

Minutes of CEP Meeting, November 18, 1968

The CEP meeting convened at 4:00 P.M. Present were Arbuthnot, Bekavac, Cobbs, Hauptman, Heald, North, Pennock, Pierson and Thompson. President Smith presided.

After asking for corrections of the Minutes of the last meeting, President Smith asked Miss Cobbs to explain the arrangement we have with Haverford and Bryn Mawr for allowing students to take courses at one of the other institutions, and allowing their students to take courses here. (Students may take courses not offered by their home colleges, and at the end of the year a token payment is made by whichever college has farmed out more students than it has taken in. We have a similar arrangement with Penn, except that in this case no money changes hands, because Penn does not wish to be bothered with the complicated book-keeping.) We are considering what arrangement could be made with Lincoln University, where five Swarthmore students are now taking a course in black literature. It was decided that it would be appropriate to enter into the same agreement as the one we have with Haverford and Bryn Mawr, requiring some token payment for surplus students. It was also agreed that we should ask that the dean and faculty adviser at Lincoln screen prospective applicants for admission to Swarthmore courses, just as our students who wish to take courses elsewhere are screened by the corresponding people here.

The President reported that the representatives from the Middle States Association who are to visit the campus for the periodical review of accreditation will arrive Sunday evening. He described their proposed schedule and listed the groups and individuals whom they plan to interview.

The Council continued its discussion of the program for accrediting high school teachers. Miss Cobbs reported on the results of talks she has had with members of our own faculty and persons at Bryn Mawr on various aspects of the foreign language programs. There was some discussion of the necessary qualifications of the person in charge of our program, should we present one, the appropriate organization of such a program, and the problem of finding a home for it, if the Department of Psychology decides that it is unsuitable for it to be described as a Department of Psychology and Education. It seemed best that the work in education be listed in the catalogue as a program of teacher education and that it be made responsible to the Provost (or the Dean). It was decided that Miss Cobbs and the Teacher Education Committee should meet with chairmen of departments to determine which if any are interested in participating in the program, should the faculty agree to go ahead and apply for approval. The secretary was asked to prepare a report on the CEP discussion, to be presented at the faculty meeting on November 21.

Miss Cobbs read portions of a tentative and summary report from Francis Tafoya on the possibility of offering a two-year program in the Chinese language. Mr. Tafoya recommended that we engage in such a program and suggested a "modified intensive program" such as is now offered in Russian language, to be given in spoken Chinese, beginning with texts in the Roman alphabet. After the second year, further work could be done at Penn. Mr. Tafoya thought that at first there would not be ^{need} for a full-time person teaching Chinese. He left open the question whether the same person should do the "master-teaching" and be responsible for drill as well. He was opposed to offering Italian or Portuguese, maintaining that tapes are available in the language laboratory for self-instruction in these and other modern Western languages.

The remainder of the meeting was spent in a discussion of summer programs and summer use of the campus. Before taking up specific proposals, the President invited comments on the principles that should guide any decision we might make, asking the Council to consider whether we should adopt a summer program because it would strengthen the college, or because it would result in some particular advantage to society, or whether financial considerations should be dominant. No conclusion was reached at this meeting on matters of principle, but a number of specific programs came up for discussion. These included programs like Upward Bound and ABC, adult education programs including alumni seminars, pre-freshman sessions for entering students, a program for very bright students from very poor schools, NSF Institutes, Peace Corps programs, a summer language institute (possibly in conjunction with Haverford and Bryn Mawr), and an arts or summer theatre program, teachers institutes, and something comparable to the Williamstown Conference.

The discussion touched upon various advantages and disadvantages associated with the use of the campus in the summer. The President pointed out that a college as intense as Swarthmore extends students, faculty, and administration to the limit during the school year, and that we should be sure (a) that a summer program will not push us beyond the limits of our strength, and (b) that personnel will actually be available to man a program. He cited the record of Upward Bound program, which, while supported in theory by many on the faculty, has in fact been hard put to find staff. Furthermore, he reminded the Council that the demands of productive scholarship will often conflict with the needs of summer programs, and that it may not always be proper to encourage faculty members to spend their summers on anything but scholarly research.

The discussion of the benefits to be derived from summer programs brought to light the desire of some members of the Council to make Swarthmore a livelier place during the long vacation and the hope of others that the peace and serenity of the campus, so conducive to scholarly contemplation, may somehow be preserved. The climate of Swarthmore during the summer months, and the lack of recreation facilities, were recognized as grave disadvantages. The desirability of having students act as research assistants to member of the faculty who are working at the college during the summer makes more urgent the need to find funds to support the summer research program for juniors, which has already proved so valuable.

The President proposed that persons interested in specific types of summer program be asked to present memoranda for the next meeting. These are to include the NSF institutes, the pre-freshman sessions and programs for very bright students, alumni seminars and other types of adult education, and art festivals.

The meeting adjourned at 6 P.M.

Helen North