

University of London

SPECIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN NURSING STUDIES

A meeting of the Special Advisory Committee in Nursing Studies will be held on Friday 22 February 1985 at 2.00 pm in Senate House.

AGENDA

1. MINUTES

TO CONFIRM: The Minutes of the meeting on 12 October 1984 (previously circulated)

2. CONSTITUTION (Minutes 7 and 8 refer)

TO REPORT: The Academic Council has approved the change in Category (c) of the Constitution of the SAC to read:

- (c) Other Persons (to a maximum of 10) qualified to assist in the work.

3. MEMBERSHIP

TO REPORT: (1) The information given by Miss Speight at the last meeting in respect of Mr B Finn was incorrect (Minute 10) and he has not resigned from the Committee. Mr Finn's reported resignation probably arose from a misunderstanding of his position with the English National Board and its relation with the previous work of the Joint Board of Clinical Nursing Studies.

(2) The Academic Council has approved the appointment of Professor J G Grudzinskas (LHMC) as the representative of the Board of Studies in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, in place of Mr W L Whitehouse who died in October last year.

(3) The UK Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting was invited to nominate a representative to serve on the SAC and the Registrar has replied as follows:

Council requested that I thank the Special Advisory Committee for the invitation, which is appreciated, and asked that I stress the importance it places on maintaining links with the Universities and in particular those which engage in Nursing Studies. Council also asked that I should express its feeling that the most appropriate representation on the Special Advisory Committee, allied to remit, is that provided by the English National Board (ENB).

From Council's point of view, Mr S J Holder, who is a member of the Committee, whilst not initially appointed to represent the statutory bodies is, as you will realise, a member of the ENB and a member of this Council, and Mr A Beattie is associated with Council as a member of one of Council's Committees. In the circumstances, bearing in mind our members' very heavy commitment to the work of Council it was agreed that I should write to indicate that Council would not wish to make a nomination at this time and expressed the hope that your Committee would fully understand.

(4) Professor A Fleck (Board of Studies in Pathology) has suggested that consideration be given to including a Pathologist on the SAC, arguing that social and community aspects of Medicine are well represented as are basic aspects of Biology and Biochemistry, but there is currently "no representative to ensure that some attention is paid to basic aspects of disease".

TO CONSIDER: In the light of the change to Category (c) of the Constitution and (1) (3) and (4) above, whether the SAC wishes to nominate further Persons under this category. In particular, the SAC may wish to consider -

- (i) whether the ENB should be asked formally to nominate a replacement for Miss Speight given that Mr Finn is now working for this body and Mr Beattie and Mr Holder have the connections with it referred to in (3) above;

- (ii) whether a Pathologist should be invited under this Category or alternatively a change made to Category (b) to include the Board of Studies in Pathology as one of the Boards of Studies represented.

The current membership of the SAC is at Document A.

4. BSc IN NURSING STUDIES: CHELSEA COLLEGE

TO CONSIDER: A 1 cu course proposal from Chelsea College, details of which are given in Document B attached.

5. ROYAL COLLEGE OF NURSING COMMISSION ON NURSING EDUCATION (Minutes 17-19 refer)

TO NOTE: The University's input to the Commission (Document C).

6. EXTRA MURAL DIPLOMA IN NURSING (Minutes 21, 22 refer)

TO REPORT: The Working Party has met twice and intends to submit a report to the May meeting of the SAC. Mr Beattie will give a progress report to this meeting.

7. WORKING PARTY ON HEALTH STUDIES (Minute 2 refers)

TO REPORT: (1) The Working Party is in the process of preparing a first report to the Academic Council.

(2) The Working Party is meeting Dr Wilson-Barnett and Professor Hayward on 14 February.

8. APPLICATIONS FOR MSc IN NURSING AT CHELSEA COLLEGE (Minute 6 refers)

TO CONSIDER: What constitutes a "degree in a subject related to Nursing Studies".

TO REPORT: (1) The approved entry requirements state:

"A degree in Nursing Studies or a degree in a related subject (such as Biological or Social Science) together with professional registration as a nurse."

(2) The 1984 intake included students with the following entry qualifications:

Philosophy (2.1) + Cert Ed/RNT (Distinction)
Theology (2.1) + PGCE
BSc (Massey University, New Zealand)
BSc/SRN (Leeds Poly) + Cert Ed + Cert J BCNS
BSc/SRN (Distinction) (Edinburgh University)
BNurs/SRN (Distinction) (Manchester University)

9. TAUGHT MASTER'S COURSES: AWARD OF MARK OF MERIT

TO CONSIDER: (1) A proposal by the Board of Studies in Laws that, in addition to 'Pass' and 'Distinction', a mark of 'Merit' be introduced for the LLM degree.

(2) Whether the Board would wish to see such a provision introduced in any or all Master's degree examinations.

TO REPORT: (1) Although the present proposal is made in the context of the LLM degree only, the Academic Council is seeking views of all Boards of Studies as it is conscious that a decision to introduce additional classification for the LLM degree might well have implications for Master's degrees in other faculties and wishes to examine this before taking a final decision.

(2) The basic Regulations for Master's degrees which are common across all faculties presently provide that Examiners shall have the discretion to award a mark of distinction to a candidate who has shown exceptional merit in the examination; all other candidates who satisfy the Examiners receive a 'Pass'.

(3) The course of study for the LLM degree examination is organised on an inter-collegiate basis under the aegis of the Board of Studies in Laws and candidates for the examination number between 300 and 400 per annum. This number far exceeds the number of candidates for any other Master's degree examination in the University.

The Board of Studies in Laws advised the Council that a significant number of candidates failed at their first attempt at the examination and in general only a very small proportion of candidates was awarded distinction; among those who passed the LLM examination without distinction, there was a significant minority who achieved a result worthy of merit and it was the performance of this group that the Board of Studies wished to recognise formally.

(4) In considering this proposal the following points should be noted:

- i. That, except in Medicine, all candidates embarking on a Master's degree course are required to have at least a Lower 2nd Class Honours degree or equivalent and that in some subjects the entry requirements are higher. The corollary of this in some Master's degree examinations is to set the pass standard at an appropriately high level to reflect the selective entry procedure. Doubts have therefore been expressed as to whether it is appropriate to distinguish between types of pass at the Master's degree beyond that already permitted under the Regulations covering the award of 'Distinction'.
- ii. That the introduction of a mark of 'Merit' at the taught Master's degree will set London apart from virtually all other UK universities, for while a number permit the award of 'Distinction' at the Master's degree, higher degrees in the majority of universities are not classified in any way.

10. EXTERNAL EXAMINERS FOR CANDIDATES REGISTERED UNDER THE SCHEMES FOR PUBLIC RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH LABORATORIES

TO NOTE: A letter on this issue from the Faculty Officer for Science and Engineering (Document D).

11. CENTRAL RESEARCH FUND

TO NOTE: That the final date of application for grants from the Central Research Fund this session (including the Long Vacation) is 23 March 1985.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Friday, 24 May, at 2.30 pm in Senate House.