The National Student Activities Section: Past, Present, and Future

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History as Related to Parent Society

IN THE 1921 meeting of the American Society of Agronomy, the President was authorized to appoint a committee to consider the advisability of promoting a national organization for agronomy students. A committee of three was selected, and this committee almost immediately began its work. On March 8, 1922, a questionnaire was sent to the agronomy departments of 24 institutions asking for information to be used in consideration of the question. On April 14, the committee met at Kansas City to go over the questionnaires and other correspondence and to make a study of the situation.

At the 1922 meeting a report was presented which set forth the findings of the committee. It was accepted as a progress report, and a new committee was appointed including the 3 old members and 3 new ones. The new committee took up the work where the old committee left off and submitted the following recommendations:

(1) That the A.S.A. go on record as favoring a national organization of students in agronomy, but as believing that the initiative in the formation of such an organization be left to the students;

(2) That the A.S.A. pledge its whole-hearted cooperation and support in case an organization was started by the students with the view of finally bringing about some affiliation of students' organization with the A.S.A.;

(3) That the President of the A.S.A. be given authority to appoint a committee of three to act

Interest was revived in the spring of 1932 when P. E. Brown, President of A.S.A., announced the appointment of a special committee to study the organization of a National Student Section of the American Society. This committee met during the Summer Corn Belt Section of the Society at Madison, Wisconsin, after having obtained reactions to the proposal from students at Minnesota, Nebraska, Iowa. The committee report stated, "Students in Agronomy and related fields have very favorably received the suggestion of a National Student organization to be affiliated with the American Society of Agronomy as a Student Section! Students believe that membership in such an organization will stimulate their interests in the profession. A letter recently mailed to agronomists has brought twelve favorable replies with none against the proposed organization." The committee approved the temporary organization used at Iowa State College as a temporary one but felt that the definite plan of organization should be left to the Student Section with the assistance of a committee from the Society.

In 1932, at the fall meeting of the Society, this temporary organization was approved and accepted by the American Society of Agronomy as a Student Section. By 1941, charters in the Student Activities Section had been granted to 23 institutions.

During World War II, from 1942 to 1946, reduced enrollment in agricultural colleges made student organizations impractical. The National Organization became inactive. In 1947 steps were taken to revive the agronomy clubs. The committee of the A.S.A. almost literally "drew student names out of a hat" to set up a slate of national

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