

RECOMMENDED CHANGES IN SUPERVISED

TEACHING IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION FOR MEN

The following recommended changes in the organization and conduct of the course in Supervised Teaching in Physical Education for Men are based on my experiences and observations in supervising the course under the present arrangements during the school year, 1939-40. I believe the course could be conducted much more effectively for the benefit of the practice teachers by certain changes in administrative procedure within this particular course.

Before presenting the suggested changes, let me list some of the difficulties and faults in the present arrangement:

1. Some students enroll for all their supervised teaching in one semester, others spread their work over two semesters. Arranging schedules and making assignments which will be complete, comparable, and equal for both types of students enrolled during the same semester is extremely difficult.

2. Students have been allowed to enroll in supervised teaching for three days a week only and have enrolled in some other course during the other two days. This has necessitated some students teaching a class three days per week while others take the same class two days per week! Obviously this is not a normal teaching situation, and there is a lack of continuity in the teaching, both for the student-teacher and the Oread pupils. One student teacher does not know what the other did the day before and the Oread pupils are between the two--probably wondering about both of them!

3. Under the present arrangement, student-teachers are allowed to enroll for as many as 16 units plus two units of practice teaching. In practice teaching the student teacher must put in more time than he would in any other two unit course if he is to do his job effectively. Either his practice teaching will be inadequate or his grades in other subjects may suffer.

4. One period or class in physical education at Oread Training School is not adequate for the training of as many as nine or ten teachers. This arrangement means that during the sixteen weeks of each semester, a student will have the opportunity of teaching for a period of less than two weeks. One student teaches while the other eight observe. Observation is valuable, but one of the fundamental principles of education of education states that "Learning occurs only through activity." Observing day after day is not conducive to much actual activity; the student learns how to teach only by actually teaching.

To alleviate some of the problems discussed above, I suggest that the following changes be considered in planning Supervised Teaching in Physical Education for the next school year: