

Jarle Leirfallom

Public Welfare

Ray Lappegaard

On Friday, June 4th, I met with Professor Paul T. Steen, Association Professor at Gustavus Adolphus College.

Professor Steen has developed a summer work study course in the social service department at Gustavus Adolphus whereby students spend nine weeks during their summer vacation as employees in welfare institutions. This employment involves direct responsibility for care of inmates or patients. The student receives the same compensation awarded to employees and assumes all the responsibilities and obligations of a regular employee. At the same time, the student does academic work, including reading assigned literature, keeping a daily journal of what he learns, and submitting a term paper summarizing his intellectual development upon the completion of the course for which he then receives college credit.

We discussed this proposal at some length and you will be interested to know that several students will be employed by the St. Peter State Hospital this summer in this program. I think it would be quite advantageous to expand a program of this sort to include students from other schools as well as from Gustavus Adolphus. This would require establishing a number of positions in the class of Psychiatric Aide for approximately a three month period each summer which would then be set aside for the employment of these students. The value to the department of such a program cannot be thought of in terms of immediate practical benefits, but I am sure would still be of definite value in terms of the following rewards:

1. Greater understanding of the program on the part of students who will, in all probability, end up in the field of social welfare or closely related activities.
2. By providing this work experience, it will serve as a recruitment device to students who will later on join our program at a professional level.
3. Even for students who would later go into some other activity such as private industry or the business world, the understanding of our program which they would gain by such employment would undoubtedly be of significant value to us in the future in terms of citizen understanding of the program.
4. Provide vacation relief.

Should you agree that such a program has definite possibilities, I will explore the mechanical procedures involved in terms of establishing the positions, contacts with the schools, and I think clearance with employee unions and other participating officials. I think that one safeguard that should be employed is the requirement that students employed on this basis must be enrolled in a recognized course for which college credit is given; otherwise, we are merely establishing summer jobs for whomever has some spokesman for him connected with the department.

RL:pb
cc: A.F. Angster

Attachment #2

Public Welfare

August 11, 1954

Ray Lappegaard

Dr. Dale C. Cameron

Proposed Summer Work Study Course -
Professor Steen of Gustavus Adolphus College.

The material transmitted with your memorandum of August 6th concerning the above subject has been reviewed. I agree with you that the program proposed would be quite worth while. I am not at all sure that we should set up positions specifically earmarked for this purpose, but rather should set up the extra jobs required during the summer months and make it a policy to endeavor to recruit college students in such a program as that of Professor Steen to fill these vacancies. Should insufficient students be available we should not be limited by this factor in getting our necessary work done. Thus we would simply give precedence to students enrolled in such a program. This might well be placed on the agenda for the Superintendents' Meeting and if it meets with their approval they could then determine the number of such positions they might have available next summer. Following this we can then get out some kind of announcement to the several schools in the State.

C/k