

NURSING STUDIES AND THE FIRST REPORTS OF THE SUBJECT AREA REVIEW COMMITTEES

1. Chelsea College register their Nursing students under the UGC Group 'Other Studies Allied to Medicine' (ie, subjects other than Pharmacy and Pharmacology), while Bedford College register their students under the UGC Group 'Social Studies'.
2. The UGC letters of 1 July 1981 stated that:
 - (i) The grants to London (excluding Imperial College) are based on a cut by 1983-84 of 690 in Home/EEC full-time Arts students (which includes Social Studies) and 1070 Science students;
 - (ii) There is no specific reference to student numbers in Social Studies in the London letter, but the UGC's general letter referred nationally to 'a substantial reduction'. Although there is no direct correlation between overall national trends and those in a particular university, the two in some cases being opposite, the Court have postulated a considerable reduction in Social Studies.
 - (iii) Within the Sciences in London, notwithstanding the overall cuts, the UGC made the following comment:

"In subjects Allied to Medicine, the [UGC] recommends that intakes to Nursing Studies should be maintained at existing levels."
3. The Principal has stated that 'The Court, with the knowledge of the UGC, have encouraged certain new academic initiatives in the various Schools. They have felt bound to allow for the increased numbers which will result from these initiatives'. Such initiatives include the Nursing course at Bedford, for which the Court's projections have allowed for 12 undergraduates in 1983-84.
4. The position is, therefore, that it might be expected that the 'Science' Nursing students at Chelsea College will be a group protected by the UGC under 2(iii) above, notwithstanding overall cuts in science students, whilst the 'Social Studies' Nursing students at Bedford College will be protected by the Court grants for the reason in 3 above.
5. The following recommendations in the Subject Area Review Committees' Report are of relevance:
 - (a) Biological Sciences
 - (i) This SARC has only considered the Life Sciences to date. It recommends (paras 7.1 and 2.3 - 2.10) that, as an immediate action, an overall cut in student numbers in the Life Sciences should be distributed between the Colleges in proportion to their numbers of home/EEC students in those sciences in 1979/80, such as would lead to a cut of 300 by 1983/84. Combined Science students are to be considered in the "next phase of its activities".
 - (ii) No reference is made to 'Studies Allied to Medicine' being considered at any point (other than Pharmacy, which was considered by the Physical Sciences SARC).
 - (iii) No specific recommendations for mergers of Colleges or fusions of Departments are made, but the Committee recognises that these will probably prove necessary and considers that the SARC can comment more constructively after Colleges have themselves reached some agreement.
 - (b) Physical Sciences
 - (i) The Committee considered only Physics, Chemistry, Geology, and Mathematics. Chelsea College is excluded from suggested mergers in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics, on the grounds that the College Senate has made its own proposals.
 - (ii) The assumption is made that there will be no overall change in student numbers in Physical Sciences. There is no specific reference to students in 'Combined Sciences' which is the area in which the interests of the biological and Physical SARCs overlap.
 - (c) Social Studies
 - (i) It is recognised (para 2.2) that, in UGC and Court terms, Social Studies includes Nursing Studies at Bedford College and various other subjects, but "For reasons of time and because we could not contemplate extending the membership of our Committee, we were unable to give detailed consideration to these subjects".

(ii) The Committee has been particularly concerned by the Court's proposal that 'Academic Initiatives' should be given special protection since, with one exception, the schemes falling within this description are confined to Social Studies and total 257 students. Although only 12 of these relate to Nursing Studies at Bedford, it may be of interest to note the SAKC's reaction. Bearing in mind the substantial cuts likely to be necessary in Social Studies overall "we see no good reason why 'Academic Initiatives' of this kind should require a contraction in other subjects which happen to come under the same heading in a rather arbitrary classification If the impact on student numbers has to be contained within a fixed total, the necessary contraction should take the form of a flat reduction across all subjects within the University" (paras 3.8, 3.9).

meaning?

(iii) The Committee makes the following recommendations for Psychology and Sociology:

Bedford College

Para 5.6.7: Bedford was for long the other leading teaching School in Sociology and producing important research work in the subject. Now, however, Sociology as distinct from Social Administration is of dwindling significance at Bedford although the standard of teaching remains high. Nine of the staff are in a unit specialising in Medical Sociology, financed by the MRC. Those who are within it number four and this seems to us too few to make Bedford a viable centre. We recommend that the teaching of Sociology at Bedford should be discontinued.

UABE Centre - develop?

Para 5.7.2: Courses in Social Administration are provided at Bedford College and LSE. At Bedford the Department of Sociology (which includes both Sociology and Social Administration) takes in some 74 undergraduates (including 12 overseas) for the course-unit degrees each session and has a full-time academic staff of 25 and one part-time teacher. There is also a lecturer holding a joint appointment in Medical Sociology with the Middlesex Hospital Medical School and a similar arrangement is in train with University College Hospital. Teaching is provided in Sociology as well as in Social Administration and there are joint degrees under the course-unit system combining Sociology and Social Administration or Economics and Public Administration. In October 1981 the College introduced a degree in Nursing Studies, with an intake of 8 students, under the provisions for 'Academic Initiatives'. This combines practical training in nursing with academic work in Social Administration and in biological sciences over a four-year period.

in Nursing, in Social Administration, in Sociology & in biological sciences

Para 5.7.8: The strength of the Bedford department, and most of its research, lies in Social Administration. The only scope for a reduction in the size of this department, which would be compatible with observing the UGC's request that student numbers be maintained would be for it to abandon its degree work in Sociology and in Economics and to maintain only service teaching. Indeed, as the department has developed in recent years, it would be to the advantage of Sociology if all provision in the subject were to be concentrated at LSE. If the small number of economists were also moved (not necessarily to the LSE) it would be hard to maintain that economics in the University would be impoverished by its abandonment as a degree course at Bedford.

? is viable & to the advantage of the subject?

Para 5.7.10: Since a merger between Bedford and King's now seems unlikely, Bedford must now carry on as at present or find some School with which it could collaborate. One obvious possibility would be to collaborate with UCL, building on an association with University College Hospital on the Medical Sociology side and with the Law Department of UCL in Socio-Legal Studies. If development along these lines was not possible, Bedford might wish to pursue the possibility of a similar association with King's College since at KCL there could be similar links with law and medicine.

Nursing you need not a service - it is the subject. degree / central focus.

Chelsea College

Para 5.6.10: The Department of Psychological and Sociological Studies includes sociologists engaged in service teaching. We understand that it is proposed to wind up the Department and we see no reason to take exception to this.

Sociology for Nursing is not as an add-on - it is the core. It provides for the intellectual focus of the Nursing Studies degree. By intellectual focus is meant the theoretical framework within which Nursing practice takes place - so we wish to develop a sociological framework of patient care.