

Notes on the
Registration and Freshman Orientation Committee Meeting

December 16, 1940

A meeting of the special Registration and Freshman Orientation Committee was held in the President's Office on Monday, December 16th, at 3:00 p.m.

Present: Joan Hyatt and Jean Davidson from the Community Council, Peg Dudley and Phoebe Arnold from the Educational Policies Committee, Mrs. Garrett and Mr. Leigh.

The following proposals for the revision of registration period and freshman conferences were made on the basis of suggestions made by the Executive Committee of the faculty, the Educational Policies Committee and the Community Council:

(1) Spring registration for upperclassmen. This will lighten the load in the fall and help the faculty to plan their courses for the next year.

(2) Freshmen only required to arrive in Bennington on the official opening date (Wednesday after Labor Day). This will enable the faculty to concentrate upon careful diagnosis and registration of freshmen. It was agreed that the chairman of each house and at least one other selected student should come back early to help the freshmen.

(3) It was agreed that the upperclassmen be asked to arrive on Sunday following the Wednesday opening night in time for the first community meeting that night. Monday following would be devoted entirely to changes in schedules and conferences for the upperclassmen. The aptitude and achievement tests would be given to the freshmen on that day. The student house rooms for the upperclassmen would be ready on the opening Wednesday if any of them wish to come back for the opening days devoted to freshman registration.

(4) A description of each course given by each faculty major group to be made available before the opening of College.

(5) The scheduling of meetings for freshmen during registration week should be planned more carefully, taking into account the distance between Fairview and the Barn.

(6) The general meetings and the divisional meetings for freshmen all to be part of the same program and attendance required of all freshmen.

(7) The first general meeting for freshmen will be held on the first Wednesday evening. At this meeting the President will describe the work of the Junior Division as at the Friday afternoon meeting this year. The writing program will be included in this description. Parents of freshmen will be invited to attend; also faculty members.

house
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later

(8) The Thursday afternoon general meeting for freshmen will be devoted to a description of the community government; standards and regulations, Central Committee. This needs to be done more adequately than it was done this year, so far as student officer's description is concerned. Thursday evening will be devoted to House meetings with Community Council in charge; Friday evening to House meetings with members of the student E.P.C. in charge to discuss work of the Junior Division and trial majors. The E.P.C. members will be introduced to the freshmen at the Thursday afternoon meeting, and the faculty major chairmen will be introduced by the E.P.C. member or President at the divisional meetings with freshmen.

(9) It was agreed that the Store meeting could be separate next year, possible on Saturday before or after dinner in the College Store.

(10) The Health Service and Recreation Council should prepare carefully a general meeting with freshmen to describe the health and recreation program, for Friday afternoon. It was believed that the giving of the questionnaire at this meeting is not a good idea.

(11) The material presented to the freshmen at the divisional meetings should be carefully thought out by the faculty chairmen and full description of work and methods given at this time, with time allowed for a question period. A meeting of the Executive Committee in the spring will be devoted to defining this task. The Educational Policies Committee has suggested that the following points be covered by these meetings in the future:

- (a) The aim and scope of the major
- (b) What courses are offered to freshmen, majors and non-majors, and where they lead to
- (c) Why broad introductory courses are given (in the cases where this is true
- (d) Just how much time each course counts; what fraction of the total program.

(12) The faculty registration advisers should make an adequate report on individual interviews with freshmen and all should be done in approximately the same form. This form shall be related to a revised form for the Director of Admissions' report on entering freshmen. It shall be made on the day of the interview and be made available to the new counselor at the time of counselor assignments. In the advisers' individual interviews with freshmen it was agreed that a more diagnostic attitude and practice should be aimed at, which would gather more specific material concerning the freshmen, rather than following the same method used at the preliminary interview before admission.

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(13) Reading lists for next year might be made smaller and the fact emphasized that the freshmen are not expected to read all the books listed. The student E.P.C. should be given the task next semester of considering whether freshmen should be given specific work to do during the first week, possibly reading on the various fields of study or methods of work.

(14) The continuing meetings (four this year) were considered successful and will be required of all freshmen. They will be held, one a week, possibly at 5:00 p.m., beginning three weeks after the opening day of College. These meetings will last for four or five weeks.

(15) The special committee was in entire agreement with all of the proposals for registration week and conferences given above. It was also agreed to present them for revision and approval to the faculty Executive Committee, to the Educational Policies Committee, and to the Community Council. The special committee suggests that the program next year be in charge of a committee similar to the present one: i.e., the President, Director of Admissions, two from the new E.P.C., two from the new Community Council.

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