

E3 1979

# University of London

Telegrams UNIVERSITY LONDON  
Telephone 01-636 8000

BC AL/336/1/15  
→ file.  
+ note

SENATE HOUSE  
MALET STREET  
LONDON  
WC1E 7HU

Extension

Our ref AR/SCI/JML/SG  
Your ref

29th November, 1979

Mr. L.P. Turnbull,  
Registrar,  
Bedford College.

Dear Mr. Turnbull,

PROPOSALS FOR A BSC IN NURSING STUDIES

I apologise for not having written earlier concerning the outcome of the discussion at the meeting of the Academic Council on 5th November, but a copy of the approved Minutes was only received ~~yesterday~~ *recently*.

I enclose for your information a copy of the Agenda item. The Minutes include the following record of the discussion which took place and a resolution that action be taken in accordance with the report:

- (1) Members of the Council expressed reservations about approving in principle a proposal to introduce such a course while the Special Advisory Committee in Nursing Studies considered that the proposals before them did not constitute in their opinion a degree course with Nursing Studies as the main field of study. Moreover the Council considered that existing expertise within the University might be called upon in further deliberations over the proposed degree structure and that this would alleviate the immediate need for Bedford College to appoint suitably qualified staff.
- (2) The Council also suggested that more detailed information should accompany the proposals when they came before the Council again after discussions in the Special Advisory Committee had progressed further and the views of the UGC had been sought.

Although we had hoped that the Academic Council might be prepared to consider the proposals in principle at this stage this has not been the case. [Additional information on the course proposals as presently submitted had deliberately been excluded from the agenda item as it had seemed to us misleading to give wide circulation now to proposals which the Special Advisory Committee in Nursing Studies had already deemed unsatisfactory if the four year course is to lead to a degree with Nursing Studies as the main field.]

-/Continued.....

29th November, 1979

It would seem, therefore, that the next step is for Bedford College to reconsider the degree programme in the light of comments already made by the SAC and to produce proposals likely to be acceptable to the SAC as appropriate to a degree with Nursing Studies as the main field. I have discussed the matter with the Academic Registrar. We would suggest that if you could produce an acceptable outline programme this would be a sufficient base on which to refer the matter back to the Academic Council. There would seem no need to provide final detailed proposals for each course unit at this stage. Indeed in comparable cases such as the introduction of the Nursing degree at Chelsea College and the Speech Sciences degree at University College course units have been approved in stages and some third and fourth year units have not yet been approved. It has also been recognised that you would not wish to submit proposals in too great a detail until graduate nurses have been appointed to the academic staff of Bedford College who will be responsible for teaching the course.

You will also <sup>note</sup> ~~know~~ the Academic Council suggestion that Bedford College should consult further with expertise within the University. I have discussed this with the Chairman of the SAC, Professor Green, and it would seem that the Academic Council may not have fully understood the position.

We appreciate that the only expertise in degrees in Nursing Studies within the University lies in the Department of Nursing Studies at Chelsea College which has experience of offering a programme concentrating on Biological Sciences but no experience of a course concentrating on Social/Behavioural Sciences such as is proposed at Bedford College. (On the other hand Members of the Special Advisory Committee from outside Chelsea College represent other interests.) It is noted that your ad hoc Committee included as a Member the Director of Advanced Nursing Studies in the Welsh National School of Medicine. I was also awaiting the Academic Council's recommendation before passing on to you a suggestion from the SAC that you might consider including in your College selection Committee for Nursing staff a representative from a well established degree course in Nursing such as that which has been offered in Manchester University for a number of years.

Finally I would add that Senate House, through the Academic Registrar, will now be consulting the UGC on the proposals to establish a second degree course in Nursing Studies in the University of London.

Yours sincerely,



MRS. J.M. LONGDEN  
Faculty Officer,  
Science and Engineering

c.c. Professor J. H. Green  
Middlesex Hospital Medical School.

PROPOSALS FOR A BSC DEGREE AT BEDFORD COLLEGE WITH NURSING STUDIES AS THE MAIN FIELD OF STUDY [338]

TO CONSIDER: Proposals to introduce in October 1980 a course leading to a degree with Nursing Studies as the main field to be offered at Bedford College in conjunction with the Middlesex Hospital School of Nursing.

TO REPORT: (1) A background statement from Bedford College relating to the proposals to introduce this new degree course is given in Document A.6.

(2) At meetings in July and October the Special Advisory Committee in Nursing Studies has considered this statement together with an outline of the proposed degree structure. The Special Advisory Committee has now recommended that support should be given in principle to Bedford College offering a Nursing degree course with a bias towards the Social Sciences as this would appropriately complement the existing course at Chelsea College which has a bias towards the Biological Sciences. The Special Advisory Committee would consider, however, that the detailed proposals presently submitted could not be deemed to constitute a degree course with Nursing Studies as the main field but rather a course which might more appropriately be designated as "Social Sciences with Nursing Studies". The Advisory Committee would also consider that it is essential that appropriately qualified graduate nurses are appointed to Bedford College with responsibility for teaching and examining the nursing units before the course is introduced. It has therefore been agreed that University approval should be sought in principle for the proposal to introduce the course in order that, if this is given Bedford College may proceed with the appointment of suitably qualified staff and consider further the degree structure.

Note by Academic Registrar

1. In 1976 the UGC issued a note of guidance to universities contemplating new developments in Nursing Studies and the SAC in Nursing Studies is taking this into account in discussions on the detailed proposals put forward by Bedford College.
2. Because of the implications for Health Departments the UGC also asked to be consulted by universities before a final decision was taken on any new development in Nursing Studies.



Proposal for a Degree in Nursing Studies at Bedford College

Background Statement from the College

1. In September 1969, Bedford College began an experimental scheme of training with the MacDonald-Buchanan School of Nursing at the Middlesex Hospital. This scheme consisted of (i) a degree in Sociology Branch III (later replaced by one in Social Science and Administration and again in 1977 by a course-unit degree with special Field of Study in Social Policy and (ii) a special course leading to the qualification of State Registered Nurse and consisting of a month's training immediately before starting the university degree course, a month's training in each of the two long vacations and approximately eighteen months training following graduation. The Secretary of State approved the continuation of this course for a further five years to November 1976.
2. The combined course was set up in the belief that the study of sociology would give nurses a deeper understanding of the social institutions of industrial society, and of the causes and course of social change, including a special study of the sociology of medical care. It was intended that the students should acquire a depth of knowledge that would enable them to deal with a wide variety of situations and to adopt an analytical and critical approach to their daily work, which would in turn enhance their practise of nursing. It was also expected that graduates would be equipped to assist in the exercise of responsibility and in the formation and interpretation of policy in nursing administration, professional organisation and nursing education and research.
3. The combined course has proved very successful. A high calibre of students has been attracted who have obtained well above average academic results as graduates, followed by equally high professional success. The motivation of the students has been especially strong resulting in a very high proportion remaining in the profession.
4. The present proposal is designed to capitalise the experience on the combined course and to remove two disadvantages; the restriction of numbers to six a year because of the need to support the students during professional training out of NHS funds and the lack of any real opportunity to integrate the students' professional training with their academic study of the behavioural sciences.
5. We also wish to provide a base upon which a body of knowledge related to the principles and practices of nursing can be developed through research. We see the behavioural sciences as providing an essential basis for an understanding of the problems involved in caring for

the individual in health and in sickness and in the community and in hospital. We consider that the Department of Sociology at Bedford College is particularly able to support this aim through its development of the study of sociology as applied to medicine in the Social Research Unit based in the Department under the direction of Professor Jefferys and Professor Brown.

6. The present submission does not change the basic ingredients of the present combined course, but is designed to integrate them and take advantage of the flexibility of a course-unit degree to provide some specially designed academic courses. The basis remains that of an honours degree in social policy combined with a special professional training.

Proposal for a Degree in Nursing Studies at Bedford College

Background Statement from the College (Revised)

1. The present position

1.1 Since September 1969, Bedford College has co-operated with the MacDonald-Buchanan School of Nursing at the Middlesex Hospital in a special scheme of training whereby students:

- (i) register as internal students at the College following a full-time course of 3 years leading to the award of a BSc degree in Social Policy under course unit regulations [Note: originally students registered for a degree in Sociology Branch III and later for a degree in Social Science and Administration].
- (ii) follow a special course in the Nursing School of a month's training immediately before starting the university degree course, a month's training in each of the two long vacations and:
- (iii) after graduation follow a course in the Nursing School of approximately eighteen months which leads to the qualification of State Registered Nurse.

Students taking the combined course have, therefore, been able to complete a full degree course and professional course in a little over 4 years.

1.2 The combined course was set up in the belief that the study of sociology would give nurses a deeper understanding of the social institutions of industrial society, and of the causes and course of social change, including a special study of the sociology of medical care. It was intended that the students should acquire a depth of knowledge that would enable them to deal with a wide variety of situations and to adopt an analytical and critical approach to their daily work, which would in turn enhance their practise of nursing. It was also expected that graduates would be equipped to assist in the exercise of responsibility and in the formation and interpretation of policy in nursing administration, professional organisation and nursing education and research.

1.3 The combined course has proved very successful. A high calibre of students has been attracted who have obtained well above average academic results as graduates, followed by equally high professional success. The motivation of the students has been especially strong resulting in a very high proportion remaining in the profession.

1.4 The combined course has had however two disadvantages:

- (i) a restriction of numbers to six a year because of the need to support the students during professional training out of NHS funds.
- (ii) the lack of any real opportunity to integrate the students professional training with their academic study of the behavioural sciences.

/Continued.....

## 2. A degree in Nursing Studies

- 2.1 Now that a number of Universities (including London) and Polytechnics are offering degree courses in Nursing Studies the College wish to replace the scheme with a degree course in which students would be registered at the College for a four year course leading to the award of a BSc degree with Nursing Studies as the main field and the professional qualification of State Registered Nurse. The College would continue to co-operate with the MacDonald-Buchanan School of Nursing. The latter would be largely responsible for teaching/training to meet the professional nursing requirements of the SRN qualification. The College would be responsible for teaching and examining all parts of the four-year course to be assessed for the award of the BSc degree.
- 2.2 The College wish to capitalise the experience gained in operating the combined course under the special scheme and see the behavioural sciences as providing an essential basis for an understanding of the problems involved in caring for the individual in health and in sickness and in the community and in hospital.

## 3. Teaching of the new degree/staffing

- 3.1 As soon as the University approve in principle the establishment of a degree course in Nursing Studies at Bedford College we propose to establish a Nursing Studies Unit within the Department of Sociology. The unit would be headed by a Director of Nursing Studies (to be appointed in summer 1980) who would be academically and professionally qualified. It is proposed that the detailed planning of the new degree course would be left until after the Director has been appointed. A second tutor would be appointed to the Section during the first year of the course. It is also probable that qualified nurse tutors in the Middlesex School of Nursing would be appointed as visiting tutors at Bedford College and hence as honorary members of the academic staff of the College eligible for appointment as internal examiners for the course unit degree.
- 3.2 The Department of Sociology at Bedford College with the addition of the Nursing Studies Unit would be well organised to offer such a course. It already includes a Social Research Unit, Legal Research Unit and Social Work Section in addition to sections providing teaching of undergraduates and postgraduate courses. The Social Research Unit has pioneered the teaching of Social Sciences to medical students in the University, it offers intercalated undergraduate courses and an MSc course in Sociology as Applied to Medicine. A lecturer in Medical Sociology holds a joint appointment in Bedford College and the Middlesex Hospital Medical School and the College propose appointing another lecturer holding a full-time appointment at the College. Such persons would teach the units on Medical Sociology and Sociology of health care that will integrate the Social Sciences with Nursing Studies in the new degree.

## 4. The course content

- 4.1 We propose that the course should lead to the award of a BSc degree under course unit regulations. In accordance therefore with the special regulations for the BSc degree with Nursing Studies as the main field a student would be required to pursue a full-time course of study over four years, to complete a minimum of 12 course units and satisfy the examiners in at least 11, of which not more than 3 shall be designated an introductory and

/Continued.....



at least 6 shall be in Nursing. The submission of detailed proposals would await the appointment of the Nursing Studies Director (see 3.1 above) but it is presently proposed that the 12 units would be arranged as follows:

	<u>Nursing</u>	<u>Social Sciences</u>	<u>Medical Sciences</u>
1st year	$\frac{3}{2}$ c.u.	$1\frac{1}{2}$	1
2nd year	1	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
3rd year	$2\frac{1}{2}$	-	$\frac{1}{2}$
4th year	2	1	-
Total	6	4	2

- 4.2 As provided also under the regulations, part of each year shall be spent in the Middlesex Hospital School of Nursing which shall be approved by the University for the purpose.
- 4.3 In addition to work assessed as part of the degree and assigned a course unit value part of each academic year and vacations will be spent on clinical placements and in associated practical work as required for the professional qualification.
5. Financial and academic planning implications
- 5.1 As described in para. 3.1 direction and teaching of the Nursing courses will need additional academic staff. Most of the Social Sciences courses will however be selected from those already offered to students of the College registered for the degree with Social Policy as the main field.
- 5.2 The College has already applied to the Court for additional funds and it has been agreed that these shall be made available for the running of the course subject to the introduction of the degree course in Nursing Studies receiving academic approval.
- 5.3 The College visualise commencing the course in 1981 with an annual intake of 12 students (i.e. twice the number to whom it has been possible to offer the existing course because of financial limitations). From initial enquiries it would seem likely that we shall be able to select students of a high calibre to fill these places as there has already been a considerable response to a preliminary entry in the UCCA Handbook inviting queries.
- 5.4 We see a degree course in Nursing Studies at Bedford College with an emphasis on the Social Sciences as an alternative to and hence complementary to the degree course in Nursing Studies at Chelsea College with its emphasis on Biological Sciences. This view has the support of the Special Advisory Committee in Nursing Studies.