Professor Ralph C. Benedict, advisor
College Farm Labor Experiment:

Dear Professor Benedict:

May I offer as a practical suggestion that groups sent out this summer in connection with your project be constituted as departmental units so that one instructor in charge may offer elective courses for college credit within a single department.

Yours sincerely,

Maurice Lieberman

Copy to the President
DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY  
SCIENCE BUILDING

Brooklyn College
BEDFORD AVENUE AND AVENUE H
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

Jan 5, 1942

Dear President Fisk :

Here are two items involved in presenting forms to the Plan to Committee on Personnel : the second sheet is due to go to them tomorrow at a meeting.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Ralph T. [Signature]
To the Members of the Committee on Student Personnel:

Dec. 26, 1942

May I present for consideration at a meeting of the Committee to be held Wednesday, Jan. 6, at 2:00 P.M. in the Dean's Room, if available, some problems concerned with the adoption of a foundling project, at present being nurtured by the Committee on Employment, but which is already outgrowing the capacity of that Committee's guardianship? The project is the utilization of Brooklyn College youth for farm labor service.

Conceived just before the 1942 Easter recess, it was supposed to be undergoing a peaceful and normal gestation in the U.S. Employment Service, under the capable prenatal supervision of Mrs. O'Neil. About June 1st, it came to a sudden and violent birth as a Brooklyn College offspring, with 67 of our students enrolled in three work camps near Red Hook, and with parents of somewhat stepparent type in the form of a local farmers' committee. When the Employment Committee learned this fall that it or some agency had gotten an experiment, extensive observations, dissections, and analyses were set in motion. These gradually involved additional staff members outside the Committee, until several separate committees were engaged in first in fact-finding but gradually tending toward the production of definitive recommendations. Where the preliminary exploratory operations ended, and the construction of definite proposals for possible College action began is difficult to say. At any rate, the Committee on Employment would like to report to the Personnel Committee the status as it exists, or will exist, at the time of the meeting above specified, and to ask the advice and action of the Personnel Committee.

Taken as a whole, present developments may be summarized as follows:

1) Brooklyn College wishes to make available as a war service measure the work of as large a number of qualified students as possible for relief of the present critical farm labor shortage.

2) Through the Employment Committee, and through the cooperation of all other appropriate bodies in the College, a special 'Brooklyn College Plan' is being developed. This, it is hoped, may serve as a blueprint calculated to make serve as the basis for successful application in the college and high school farm labor program in general.

3) More concretely, the activities now under way are designed to place Brooklyn College in a position to take an active part in administering a program based upon our plan, through the enlistment, orientation of student and staff members during the coming semester, and through their subsequent placement and supervision, particularly in farm camp groups, in appropriate areas in the general vicinity of New York City.

We can effect the first two of these aims, almost entirely through our own efforts. For the third, we shall need recognition of State or Federal or local farm communities. But whether we achieve the latter at an early stage or not, we shall need to be far advanced in the first two lines of activity. General information background is provided by the "Report" which I believe you have all seen. Enclosed are additional informational items.

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph C. Benedict, Chairman
Committee on Employment
BROOKLYN COLLEGE FARM LABOR PROGRAM:

A. 1942-Spring.

1) Employment Committee Discussion.
2) Sub-Committee Study; Mr. Ford Barnard, Chairman; April 1st, et seq.
3) Student Meetings; Speakers from USB, VLC, ISS.
4) Enrollment, orientation; Mrs. O'Neill, Prof. Winslow, et al.
5) Investigation of placement possibilities: Germantown, Clermont Inn project; Mrs. O'Neill, Mr. O'Neill, Prof. Benedict.
6) Investigation continued: Red Hook, Dutchess County; Mr. O'Neill.
7) Plans for two or more small camp groups arranged. /Miss Greig & 7 girls
8) First placements: 1 busload of B. C. students, 18 girls, 15 boys; /Mrs. O'Neill, Miss Benedict, doing preparatory work. (June 8)
9) Second placements: 2 busloads, (partly City, Hunter, and Queens)
10) Housing plans changed by local committee; 64 boys and girls in Van Ness Mansion, with Herman Hegyi as supervisor. (June 10)
11) June 12: Mr. Benedict and Miss Benedict added as supervisors.

B. 1942 Fall. Farm labor camp experiment reported.

1) Report prepared for President Gideon, ca Oct. 1st.
2) Report to Employment Committee, October.
3) Report to Board of Higher Education. (Appendix to President's Report).

C. 1942-1943: Planning a Brooklyn College Farm Labor Program for 1943.

Tentative Outline of Agenda
1) Fact-finding, intra-mural, and extra-mural: correspondence, etc.
2) Enlisting Faculty cooperation in study and planning.
3) Sketching a tentative "Brooklyn College Plan".
4) Study of separate recommendations so developed, by separate committees: curriculum possibilities; enlistment etc.; of working corps of students, and staff; Publicizing plans within College, etc.
5) Report to Faculty Committee on Personnel.
6) Report to Faculty War Service Committee.
7) Report, as ready, of proposed correlated farm-study courses, to Curriculum Committee.
8) Liaison relations, by correspondence, etc.; with Federal, State, local County agencies; with individuals, agricultural colleges, extension departments, etc.
9) Publicizing program tentatively, extra-murally: writing, radio, etc.
10) Recruiting plans-staff members: Miss Kemeny.
11) Recruiting plans-student workers: Mr. Barnard. (Mrs. O'Neill)
12) Spring orientation program: Prof. Gaede.
13) Placements: Mrs. O'Neill.
14) Steering Committee: Prof. Winslow, Waterman, et al.
15) Information Committee: Mr. Perkins; Prof. Mallory.
16) Bibliographies for general and special parts.
17) Orientation with incoming freshmen; Feb. and May.
18) Blue-printing Brooklyn College plan.