

Passed on my Mr. Leigh

Bennington College
March 20, 1940

Memorandum to: Mr. Leigh, President
Mrs. Leigh, Chairman, Social Committee

From: Recreation Council by Gertrude Streeter, Chairman; Minnette Hamsiker, Past Chairman; Mary Jo Shelly, acting for the President's office and the Social Committee. Faculty advisors present: Miss Miller, Mr. Chapman. Absent: Mr. Park.

Date: March 19, 1940

At its meeting on March 19, 1940, the Recreation Council discussed with Minnette Hamsiker, 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.

It was reported by Minnette Hamsiker 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 Graht 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 arrangement of furnishings.

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Minimum Equipment and Furnishings1. 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 racquets 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 racquets.

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 now is.
- 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 left where it now is. Estimate: \$75. (per Mr. Tschorn)
- 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. Tschorn)

2. Lounge 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

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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. Without any such furnishings, the Council feels the room will necessarily not be used in a typical fashion.

3. Lobby (Branch Store) furnishings

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| Store equipment | - Being installed by Store |
| Furnishings | - Miss Steven is recommending separately what she considers necessary |

4. General furnishings and equipment

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| 1 piano | - in lounge 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 phonograph-radio | - in lounge |
| records | - in lounge |
| 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.