

Bennington College  
March 26, 1940

The Recreation Council met March 19, 1940. Those present were: Gertrude Streeter, Phyllis Wood, Rebecca Stickney, Georgina Hazeltine, Mary Jane Meyer, Joan Hinton, Jean Short, Helen Steffen, Virginia Wilson, Lucille Kron, Rose Chatfield-Taylor, Marjorie Hill, Miss Miller, Mr. Chapman. Those absent were: Mr. Park.

The Council discussed with Minnette Hunsiker, past chairman of the Council, and Mary Jo Shelly, acting for the President's office and the Social Committee, the question of athletic equipment and furnishings for the new Recreation Building - Fairview Recreation Hall.

It was reported by Minnette Hunsiker that the previous Recreation Council had held several discussions of the new building; that representatives of the Council had conferred with the architect; that representatives of the Council had met in October with the Building Committee of the Trustees; and that a written set of recommendations regarding athletic equipment only had been sent to Mr. Van der Gracht at his request. A copy of those recommendations was not available at this meeting, but is being secured.

The Council then discussed and agreed upon the following recommendations of Policy and Minimum Equipment and Furnishings:

#### Policy

The present Council recommends that the following general policy is the best way of proceeding:

1. That the building be regarded as a community rather than only a student building.
2. That only minimum equipment and furnishing be installed at this time.
3. That the decision concerning final arrangement, equipping, and furnishing be based on actual use over a reasonable trial period of at least a month.
4. That the Council be responsible for observing use, sampling opinion, and receiving all suggestions and criticism.
5. That at the end of what is found to be a reasonable trial period, the Council compile its findings, draw conclusions, and make long-time recommendations: 1) to the President's office regarding any purchases; 2) to the Chairman of the Social Committee regarding transfer of furnishings (if any), plans for the arrangement of furnishings.



Bennington College  
3/26/40

## Minimum Equipment and Furnishings

### 1. Athletic equipment

#### a. Badminton

- 2 standards to hold net - owned by College, to be moved and installed in games room
  - 1 net - new net to be purchased
  - 6 raquets and presses - to be purchased
  - birds - to be supplied by the player
- Branch Store will carry stock

Floor in games room to be marked for regulation badminton court. Brackets to be installed in games room or elsewhere for hanging raquets.

#### b. Deck tennis

- 2 rings - to be purchased

Floor in games room to be marked for regulation deck tennis court.

#### c. Ping-pong

- Table - owned by College. To be left where it is now.
  - Paddles - new ones to be purchased.
  - Net and brackets - new ones to be purchased
  - Balls - to be supplied by the player
- Branch Store will carry stock

#### d. Pocket billiards

- Table - owned by College. Needs expert reconditioning. To be left in loft where it is now. Estimate: \$75. (per Mr. Tshorn)
- Cues, balls, racks, chalk - present equipment to be checked by expert and repaired or new equipment purchased as needed. Estimate: \$19. for balls, \$18. for cues (per) Mr. Tshorn)

### 2. Louge furnishings

- Detachable benches - number and specifications to be determined by architect or others. To be placed around appropriate wall spaces in lounge.

Andirons, fire irons,  
wood box, fire screen

Bennington College  
3/26/40

Note: The Council recommends that, if possible, a minimum of lounge furniture, such as a davenport in front of the fireplace, davenport table with lamp, and a coffee table, be installed as a test of the use which the community will make of the lounge. Withput any such furnishings, the Council feels the room will necessarily not be used in a typical fashion.

### 3. Lobby (Branch Store) furnishings

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Store equipment | - Being installed by Store  |
| Furnishings     | - Miss Steven is recommending separately what she considers necessary. (see Page 4) |

### 4. General furnishings and equipment

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1 piano                             | - in <u>lounge</u> for social dancing is recommended as desirable   |
| 1 piano                             | - in games room for social dancing is recommended as necessary (Note: Piano may be available from Fairview)                   |
| 1 phonograph or<br>phonograph-radio | - in <u>lounge</u>  |
| records                             | - in <u>lounge</u>  |
| Ash trays and sand holders          | throughout building   |
| Coat rack                           | - probably against north wall of gallery near dressing rooms  |
| Towels                              | - if shower facilities are to be available to visitors and off-campus faculty, a system of supplying towels will be necessary |
| Equipment storage                   | - Proper storage of athletic equipment should be arranged   |

### Arrangements for formal and informal dances

This question was discussed but no recommendations made. The problems are:

1. Provisions for checking of wraps
2. Provisions for lounge arrangements
3. Provisions for serving refreshments

The minimum furnishings recommended above will, it is agreed, not meet these needs and special provisions, at least for this spring, will have to be made.

Respectfully submitted,  
Phyllis Wood