

Recommendations (for the Future)

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by Margaret Mead

These recommendations are based on the sociology seminar research, the evaluation sessions, and my own observations.

1. The Seminar should be held again, should be sponsored by the Harvard Student council and should be held in Leopoldskron.
2. Plans should be prepared early in the year and students selected, courses of study announced and books or reading lists sent to the proposed participants several months in advance.
3. The participants should be encouraged to bring completed pieces of their own research, and materials from their own cultures on the subjects which they propose to study, to the Seminar so as to provide more comparative material for use in the seminars.
4. The Seminar should be formally conceived as a place of learning and exchanging ideas, but not as a place where students undertake new research.
5. The personnel of the Seminar should be diversified in age and background, and include more representatives from non-academic activities - the arts, journalism, public service, (not as government representatives, however), etc. All participants should be selected finally by the American committee although nominations can well be obtained from a variety of sources, (as outlined in the evaluation meetings).
6. Wives and children of Americans, and of Europeans, should be interviewed as possible participants, before inclusion. They are desirable particularly.
7. Although it may be advisable in some cases to pay travel expenses, the teaching and administrative staff should continue to contribute their time as a voluntary gift.
8. Economics as the best conceptualized cross national social science discipline should continue to occupy an important place.
9. More concrete American materials, in the form of movies, recording exhibits of periodicals, etc., should be available.
10. The administrative committee should continue as a team, without explicit hierarchy.
11. The administrative tasks should be analyzed to reduce the pressure for hierarchy by increasing efficiency in specified areas, like the scheduling of lectures.

12. More space should be provided for study, and it should be articulately recognized that Europeans require more privacy than that to which American students are accustomed.
13. The present practice of a schedule in which there are no overlapping lectures should be continued.
14. More rigorous requirements for speaking and understanding English should be made, but waived in the case of exceptional students.
15. A wider and better balanced ideological and class range should be sought. Where scholarships are given, there seems no need to have the group so narrowly class typed, as it was this year.
16. A careful search should be made for European participants who can actually lecture on some aspect of American civilization.
17. None of this year's students should return except as part of the administration.
18. A certain core continuity in faculty and student administration should be maintained from year to year.
19. This year's participants should be encouraged to visit and should be carefully interviewed on their impressions when they do visit.
20. The participants should plan more serious artistic ventures, reading plays, concerts, etc.

.... Margaret Mead