

Bennington College

December 3, 1941

This is a brief summary of the discussion on the Arts curriculum. The meeting was attended by Mr. and Mrs. Moselsio, Mr. Lauterer, Mr. Park, Mr. Charles Smith, and Mr. Feeley.

There was general agreement on the idea that we should have a basic preparatory course less specific in its content than the type of preparatory introduction which we now provide. The content of such a course would be relevant to the plastic arts as a whole and would not be material specifically pertinent to just one branch of the arts. A number of suggestions were made regarding the subject matter of this proposed course. Among them were projects in lighting materials, two- and three-dimensional design, color, etc. This course, founded on basic projects, would be relevant to all branches of the plastic arts and would be considered generally preparatory not only for those students especially interested in the plastic arts, but would be the course provided for the general student whose major interest might be elsewhere.

An introductory theory course for the second year, which would bear the same relation to all branches of the arts in terms of history and theory as that relation found in the first year basic introduction and specific studio work, was also discussed. The discussion on this point did not arrive at a clear-cut decision, but agreement was reached in regard to having the content of this course relevant to the plastic arts as a whole rather than specifically pertinent to simply one aspect of them.

There were several suggestions made regarding the method of teaching such courses. One suggestion is that the first year basic course meet three times a week and be handled by three instructors, each appearing with the group once a week. The other suggestion is that each instructor work with a separate group as heretofore but that the content of all such basic introductory courses be the same.

It was recommended that it would be excellent to have all the introductory work of this project nature, i.e. materials, etc., carried on in a studio provided for that kind of work.

In our next meeting we plan to carry our discussion on the two basic courses further. It was suggested that each one of us be prepared with an individually formulated plan on these two basic courses to present to the group for further discussion.

Paul Feeley