

B E D F O R D C O L L E G E

University of London

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Professor Ivor Burton

From: Mrs. Marion Ferguson

Date: 4 March 1985

Re : Nursing Students' final computing grades

The role of practice within a vocational undergraduate course.

I suspect part of my somewhat naive understanding of the Nursing Studies course was a taken-for-granted position that practical placements are an integrated element of the course. I take this position to arise because of the University's involvement with an activity which hitherto was considered to belong to the area of manual practice only. However, moving this course into the University had implications for a different development anticipating that academic learning should inform practice. Therefore our course is constructed on the premise that professional and academic learning are no longer separate components.

In terms of actual hours, practice placements amount to more than $\frac{1}{2}$ the total course's work: each term students spend $2\frac{1}{2}$ days per week at practice which is augmented during the summer term by a full-time practice involvement of six weeks.

Our students are required to fulfil the same academic expectations in relation to quality and quantity as any other student of this Department. However, looking at the time at their disposal, at the awkward working times of their placement and at the nature of the emotional demands which accompany nursing placements I would have thought allowance need to be made when computing the grades so that good/bad or indifferent ward reports receive their appropriate consideration as part of the course structure.

Liz and I should meet with you to discuss a system whereby the students' efforts are taken into consideration alongside their competences.

As this will be the final examination Board for our fourth year students I believe we need to request the presence of the two external examiners in Nursing: Prof. Jean McFarlane (ie Baroness) and Dr. Elizabeth Hockey. What are your views on whether we should have a separate Board or? Please advise.