

May 12, 1942.

Prof. J. G. Cohen
Education Department
Brooklyn College

Dear Professor Cohen:

In the course of the two years of activity of the present Committee on Employment, questions relative to the College curriculum have more than once come up for consideration. We have heard, for example, such items as the following: The addition of certain standard liberal arts courses given in other institutions would definitely enhance the employment possibilities for our students. It is reported also that some institutions of high standing in the liberal arts field offer courses of semi-vocational character which are barred from our curriculum. These and other similar particular points sum up in the general problem of what students in a liberal arts college have a right to expect as a result of four years of study and training.

The Employment Committee is interested in the general and specific aspects of this problem because of its very direct bearing upon the whole field of employment for our students. It first came into focus at one of the conferences of departmental representatives called by our Committee, and from the action of this conference we have had the help of a special subcommittee headed by Prof. Charlotte Morgan. Eventually the Committee hopes to be able to formulate some clear-cut program which may legitimately be recommended to the Faculty Council as a means of promoting the employment of our graduates and undergraduates. Does the 'curriculum planning' committee of which you are Chairman have any chart by which we may map our further consideration of this problem? The following questions represent a preliminary attempt on my part 'to divide the difficulty into as many parts as possible'.

- 1) How can the problem be resolved into subdivisions susceptible of more exact study?
- 2) What sources may be available in the literature both for the analysis of the problem as a whole and for the pursuit of its separate aspects? In addition to the Foster title which you suggested the other ^{day} and the Inglis lecture by Maclean, I have so far one other recent title to look up - Butts, "The College Charts its Course".
- 3) In what respects if any is Brooklyn College faced with problems different from those of liberal arts colleges the country over?
- 4) Is it possible to set up criteria by which the admissibility of any given course to a liberal arts curriculum may be established regardless of any local or other limiting factors?

Sincerely,

Ralph G. Benedict, Chairman
Committee on Employment
and Financial Aid