not to cut classes. He added that the yellow slips

were instituted in 1936. At that time there was a committee similar to Judicial which gave permission for cuts. The list of cuts in 1936 was lengthy, so the problem of skipping classes at Bennington is not a new one. Mary Lou Peters said that most students do not take the last week of school in each semester seriously because the reports have been written and the classes are actually quite unimportant, depending, of course, upon the instructor's attitude. She suggested that perhaps if the reports were written after the last classes of the semester, it would be an added incentive for the students to stay. Kay said the suggestion did not solve the problem of a student's individual responsibility. Bunny Katz stated that it is assumed when the student signs up for a course, she is to attend all meetings of that course. She suggested to open discussion of doing away with the yellow slips entirely.

Judy Piper said the yellow slips were practically necessary in that it is a courtesy for the teacher and it gives an opportunity for the student to make up a cut if the teacher realizes the student wants that opportunity. Joan Rosenthal suggested that instead of yellow slips, the EPC take the responsibility. Ruth Ring and Debbie Feldman both pointed out that it was not the fault of a system of yellow slips, but that of the lack of responsibility on the part of the students. Carrie McLeod gave a statement from the Educational Policies Committee to the community, to the effect that the EPC understands about the no-cut system; therefore the college should not give students permission to leave early or arrive late. If the girl takes it upon herself to leave, the yellow slip leaves evidence of her reason for doing so. A motion was made that the faculty and student EPC work on the problem of yellow slips and give the community notice of their results by three weeks before spring Long Weekend at Community Meeting. The vote was 107 to 7, carrying the motion. Ellie Feller wanted to know if the community wanted yellow slips, to give the EPC an idea of what to plan. A vote was taken; 64 want the yellow slips ... 57 do not. The EPC will take the community's opinions into consideration.

It was moved that the Community Meeting be adjourned. The vote was 56 no, 52 yes; the motion was denied.

New business: Greta Einstein opened a discussion of the administration's closing the coffee concession in the Cooperative Store due to the slovenly conditions of the Commons lounge, which was blamed on the students. She stated that due to circumstances, the administration's move was unwarranted, in that (1) On November 27, notice was put in the College Week, congratulating the student body on improvement of conditions in Commons; and (2) The following week the coffee was prohibited, and the fact that Thanksgiving vacation was occupying the lapse of the time between the congratulatory announcement and the prohibition was contradictory. Greta had two questions addressed to Miss Stickney: (1) What was the administration's motivations re this action; and (2) Are we correct in assuming that regulations must be approved by the community?

Miss Stickney answered that her timing had been wrong, but that the prohibition of coffee was to be temporary and to the purpose of im-

pressing upon the students their lack of responsibility regarding the condition of Commons. She analyzed that her efforts had worked. Miss Stickney mentioned that notices of warning were sent to each House Chairman, but due to Thanksgiving vacation, most students did not hear of the notices. Mr. Burkhardt asked if there could be some sort of student committee to make sure Commons was decent, particularly for the sake of visitors to the college. Janet Wells announced that the Public Relations Committee will meet and take it upon themselves to discuss the problem and see what we can do about it and report their conclusions at the next Community Meeting.

A motion was made and carried that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


Jane Berry, Recording Secretary

Lisa Starr, Executive Secretary