

# University of London

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Our ref AD/SCI/JFH  
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28 October 1981

Dear Mrs Ferguson

## SPECIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN NURSING STUDIES

As you will know from your telephone conversation today with Mrs Hesslewood, we are holding circulation of the Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee until you let us have details of A-levels obtained by first-year students on the degree course in Nursing Studies. I understand that you are somewhat hesitant about providing detailed results and wonder if the following comments might be of assistance.

According to our records of the meeting the request for A-level qualifications originated with the new Chairman, Professor Oppe, and other members concurred with the request that these details should be circulated with the Minutes. Perhaps you would be prepared to give information concerning the actual A-level subjects\* offered and an overall average figure based on UCCA points (as given by Chelsea College). I am sure that details of O-levels are not necessary.

If, however, Bedford College feel that this request is not reasonable, could you please let me know and I will discuss the matter further with Professor Oppe.

I am enclosing an extract from the draft Minutes, which may be helpful to you in your further consideration of the second-year course proposals and, in particular, the discussion of the Pharmacology proposals with Professor Oppe. I assume you will be submitting revised proposals or formal course proposal forms for these courses to the next meeting. Could we also please have for that meeting details of the practical nursing attachments, as requested by members at the last meeting.

\* without grades

Yours sincerely



Mrs J M Longden  
Secretary, SAC in  
Nursing Studies

Mrs M Ferguson  
Director of Nursing Studies  
Bedford College

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NURSING STUDIES AT BEDFORD COLLEGE

CONSIDERED: Proposals for second-year courses as given in the addendum to the agenda. Document D3 circulated with the agenda was replaced by a revised overall plan for the four-year course, which was tabled at the meeting and is given as the attached DOCUMENT B.

AGREED: (1) That it would be desirable to have further information concerning the nature of and hours spent in clinical attachments, which have not been specified as parts of the course-units comprising the BSc course. Since this was discussed initially changes in the programme have been introduced and members wished to have an up-to-date picture.

(2) That the Committee would comment as follows on the proposals for second-year courses (although Professor Ginsberg was unable to attend the meeting, he sent comments on these course proposals which were taken into consideration):

PHARMACOLOGY ( $\frac{1}{2}$ cu)

It is at present proposed that the course should be taught by an Appointed Teacher at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School. The details on clinical attachments (see (1) above) would indicate where teaching of Pharmacology would occur in other parts of the four-year course. Every nursing unit will include some teaching of the effects of drugs, but the Pharmacology unit in itself is intended as an introduction to the subject. It was suggested that 'drugs' might be replaced by 'medicine'. It was felt that the course should include some reference to the limitations and costs of medicine. It was not intended that the course should provide a depth of knowledge in Pharmacology per se, but rather provide the pharmacological basis of a therapeutic superstructure of knowledge. It was agreed that Professor Oppé should discuss the course in detail with Mrs Ferguson before formal course proposals are submitted.

PATHOPHYSIOLOGY ( $\frac{1}{2}$ cu)

The course should provide the background to clinical demonstrations, which, Mrs Ferguson assured members, would be provided under the heading 'seminars'. The course would also be followed up by case studies and linked with the course on 'Nursing of the Adult Sick'. The course should emphasise changes in metabolism with age.

PSYCHOLOGY ( $\frac{1}{2}$ cu)

Members sought assurance that the course would not lay too much emphasis on analytic theories but would emphasise the critical approach. It should include reference to stress (including a nurse's own experiences). It was suggested that the second objective 'to develop supporting mechanisms in relation to their patients' needs' might be more explicit and that there should be a clear indication that the course would include training in social skills.

Arising from the discussion on this particular course, members stressed the emphasis that they would put on the overall course providing the development of an experimental/critical approach which might be expected in a degree course, and which should differentiate the BSc course in Nursing Studies from SRN training. Teaching in the College should counterbalance the attitudes of conformity which the students might meet in clinical practice. It was suggested that inclusion of experimental work should be explicit in some courses, in order to ensure that it does not become overlooked. Seminars in which students would be discussing their practical experience would not fully compensate for the absence of experience in developing a critical approach, although it was appreciated that the Research Methods course would provide some opportunity for experiment.

ISSUES IN MENTAL HEALTH ( $\frac{1}{2}$ cu)

This course would be the back-up to the practice unit in Psychiatric Nursing. It was queried whether the first term of the second year is really too soon for teaching of psychological medicine and whether it is desirable for the practice and teaching to be more or less concurrent. It was noted, however, that on the Welsh degree course in Nursing it has proved a satisfactory time, providing the students have adequate support and guidance and that they have had a certain amount of other practical experience before commencing Psychiatric Nursing.

NURSING THE ADULT SICK ( $\frac{1}{2}$ cu)

The course would be a  $\frac{1}{2}$ cu and would build on the first-year course in surgical nursing and the second-year Pathophysiology course.

(3) It was suggested that further consideration might be given to integrating two half-unit courses into a single course-unit, in order to reduce the number of examinations. A final decision on the courses was deferred, pending receipt of the detailed information on practical nursing attachments (paragraph (1) above) and further discussion within the College, taking into account the above points.