

Confidential

12th June, 1984.

Dr. Karen Luker,
Lecturer in Nursing Studies,
University of Manchester,
Stopford Building,
Oxford Road,
Manchester M13 9PT.

Dear Karen,

Enclosed please find the examination scripts. I understand from the departmental secretary (Dept. of Social Policy and Social Science) that Professor Burton sent you the department's digest for marking instructions for external examiners. However, just to make absolutely sure that you will have the information, I am enclosing another set of instructions.

You will probably know that London University operates a course unit system, that is to say, each degree comprises a number of individual courses which carry respective unit weighting and which are discrete entities within themselves. The entire Nursing Studies course consists of 13/14 course units. As the department's examiners' meeting, of which Nursing Studies is but one part, merely meets to discuss final students' classification in relation to the honours system, there is no need for current external examiners in Nursing Studies to attend. You might wish to argue that Nursing Studies should have a separate examination board and had we remained as a course such a board would have been properly constituted. To make a big meal of such a meeting at this stage, I find both a farce and demeaning, as a ritual of a meeting would have been processed which is of no benefit to the students.

As for the papers: I am particularly concerned with students 3091 and 3149 who by ignoring examination instructions only answered three relevant questions instead of four, and therefore ended up with a grade which I, as their first examiner and director, know it to be below what both these students should have achieved. Perhaps the instructions were not very clear. On the whole, I feel that the questions were answered at much too general a level though, admittedly and gratifyingly, efforts were made to recognise the complexity of the situation and debates got going, avoiding easy prescriptions.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Marion Ferguson,
Director of Nursing Studies.

