A meeting of the Interdepartmental Conference on Employment was held Wednesday, November 18, 1942, in the Women’s Lounge in Boylan Hall. The following were present: Mr. Bakst—Department of Music; Mr. Bard—Department of Political Science; Mr. Barnard—Department of Education and Member of the Committee on Employment; Mr. Benedict, Chairman of the Committee on Employment; Mr. Bridgman, Dean of Students; Mr. Doscher, Department of Hygiene (Men); Mrs. Frankel—Department of Hygiene (Women); Miss Harvitt—Department of Romance Languages; Mr. Mais—Department of Physics; Miss Morgan—Department of English; Mrs. O’Neill—Director of Placement; Mr. Park, Director of the Evening Session and member of the Committee on Employment; Miss Pease—Department of Biology; Mrs. Robinton—Department of History and member of the Committee on Employment; Miss Tobin—Department of Chemistry; Mr. Waterman—Department of Sociology—Anthropology; and Mr. Winslow—Department of Psychology and member of the Committee on Employment.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Benedict, at 12:45 p.m. The minutes of the meeting of February 25, 1942 were accepted.

Miss Harvitt read the report of the subcommittee appointed to ascertain the procedures followed in the several departments to promote the employment of their majors. The committee recommended that the answers to the questionnaires sent to the department chairman be made available to other departments. On motion of Mr. Mais, the report of the subcommittee was adopted, and the chair requested the subcommittee to ask the several department chairmen for permission to publish their answers and also to prepare a summary for circulation to the members of the Conference. On motion of Mr. Park, a vote of thanks to the subcommittee was unanimously adopted.

The report of the subcommittee on curricular aspects of employability was read by Miss Morgan. The subcommittee recommended:

1) for the duration of the war, the introduction of non-credit refresher courses.
2) for long term planning,
   a) the increase in the number of occupational courses—limiting the total a student for the B.A. degree could take to 15 points.
   b) the recognition of a minor in a group other than the major.
   c) the study of combinations of courses best suited for specific vocational fields.
   d) the greater cooperation of departments in offering complementary courses, and interdepartmental combinations.

On motion of Mrs. Robinton, the Conference passed unanimously a vote of thanks to the subcommittee.

Mr. Winslow read a report on the Farm Project held under the auspices of Brooklyn College during the summer of 1942. This report was circulated.

The Conference was addressed by Professor Joseph G. Cohen, Chairman of the Curricular Evaluation and Long Term Planning Committee, and Dr. Laura Kennaon, Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Modification of the Curriculum for Women to Meet Defense Needs, on the vocational implications of their respective committees’ reports.
Professor Cohen stated that the problem before his committee had been how to enhance vocational opportunities without destroying the values of the liberal arts. The Committee had decided the college was not a university and therefore did not have the responsibility of providing professional training. The necessity of redefining the college's responsibility in this field, led to the recommendation of functional majors, which would furnish the student with preparation for work within a field of activity but would not provide job training, per se.
Dr. Kennon discussed the curriculum planned for the new degree of B.S. in Home Economics.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
U.S. WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK

ADDRESS

CITY-TOWN-VILLAGE

TELEPHONE: ____________________________

PROJECT NO.