

University of London

SPECIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN NURSING STUDIES

There will be a meeting of the Special Advisory Committee in Nursing Studies on Friday 17 October at 2.30 p.m. in Senate House.

A G E N D A

1. MINUTES

TO CONFIRM: Minutes of the meeting on 13 June 1980 (previously circulated).

2. MEMBERSHIP

TO REPORT: Miss M J D Cooper, Chief Education Officer of the General Nursing Council of England and Wales, was awarded an OBE in the Birthday Honours.

3. COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC ORGANISATION

TO REPORT: Following comments received by members on the draft response circulated with the Minutes of the meeting on 13 June, a revised response from the Special Advisory Committee was sent to Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer (Document A attached).

4. MPhil/PhD EXAMINERS

TO CONSIDER: The practice which the Special Advisory Committee would generally wish to follow concerning the appointment of Examiners for Higher Degrees in the field of Nursing Studies.

TO REPORT: (1) At the meeting on 13 June it was noted that it would be necessary for the Committee to establish a code of practice, particularly in relation as to whether or not the Supervisor should normally be appointed as an Internal Examiner. The practices of Boards of Studies vary widely in this respect, and the Academic Council has maintained that the decision shall rest with each Board. Some Boards automatically appoint the Supervisor as one Examiner; other Boards automatically exclude the Supervisor; some Boards consider each case individually. The practices also vary in respect as to whether the Supervisor is asked to nominate persons whom he would wish to be appointed as Examiners or Co-examiners; or whether the appointments are made without prior consultation with the Supervisor; or the Supervisor may be asked to name several suitable persons from whom one would normally be appointed.

(2) The only requirements of the University are as follows:

- (i) For each candidate a Board shall normally appoint two persons to act as Examiners, of whom at least one shall be a Visiting Examiner, i.e. either External to the University or from a School where the candidate is not registered.
- (ii) The Board of Studies may, if they consider it desirable, appoint three persons to act as Examiners jointly, but
 - (a) if of these three, two are the candidate's teachers (i.e. Joint Supervisors), these two shall be considered as one Examiner for the purpose of decision;
 - (b) special financial provision is required if there are two Examiners external to the University.
- (iii) If the Supervisor (or one of two Joint Supervisors) is not an Examiner, he shall be invited to attend the oral examination as an Observer without the right to participate in any way.

5. PhD EXAMINERS: MRS JUNE LINDA CLARK

To appoint Examiners for Mrs June Linda Clark, whose thesis title is

Nurse-Patient Verbal Interaction - An Analysis of Recorded Conversations in Selected Surgical Wards.

TO REPORT: Her Supervisor, Professor J Hayward, has suggested the following examiners:

- (i) Professor J Hayward, Department of Nursing Studies, Chel C
- (ii) Professor A T Altschul, Department of Nursing, University of Edinburgh
- (iii) Professor P J Kelly, Professor of Education (with special reference to Health Education), University of Southampton.

Professor Hayward suggests that two Visiting Examiners may be desirable in the early stages of higher degrees in Nursing Studies, but he would wish to suggest that the Supervisor also acts as a third Examiner rather than merely attends the Oral as Observer.

Note: The appointment of three Examiners including two Visiting Examiners requires financial approval (see para 4(2)(ii) above).

6. EXTRA-MURAL DIPLOMAS IN NURSING

TO CONSIDER: Whether the Committee would wish to recommend to the Academic Council that the following extra-mural diplomas should be included in the list of qualifications acceptable under the Regulations for Advanced Students proceeding to the Bachelors's degree:

Sister Tutor's Diploma
Diploma in Nursing
Diploma in Nursing Education

TO REPORT: (1) The acceptability of the diplomas under Advanced Students Regulations was previously discussed by the Special Advisory Committee at meetings on 9 May and 13 June. At the second meeting it was agreed that a final reply should be deferred until all members have had a further opportunity of studying the Regulations for the Diploma in Nursing and the Diploma in Nursing Education.

(2) An Advanced Student may be exempted from a course of study for a Bachelor's Degree and from part of the examinations prescribed. Usually this implies that the student can complete the course for a Bachelor's degree in two years. The qualifications acceptable for Advanced Student purposes are listed in the General Regulations. In general they may be deemed equivalent in level to a Pass degree but in the case of professional qualifications, direct comparison is not always possible.

(3) In a report on admission of Extra-Mural students to degree courses the Council for Extra-Mural Studies has asked that "on the basis of the demonstrable achievements of extra-mural students in courses of known content and standard" Boards of Studies should "recognise in appropriate ways the achievement of individual Extra-Mural students who have gained one of an agreed list of Extra-Mural awards ... by remission of part of an appropriate first degree course and examinations".

(4) At a meeting on 16 June the Academic Council considered the replies which had been received from a number of Boards of Studies concerning Extra-Mural diplomas in subjects falling within their interests. Several Boards had expressed reservations concerning the suitability of Extra-Mural diplomas for this purpose. Some considered it should have been awarded with distinction and/or merit. Others wished to defer a decision until they had had an opportunity of moderating or participating in the diploma examinations (History and Psychology). The Council was reminded that, if a qualification is accepted for Advanced Student purposes, this is without specification of particular degrees to which it could apply, but the Council "had no doubt that Schools would exercise their discretion responsibly" in this respect.

7. NURSING STUDIES AT BEDFORD COLLEGE

TO RECEIVE: A report on developments at Bedford College with reference to the proposals to introduce a BSc course with Nursing Studies as the main field.

TO REPORT: (1) At the meeting on 12 October 1979 the Special Advisory Committee agreed that they would support in principle the proposal that Bedford College should offer a degree course in Nursing Studies with a bias towards the Social Sciences, but that further consideration of the degree programme and course proposals should be deferred until Bedford College had appointed academic staff who would be responsible for teaching and examining the course units in Nursing Studies.

(2) Bedford College have now appointed as Senior Lecturer and Director of Nursing Studies Mrs M Ferguson MA(Indiana) URN, who will be a member of the Department of Sociology. The Chairman has invited Mrs Ferguson and Dr I F Burton, Head of the Department of Sociology to attend the meeting.