

November 12, 1942

Bennington College Student Government Association  
Bennington College  
Bennington, Vermont

Dear Judicial Officer:

The Seven College Conference is probably the best place to exchange ideas and to get acquainted with governments in other colleges. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the meeting last spring. Had I been there, my curiosity would probably not be so rampant now. Anyway, it seems rather lacking in common sense to wait until next spring for information, which would be useful now. Talking over problems or new ideas is always more satisfactory and certainly much less effort than correspondence. I'm not concerned over being satisfied with your answer but I hesitate to make such a demand of your time. Everyone is so busy and even my attempts to write this letter have been postponed time and time again.

Our situation is this: 1) the Judicial unit at Wellesley is headed by a Chief Justice and composed of three courts and a court committee. (Three Senior college government officers to hear appeals, etc.) There are two district courts; i.e. Freshman, composed of Village Juniors, and upperclass, composed of House Presidents, and one Superior court. The Superior Court is composed of four members of the administration, one student, elected from each class, four College Government officers ex officio and a combined student-administration jury. 2) It is the latter group which is my particular concern at the moment and particularly the elected class representatives.

The Court itself has always commanded due respect and students of definite ability are chosen by the student body for these positions. Fortunately, for the <sup>station</sup> representatives of the college community, the Court meets comparatively infrequently. Unfortunately, this ability is not used or developed to the fullest either for the student or the College Government. As their positions stand today, our only function is to attend Court meetings. We should like to develop the position and possibly make the Superior Court members a group which discusses and acts on judicial problems. For example-violation of library regulations, making the honor system more effective, consider more appropriate penalties. I feel that the Court made by the members of such a group would be valuable as well as fitting all of us better for dealing with individual cases in court meetings.

I hope this describes the problem clearly enough to help you answer the following questions:

- 1) What is the judicial unit in your student government?
  - a. Who is it?
  - b. What are its functions?
  - c. What power does it have?
- 2) What efforts do you make to have an effective honor system?

How successful are they?

3) What are the penalties used? What is their function i.e. punitive, deterrent, corrective? What is the student opinion of them?

If you are still reading or have already begun to answer, thank you for everything. The only way to "get even" (speaking of justice, was I?) will be to bombard us with equally long questions. We'd love to answer them and the sooner the better!

Sincerely yours,

Ann Pachard

Junior Representative to Superior Court  
Wellesley College Government Association

P.S. I do apologize for the typing - I hope you haven't had too much difficulty reading it -