

Bennington College  
October 23, 1940

The Educational Policies Committee met on Wednesday, October 23 at 6:30 p.m. in the committee dining room. Present were Vida Ginsberg, Phoebe Arnold, Antoinette Larrabee, Sylvia Thayer, Elizabeth Plimpton, Mary Berna, Margaret Dudley, and Mr. Cornehlson of the Evaluation Study.

#### Evaluation Study

Mr. Cornehlson explained more fully to the committee his request of last week (see p.42). He is of course technically free to visit any classes he chooses, but he does not want to disrupt them in any way, so would like the instructor and students to be prepared for a visit from him. He particularly wishes that it be made clear that his purpose in visiting classes is to acquaint himself with the general methods employed in different types of classes, and not in any sense to evaluate the teaching of individual instructors.

The secretary asked each member of the committee to consult those teachers of her major whose classes were on the schedule which has been prepared for Mr. Cornehlson, and to notify her as soon as this has been done so that Mr. Cornehlson can be told to go ahead.

#### Time Study

Certain questions about the Time Study which had been a source of confusion to some students were raised by the committee and answered by Mr. Cornehlson. He said that the Red Cross course should be counted as Academic work even though it is not technically a fraction of the academic program, and that ASU and political activities on campus should be considered as College activities. The secretary was instructed to post this and other information on the Bulletin Board to help insure uniformity in returns.

#### Survey of Courses

Each member of the committee was asked by the Questionnaire Committee to consider what the questions about courses in her major might conceivably arise when the questionnaire is handed out, and to bring these and their answers to the next meeting so that there will be consistency in dealing with them. For example, students are to be instructed to fill out Social Studies sheets for Mrs. Williams' secretarial courses.

#### Senior Division

Antoinette Larrabee made the suggestion in regard to the meetings with Sophomores next term that a series of the most frequent questions and answers concerning the Senior Division and Senior Plan be mimeographed and given to these students prior to any meetings as a time and energy saver. Strenuous objections to this method were raised on the grounds that (a) the general information on the subject is already available in the Bulletin, (b) a good specific picture can only be given in terms of each major separately, (c) personal contact between the students and the EPC is very desirable, and (d) it would undoubtedly take more time to compose an information sheet that each major could agree on than it now takes for each of the committee members to have meetings. The preparation of the questionnaire for the Survey of Courses is an example of this.

There was also some discussion of having talks with the Sophomores during the first term about Senior Division, but in view of the worry and

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alarm which always seizes some of the group over the prospect of application, it seems inadvisable to stress it or introduce the subject any earlier than necessary. Furthermore, the counselor always discusses the subject with the student from time to time in connection with her program and the direction of her work.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Dudley, secretary