

196E

CONFIDENTIAL

October 1935

B E D F O R D   C O L L E G E   F O R   W O M E N

(UNIVERSITY OF LONDON)

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee for the Organisation of Courses  
for International Students held at Bedford College on  
Monday, 14th October 1935 at 4.30 p.m.

At a meeting of the Committee for the Organisation of Courses for International Students held at Bedford College on Monday, 14th October 1935, at 4.30 p.m.

P r e s e n t            The Principal in the Chair.  
Miss Baggallay  
Mrs. Carter  
Miss Coode  
Miss Darbyshire  
Mrs. Edkins  
Dame Alicia Lloyd-Still  
Mr. Mace  
Dr. Mess  
Col. Parkinson  
Miss Parsons  
Mrs. Williams  
The Secretary.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting had been circulated and were confirmed and signed as correct.

2. Arising out of the Minutes.

Report on Student from Lithuania - Ability to speak English.

Reported that Miss Laurinaviciute's English had greatly improved; that her written work was difficult to decipher, but it was hoped that she would now be able to manage the Course successfully.

RESOLVED            that Miss Laurinaviciute's admission to the Course for Nurse Administrators and Teachers in Schools of Nursing for the session 1935-36 be confirmed.

3. Communications received.

a. Letter from Miss Darbyshire.

A letter was received from Miss Darbyshire informing the Committee that she was going abroad for a year. Miss Darbyshire, who was present, said that in view of her projected absence from England, she proposed to inform the College of Nursing that she would retire from the Committee. The Committee expressed the hope that Miss Darbyshire would resume her seat on the Committee on her return.

b. Letter from Miss MacManus.

An apology for absence was received from Miss MacManus.

14th October 1935.

4. Recommendation for the appointment of a Medical Officer of Health for the Lectures on Public Health Administration.

The Committee were reminded that the appointment of a Medical Officer of Health for the lectures on Public Health Administration had been postponed in May last, owing to the small entry of Public Health students. It was reported that the number of entries had increased, making the appointment of a M.O.H. desirable.

On the recommendation of the Head of the Department, Dr. Mess, it was recommended

Recommended that Dr. James Fenton, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health for Kensington, be invited to give 8 lectures on Public Health Administration to International Students during the session 1935-36.

that the whole course on "Public Health and Personal Hygiene" be given in 46 lectures, 38 on "Hygiene - Communal and Personal" by Colonel Parkinson, and 8 on "Public Health Administration with special reference to the Work of the Medical Officer and his Staff" by Dr. Fenton.

5. Admission of Students, 1935-36.

Six new applications were considered. The papers giving their qualifications and careers were on the table.

After discussion the following resolutions were passed:

a. Course for Nurse Administrators and Teachers in Schools of Nursing.

RESOLVED that Miss Astley (New Zealand) and Miss Scrymgour (Australia) be admitted to the Course for Nurse Administrators and Teachers in Schools of Nursing for the session 1935-36.

that Miss Michalska (Bulgaria) be admitted on probation for three months; that she be allowed to continue with the Course after this probationary period, provided her knowledge of English shows sufficient improvement.

14th October 1935.

RESOLVED  
(contd.)

that the Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of Bulgaria be informed of the probationary period and be asked to send in future students with a better standard of English, so that the probationary period would be unnecessary.

b. Course in Public Health.

RESOLVED

that the following students be admitted to the Course in Public Health for the session 1935-36:

Miss V. M. Dunbar	U.S.A.
Miss M. E. Flamert	Great Britain

A third student, Miss Bridges (New Zealand), was considered. The Committee noted that her general education was poor, as she had only had two years in a Secondary School. They received a report from the Tutor in Public Health that she had made good use of her time in England up to date and had made good observations and reports; that there could be little doubt that the New Zealand Committee had selected her on the grounds of her professional work. She thought that Miss Bridges would manage the Course, but would certainly find it difficult.

The Committee discussed the desirability of admitting Miss Bridges on probation for three months, but after consideration of her professional record

RESOLVED

that Miss E.R.Bridges (New Zealand), be admitted to the Course in Public Health for the session 1935-36.

that the New Zealand Committee be informed that Bedford College could not usually accept anyone with so poor a general education as Miss Bridges, but that in view of her splendid professional record they were willing to admit her as an exceptional case.

that all the National Committees be asked to ensure in future that papers for candidates applying for admission to the Course be received in time for consideration by the London Committee before the candidate sets out on her journey to England.

14th October 1935.

6. Special case of American Student entered for the Public Health Course.

A letter was read from Miss Dunbar (American student), B.A. Massachusetts, M.A. Columbia, asking whether she might make alterations in her course, leaving out some of the compulsory subjects and substituting a thesis on "The origins and development of two early English Schools of Nursing - St. Thomas' and Guy's." Her application included permission to omit the following compulsory subjects:

Personal Hygiene and Public Health  
Nutrition  
Maternity and Childwelfare.  
Tuberculosis  
Psychology  
Either Social Conditions or Modern Industrial Problems.

and to include in addition to the thesis the following:

History of England or History of Social Institutions.  
Public Health Nursing  
Either Social Conditions or Modern Industrial Problems.  
Selected lectures and demonstrations in Hospital and Training School Administration without responsibility for preparation or papers.  
Eugenics ) also possible additions at a  
Ethical Principles } later date.

The Committee proceeded to discuss the general question of whether demands for deviation from the standard course should be permitted. After considerable discussion it was generally agreed that such requests as that from Miss Dunbar must be expected in the future, and that in the case of able students with good experience some provision should be made to meet them.

The matter was then discussed from the point of view of Miss Dunbar's special case. The Head of the Department, Dr. Mess, supported Miss Dunbar's request, provided certain safeguards were set up, namely, that the Committee must be assured (i) that her previous training was sufficient and adequate to enable her to omit with justification some of the compulsory subjects; (ii) that the American Committee, responsible for sending Miss Dunbar, approved of the course she wished to pursue; (iii) that a suitably qualified Tutor to supervise her studies could be provided.

14th October 1935.

The Chairman pointed out that the provision of a special Tutor would mean additional expense, which Miss Dunbar might have to be asked to meet herself. Dame Alicia Lloyd-Still recommended Miss Hallowes of the College of Nursing as a suitable supervisor of Miss Dunbar's research work.

After discussion the following resolution, moved by Dame Alicia Lloyd-Still, seconded by Mrs. Carter, was passed:

RESOLVED that Miss Dunbar be allowed to take a special course on the lines laid down in her letter to Dr. Mess of October 8th, subject to the consent of the American Committee responsible for sending her to England, and who had entered her for the Public Health Course, and subject to what Certificate, if any, should be given to her at the end of the Course being a matter for further discussion when full details of the Course are known.

Recommended that a special Tutor be appointed to supervise Miss Dunbar's research work, and that Miss Hallowes, in conjunction with Dr. Mess, be appointed for this purpose.

7. Prospectus for 1936-37.

Dr. Mess said that he would like the Committee to consider the possibility of making the division between compulsory and optional subjects less rigid, and to make provision for a larger number of alternatives.

Miss Baggallay reported that she was postponing the printing of the Prospectus for 1936-37 until May 1936 and having for present use a reprint of the Prospectus for 1935-36, with corrections up to date; that this would give more time for any revision of the curriculum which the Committee might think fit to recommend.

As no other points were raised, it was agreed to defer further discussion of the revision of the curriculum until a later meeting.

14th October 1935.

8. Reports from the Tutors on the Practical Work.

a. Report from the Tutor in Public Health.

i. Routine report on students' work.

The Committee received a report on the students' practical work during the summer vacation (For details see File 196e).

Miss Baggallay particularly referred to the help given by Dr. Porter, Medical Officer for St. Marylebone.

RESOLVED that this Committee desire to express their grateful thanks to Dr. Porter and his Staff for the help given during the summer vacation to the Bedford College International Students in connection with their practical work.

ii. Proposals for revision of the curriculum in practical work.

Miss Baggallay reported that at the end of the Summer Term Mrs. Reid and some of the Staff of the Department, of which she was one, had invited some of the more senior students to discuss with them questions in connection with the practical work; that two suggestions which were worthy of further consideration had arisen out of this discussion, namely:

1. That the period for practical work when the students first come to England should be shortened from six weeks to four weeks, and a further period of four weeks should be required from the students at the end of their Course; that in the case of students who had little knowledge of the English language, these should be required to come to London two or three months before the beginning of the Course.

Miss Baggallay pointed out that the practical work would be of much greater value to the students later in the session, when they would be more accustomed to the work and to English ways.

2. That opportunities should be given to International Students for the discussion and reading of papers, and that they should also have some instruction in public speaking.

14th October 1935.

Miss Baggallay reported that as a result of the second suggestion, she and Miss Parsons had arranged to hold group discussion classes at Manchester Square every alternate week, when the students would be encouraged to read papers and discuss problems on work in their own countries; that they had advised the students that instruction in public speaking would be more profitable later in the Course. In this connection the Secretary informed the Committee that in accordance with the financial arrangements made with the Florence Nightingale International Foundation for 1934-35, the students were due to have a course of six lectures on Public Speaking; that this Course had formerly not been recognised by the Organisation Committee, but the responsibility of providing it had been taken over by Bedford College from 1933-34. Miss Baggallay stated that the International Students had had no such lectures during 1934-35.

These proposals were discussed by the Committee and the following resolutions were passed:

RESOLVED that the suggestions made in connection with the practical work be considered later when the revision of the curriculum for 1936-37 is under discussion.

that the Committee approve the arrangements proposed by Miss Baggallay for holding discussion classes at Manchester Square to encourage the students to read papers and discuss points arising out of their work.

iii. Report of tour round Scandinavian countries with Dean Goodrich.

Miss Baggallay gave a report on a six weeks' tour round the Scandinavian countries which she had experienced during the vacation in company with Dean Goodrich, her expenses being paid by the Rockefeller Foundation. She informed the Committee that in six weeks' time she had visited ten countries: Czechoslovakia, Poland, the three Baltic countries, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Belgium. The Committee were interested to learn from Miss Baggallay that past International Students were holding nearly all of the leading positions in the nursing profession in the Baltic countries which she visited.

14th October 1935.

Miss Baggallay further reported that in the course of her tour she had received the following suggestions for the improvement of the Courses:

That a longer course on "Ethics" be provided as an optional subject.

That the Courses might be more elastic and have more optional subjects.

That prospective students be advised before they come to England of a course of reading, which would help them to prepare themselves.

That summer courses of two or three weeks should be organised and professional experts from other countries invited to contribute to the course.

The Committee were much interested to receive Miss Baggallay's report. (For full report of tour, see File 1968).

RESOLVED that the points for improvement in the Courses raised during Miss Baggallay's tour in the Scandinavian countries be considered at a later meeting, in connection with the revision of the Prospectus.

b. Report from the Tutor to the Nurse Administrator Students.

A report on the practical work of the Nurse Administrator students was received. (For report see File 196e).

9. Date of next meeting.

The date of the next meeting was fixed for Friday, January 17th, 1936 at 4.30 p.m.