Mr. Smith

This also looks

true to the rational

explanation.

What do you say?

GBB

A good experiment

A. T.
C40

not sure

redundant

reason for deletion

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D 8040 with

[Handwritten text]
March 27, 1923

President Ernest D. Burton
University of Chicago

My dear Mr. Burton:

This requires no action; it is merely to keep you in touch with an educational experiment.

We have, in the spring quarter, four sections of a course called Risk and Risk Bearing. We shall conduct an experiment in the technique of collegiate instruction. A brief statement of what we are after would run something as follows:

1. We shall abandon entirely the orthodox method of presenting material, and shall use neither the lecture method nor the discussion method as those two methods have been known in the past. We shall, of course, make use of certain parts of these methods. In the main, however, we are trying a method which we believe is designed to get the following results from the students:
   a. He is to organize the material himself, rather than have others organize it for him.
   b. He is to come into contact with three or four times the usual amount of reading material.
   c. This is to be accomplished by a system of squads and squad leaders - the same being designed to force upon the students themselves a considerable amount of self instruction.
   d. Fairly active participation and cooperation by the students themselves in the instructing process.

2. The technique of the new method is, of course, to be tried out. We have so arranged the work that we can, in the course of the quarter, try the matter out in as many as five somewhat different ways. The more interesting general features of the technique are these:
   a. An initial presentation of rather a large topic designed to give the student guide posts for his own journeying through that topic.
   b. Small group meetings under expert guidance for the discussion of material, with two meetings a week of the class as a whole in order to make certain that important issues will be seen by the whole class.
   c. A period of organization at the close of each major topic, in which the burden is put upon the student of organizing the material that has been studied.
   d. The course is to be conducted not merely as a course in Risk and Risk Bearing, but in terms of its place in the entire business curriculum. One of the main tasks of the instructors, of course, will be that of assisting the student to reach out and make connections with other functional fields.
3. It will be the duty of one instructor to supervise the work in general and to arrange for such measurements of the experiment as may prove feasible. We expect to have, at the end of the quarter, some considerable mass of evidence as to how the plan works.

4. This experiment is intended as a preliminary to an experiment which will be conducted next year in another course. The spring quarter experiment will put emphasis upon breaking the class into groups. The experiment next year will put emphasis upon retaining the class organization.

Yours very sincerely,

[Signature]

LCM: BL
The University of Chicago

School of Commerce and Administration

It will be the duty of one instructor to supervise the work.

It is important that the student have a good understanding of the subject. We must not become familiar with the subject, but must have a knowledge of the theoretical. Some instructors may have a knowledge of the theoretical.

It is essential to prepare a syllabus for the instruction to be given. The instructor will be responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the syllabus. There will be an examination at the end of each course. This examination will be given by the instructor.

Your next meeting.

F.R.