

29 JUN 1979

University of London

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Our ref AR/SCI/JML/LY
Your ref

28 June 1979

Dear Mr Turnbull,

BSc IN NURSING STUDIES

Thank you for sending the copy of the proposals to introduce a nursing course in October 1980. I regret that it would appear that the information you sent some time ago has gone astray as no one in Senate House recalls seeing it.


I am arranging for the proposals to be given preliminary consideration on academic grounds at a meeting of the Special Advisory Committee in Nursing Studies on 6 July.

Before however the proposals are discussed further I would suggest that it will be desirable to have additional information from Bedford College relating to planning implications and resources. In case you have not seen it previously I attach a copy of a letter dated 22 April 1976 from the Secretary of the UGC to the Vice-Chancellor indicating that an Advisory Panel of the UGC would hope to be consulted before a final decision is taken on any new development in Nursing Studies. You will also note the comments in the Notes of Guidance relating to the staffing of Departments of Nursing within the University and the desirability of integrating the work of the academic department and clinical teaching.

I do not know whether any covering letter was sent with the original copies of the proposals but from the information I have just received it would not appear to me that there are any proposals to establish a Department of Nursing within Bedford College. The position is therefore somewhat different from that existing in Chelsea College where there is a Department of Nursing Studies, headed by a Professor of Nursing Studies, which undertakes overall responsibility for the degree programme, notwithstanding that much of the clinical teaching is done by members of the Schools of Nursing in St George's and Charing Cross Hospitals (which are not members of the University).

There would also appear to be another significant difference from the course at Chelsea in that the academic content of the BSc course will be concentrating on social studies rather than the biological and behavioural sciences. In view of this change in emphasis I think it would be helpful to have some statement from Bedford College in support of the wish for the course to lead to a BSc degree in the Faculty of Science rather than a BSc degree in the Faculty of Economics.

Yours sincerely,


MRS J M LONGDEN
Faculty Officer
Science and Engineering

Mr L P Turnbull
Registrar
Bedford College

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UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMITTEE
14 Park Crescent London W1N 4DH

Telephone 01-636 7799 ext

The Vice-Chancellor
University of London

Your reference

Our reference 2/15/01

Date 22 April 1976

Dear Vice-Chancellor

1. I am writing with reference to my letter of 2 October 1975 which asked for details of existing or proposed degree courses in nursing studies. An advisory Panel of the UGC has since been taking stock of the general situation in consultation with other interested bodies and has been examining the replies received from the universities. I am now able to write giving the Committee's conclusions on the Panel's report relating to the reply received from your university.
2. The Briggs Report (1972) recommended a 2 per cent-5 per cent graduate element in the nursing profession. The General Nursing Council hopes to achieve a 5 per cent element in England and Wales by an undergraduate intake of 500 into University and CNA degree courses and by a 500 graduate intake into shortened SRN courses. The General Nursing Council for Scotland has set a target of 153 undergraduate and 44 graduate entries annually. While there is therefore some scope for development it should be noted that the General Nursing Council have already approved a number of new degree courses both in universities and polytechnics, and there is concern that the rate of growth should not out-strip the availability of staff, clinical facilities and funding. With this in mind the Panel has prepared a note of guidance to those contemplating the possibility of developments in Nursing Studies, which I attach. Because of the implications for the Health Departments, the Committee would hope to be consulted by universities before a final decision is taken on any new development in Nursing Studies.
3. The Panel considered the application from Chelsea College and, in the light of their findings, the Committee can confirm that the course proposed would appear to meet a need, and if the College wishes to proceed with their plans within the resources you will be able to allocate to them there is no objection on our part.

Yours sincerely

J.P. Carswell
Secretary

NURSING STUDIES: NOTE OF GUIDANCE FROM THE UGC

Universities contemplating new developments in Nursing Studies are advised to give consideration to the following requirements before reaching a final decision on whether a degree course should be introduced:-

1. STAFFING

The availability of suitably qualified teachers of high academic calibre to head and to staff departments of nursing should be explored. There are at present only a very limited number of experienced nurses with higher degrees or even with first degrees. The young graduates from nursing courses need to gain professional experience before taking up academic appointments and it will take some years to build up a pool of academic teachers.

It would be advisable to enter into formal arrangements with the Health Authorities as to their contribution towards teaching staff in hospitals.

2. ACADEMIC PROVISIONS

The Briggs Committee recommended that a University offering a course in Nursing Studies required the following disciplines:-

- a. Biological Sciences with a bias towards the medical sciences
psychology (social as well as clinical)
sociology, with particular reference to changing patterns of health needs and health care
statistics and the interpretation of research data
epidemiology
organisation theory and operational research as applied to the NHS
education, including educational technology.
- b. The UGC Nursing Panel points to the desirability of designing social science courses with the needs of nurses in mind; and emphasises that the level of instruction in the medical sciences customary for an SRN course would not be adequate academically for a university degree.
- c. It would be difficult to develop an academically satisfactory degree if too many subjects are included. The pattern of the course content and its balance between medical, social and nursing studies is therefore regarded as flexible.
- d. There should be integration of the academic degree with nurse training in hospital through involvement of the academic teachers in patient care, otherwise the academic department would become divorced from clinical teaching.

2. FINANCE

The course needs to be properly funded both by the University and the Health Authority. To tailor social science courses is likely to be costly, and the same would apply to the biological sciences at universities without a medical school.

4. CLINICAL FACILITIES

The University might have to provide tutorial and staff rooms in the hospital. It is advisable to make sure in advance what physical facilities the Health Authority will provide. Universities in large conurbations seem the most appropriate locations because of the likelihood of adequate hospital facilities and clinical material.

April 1976