January 28, 1943

To the Committee on Curriculum
Brooklyn College

The Committee on Employment is engaged in the formulation of a program through which a considerable number of our students may be enabled to participate effectively in the relief of the critical farm labor shortage, particularly during the summer harvest months of 1943. We know that groups of able-bodied girls and of boys under draft age constitute an important source of such emergency labor, and that Federal and State authorities are looking for ways and means of organizing young people for this service on the food production front. In our preparations we are keeping in touch with public agencies; they have shown much interest in our plans and we have reason to believe that the "Brooklyn College Plan" as it is developing is more than acceptable; that we may hope to participate in any subsidies which governmental plans now under consideration contemplate. Pending definitive announcement of governmental plans, it is necessary, in view of the war emergency, that we go ahead toward the completion of our program.

The principle underlying the Brooklyn College Plan is that, in order to get the maximum help from our young people in this war effort, we should as an institution take the responsibility of ensuring so far as possible that both working and living conditions are such as to secure for them a maximum of educational values from their service. To this end we plan that each camp group shall be under the supervision of a Brooklyn College staff member, and also that each group shall have the opportunity to carry on college credit work as a special Summer Session class. With work groups enlisted from specific college classes, and with appropriate teacher-leaders, it will be possible to conduct regular prescribed courses. But since are sure to be diverse as to class grade, it is necessary to have a course ready which can be taken with profit by any student, and given by teachers of different departments (See below under Rural Sociology.) To complete our preliminary planning, we ask the approval of the Curriculum Committee for two recommendations as follows:

A. We recommend the adoption of a course in Field Work in Rural Sociology as proposed by the Department of Sociology and offered concurrently.

Explanations:

1. The proposed course will fit in perfectly with the educational part of our program. It will help the student gain a deeper understanding of the rural environment which will be new to most of them.

2. The Sociology Department, with the cooperation of representatives of other social science departments, is drawing up a comprehensive plan to cover relevant fields of investigation, with questionnaires, bibliography etc., for student use. It is planning a series of lectures for prospective teachers of related departments so that those interested may become familiar with and prepared to lead a class in an investigations of one of the sociological fields.

3. Each such class field investigations will be carried on under the supervision of the Sociology Department. At the end of the course, each teacher will submit the collective report of his group, with an evaluation of the work of each student. The Sociology Department will then appraise the work of the class and that of the individual students.
8. We recommend the approval of 4 blanket credits to student farm workers who satisfactorily complete an adequate period of farm work together with specified preliminary orientation lectures and other lecture and discussion periods carried on concurrently with their period of work.

Explanations:

1. We believe that students who give up the advantage of taking regular summer session work in Brooklyn, and the prospect of more lucrative work in the city, not to mention the ease of vacation, and engages effectively in the hardships of farm labor to help in the war effort, deserves recognition.

2. The awarding of such credits for work and study faithfully accomplished, is in line with the national trend toward accelerating student programs.

3. To earn four credits, the student will have to take part in a 15-hour preparatory program of lectures and other work during the spring term.

4. While in camp, the student will also follow a program of planned lectures, discussions, and other activities of educational value. A plan for such activities will be worked out during the spring semester. For example, at Red Hook last summer, it would have easily possible to have arranged lectures local residents who had specialized in local school development, various agricultural topics, the cooperative movement in farm purchasing, the place of the Grange in rural communities, et al., et al.

5. Less than four credits might be recommended for some who satisfactorily completed some major fraction of the total above specified.

6. The granting of blanket credits is in line with the recommendations recently made by the Committee on Long Term Curriculum Planning.

Note: The War Service Committee has been informed of our plans. It regards them as an important part of the College war effort and recommends our proposals to the Committee on Curriculum and Admissions.

Respectfully submitted,

Committee on Employment.