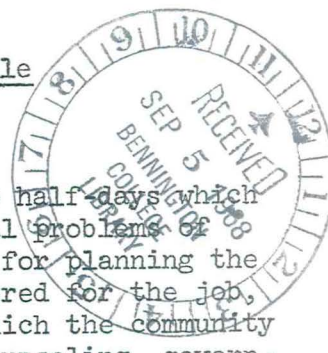


The Week of Self-Study: Arrangement and Schedule



This Week of Self-Study is the necessary continuation of the two half-days which we devoted last spring to examining the educational and political problems of the College. A number of people have shared the responsibility for planning the week to come. First, a committee of five students, who volunteered for the job, spent most of the summer at the College, studying those areas which the community has generally regarded as of central importance: curriculum, counseling, government, over-all philosophy, and so on. Second, this committee, singly and collectively, consulted with as many members of the faculty and administration as it could muster--again, singly and collectively--and it reviewed opinions and suggestions submitted to it by students. Its members have prepared papers on their findings, and these are furnished in this packet. But any of the five will be glad to discuss the committee's work with you; its members were: Cheryl Aldridge, Lisa Bassett, Diana Elzey, Maren Jenkins and Libby Meyers.

Third, the details of organizing the coming week were handled by a committee of seven, invited to do so by Mr. Bloustein. Two members of the summer group served also on this committee; Lisa Bassett and Libby Meyers. Its other members were Rose Basile, Mr. Brown, Mr. Scott, Mr. Tristman and Mr. Bloustein.

The arrangement and schedule which follow mean to provide you, first, with a chance to acquire information and to enhance your ideas, and then, by means of several forms of discussion, with every opportunity to win a serious hearing and to engage in serious argument. While this week's meetings do not amount to a constituent assembly, we should, if all goes well, derive from them a variety of proposals for changing--or not changing--our ways.

Please read the following sections carefully: they provide further information and instructions.

The Arrangement

The General Meeting which begins the week will serve as a platform of information and opinion. These people will speak: Mr. Welter, Mr. Fredericks, Mr. Tillim, Lisa Bassett, Doreen Seidler, Mr. Bloustein. Libby Meyers will give a history of self-study and will invite statements from the floor after the scheduled speakers are done.

Five panels have been designated to focus discussion which follows the general meeting on major aspects of College life and work. The panels are meant to define problems, evaluate alternative suggestions and, whenever possible, recommend concrete proposals to the various legislating bodies of the community. The panel areas include: 1. The substance of program planning; 2. the process of program planning; 3. the curriculum; 4. community government; and 5. counseling. The first session of each of these panels will be open to the entire community. After each panel has held its opening session, subsequent sessions, in the form of hearings, will be held simultaneously: in this way, the panels will be able to consider at length the proposals and arguments presented to them, and members of the community will be able to attend whichever of these hearings most interest them. If you find, after a panel's opening session, that you would

prefer serving on this panel for the remainder of its sessions to attending several alternative hearings, please arrange with its secretary to do so. Those who want to join a particular panel now, and those already invited to join one, should meet with its temporary secretary after the general meeting of the community on Friday. The temporary secretaries are:

Curriculum: ----- Mr. Tristman
Government: ----- Mr. Ricks
Counseling: ----- Mr. Scott
Program Planning-Substance:- Lisa Bassett
Program Planning-Process:--- Mr. Brown

(Note: A fuller description of the panels is provided on an accompanying sheet.)

In order to facilitate discussion within relatively small groups of people, all students are requested to meet with their tentative counselors for the coming year at the times designated on the schedule below. You will have been given your tentative counselor's name sometime before these meetings. Meet at your counselor's office. He will meet with all his counselees at the same time. Anyone whose counselor is unable to meet with his group is free and urged to join any other such meeting. Wherever a strong consensus is found about any specific proposal or interrelated ones, your counselor will report this to the appropriate panel or to the general meeting.

There will be a student-faculty soft-ball game. Other forms of sport and entertainment will be announced later.

(Note: Mrs. Charlotte Eddy will be on call in Barn 33 to provide secretarial assistance to panels and any member of the community who wants to circulate written material.)

SCHEDULE

Friday, Sept. 6

10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Barn Quadrangle	General Meeting
Lunch		
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Barn Quadrangle	General Meeting
4:15 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Commons Lounge	Tea
6:30 p.m.	Dinner	
8:00 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.	Commons Theatre	Panel: curriculum

Saturday, Sept. 7

9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Commons Theatre	Panel: Community Government
11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	Commons Theatre	Panel: Counseling
12:30 p.m.	Lunch	
2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	Commons Theatre	Panel: Program Planning: Substance
3:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.	Commons Theatre	Panel: Program Planning: Process
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Dinner. The Faculty is invited but spouses cannot be accommodated.	
8:00 p.m.	Entertainment to be arranged.	

Sunday, Sept. 8

1:30 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.	Faculty offices	Meetings with counselors.
2:30 p.m.	Commons lawn	Softball game
4:30 p.m.	Dinner	
8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Barn Studio - Curriculum	Panel hearings.
	Barn 76 - Community government	
	Barn 81 - Counseling	
	Noyes South - Program planning-substance	
	House 2 So - Program planning-process	

Monday, Sept. 9

9:30 a.m. - 12:00	As above.	Panel meetings
12:30	Lunch	
2:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.	As above.	Panel meetings
4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Commons Lounge	Tea
Dinner		
8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.	Faculty offices	Meetings with counselors.

Schedule - 2

Tuesday, Sept. 10

9:30 a.m. - 12:30

Barn 1

Open meeting of
panel secretaries.

Lunch

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Free discussion

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Commons lounge

Tea

Dinner

8:00

Entertainment to be arranged.

Wednesday, Sept. 11

9:30 a.m.

Barn Quadrangle

General meeting.

September 4, 1968

Operation of the Self-Study Panels

As is suggested in the schedule of events for the Week of Self-Study, the working core of the program includes five panels on curriculum, community government, counseling, and the substance and mechanics of program planning. The purpose of this explanatory note is to indicate the steering committee's conception of the issues each panel should probably consider in the course of their deliberations. There is no magic in the number five, nor in the number of issues mentioned; panels and issues may be added at the slightest provocation. There is broad agreement, however, that at least the following issues should be confronted.

Panel One: Curriculum

1. The range and depth of course offerings, current and desired.
2. The role of divisions in shaping the curriculum.
3. Size of courses.
4. Interdivisional offerings.
5. Faculty recruitment.
6. In general, the quality, intensity, size and breadth of the curriculum.

Panel Two: Community Government

1. Student organizations.
2. Faculty organizations.
3. The potential role of a Community Council.
4. Organization of the administration.
5. Evaluation of the current constitution.
6. Advice on coordinating the process of presenting self-study recommendations to normal community channels.

Panel Three: Counseling

1. The function of counseling.
2. The counselor in theory and practice.
3. The counselee in theory and practice.
4. Integration of counseling and program.

Panel Four: The Substance of Program Planning

1. Degree requirements.
2. Expectations of the student, panel and divisional, formal and informal.
3. Criteria for evaluation of student performance.

Panel Five: The Mechanics of Program Planning

1. The panel system of educational counseling.
2. Freshman advising.
3. The timing of the tentative plan.
4. The idea of a trial major.
5. The review and evaluation of student performance.
6. Should junior and senior panels be eliminated?

There are no doubt issues of significance that may not easily be tailored to this rubric for discussion, and clearly many issues can only be definitely resolved in relation to other issues. The function of the panels is to proceed to specific proposals, recognizing that the process of integrating panel proposals will be undertaken on Tuesday and Wednesday. To that end, each panel will be expected to produce a written analysis of the issues that come before it, and a statement of alternative proposals for resolving these issues.

Bennington College
Week of Self-Study
September, 1968