

April 4, 1930

The Dormitory Committee met on April 4, 1930, in the Dean's Office. Present: Miss Mesick, Chairman, Mrs. Burrage, Miss Enos, Mrs. Hubbard, Mrs. Johnson. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Miss Mesick brought up the question of marriage during the college term. She has just had three interviews with students asking whether they might be married during the third term; another was married secretly just before the end of the second term, as occasionally happens. Sometimes also a student plans to marry during the year and continue her work here. There is no objection to married women in the College, but they seem to be increasing in number and it seems that the College should take cognizance of them in some way. We now have an unwritten law that a student who lives in the dormitories and who marries does not continue in her dormitory, although on one occasion a student was permitted to live in the dormitory for the remainder of the year. One of the girls who is to be married wishes to do this, and Miss Mesick had a long talk with her about it during which she concluded that she could not permit it.

Miss Williams said that she felt the matter might be approached from the point of view of the College, with which each student has made a tacit contract to finish her course. In so far as it interferes with the work of the College we must take account of it. There seems to be need of a rein, so that these girls will not follow every impulse. If a girl at the end of the year wishes to marry and come back to College as a day student, that is quite all right. In this case it loses its precipitate quality. When the question was brought up in faculty meeting the other day the faculty took sides violently, and

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there were many who thought that we should take no such attitude toward the matter.

Mrs. Hubbard said that she felt that it would be well to keep to the rule that notice must be given before the beginning of the year, or that in case of emergency girls should arrange with the Dean to allow it. Mrs. Johnson felt that haste and sudden marriages should be prevented, but she did not feel that the College should take such a firm attitude. Miss Mesick explained that when we had an elopement a few years ago all the friends of the girl were in a perfect state of ferment, which is certainly not to be encouraged. The Committee was united in feeling that some brake should be put on the perfect freedom of getting married. There may be the danger that secret marriages will be encouraged, but this is something that we cannot provide against. The matter is to be discussed further.

Miss Mesick then discussed the situation in regard to Peterborough House. We have had from time to time some intimations that the district was not all that it should be; which we have of course known, but we were there first and others have settled around us. The house is very desirable in itself for graduate students. The other day Mrs. Prince wrote to the President about the undesirableness of the neighborhood and said she thought it was bad to have the girls there. She said that she had had several complaints from parents. No graduate student is obliged to live in the House, but the accommodations are offered to them. What is our duty toward the graduate students? Of course it is impossible to guarantee any apartment house district. If we turn out sixty-four students to go hither and yon would the conditions

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be any better for them? Are they not much better off in one place where we know they will be well taken care of? The thing is that this is an address that is known as a bad one and at which people look askance. Should we be maintaining a dormitory in a district that is so known? The Committee concluded that we should if possible offer some alternative to the students rather than sell the House and not offer them any other place to live in. Miss Williams asked for a further report on the same matter.

Miss Mesick spoke of the change at the dormitories whereby Miss Goodrich will give up their management and keep on only with the teaching of the Institutional Management classes. Her place will be taken by Miss McFarlin who is one of the graduates of our Institutional Management course, and there will be no connection with the classes in Institutional Management. Miss Goodrich has now reached the retiring age.

The remainder of the meeting was taken up with a discussion of the Lunchroom and the plans now under discussion for its improvement.

Adjourned.