

University of London

SPECIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN NURSING STUDIES

The next meeting will be held on Friday 15 ^{may} ~~March~~ 1981 at 2.30 pm in Senate House.

MINUTES of the meeting held on Friday 20 February 1981.

Present: Miss S Beresford, Miss M J Cooper, Mrs M Ferguson, Ms E M Fordham, Professor J Green (Chairman), Professor J C Hayward, Professor J S MacDonald, Professor J P Payne, Dr R Pitcher, Dr S J Redfern, Dr J R Ross, Dr J Wilson-Barnett.

Apologies were received from: Professor H Baum, Dr E R Beck, Professor C G Clark, Mrs C A Cox, Professor T E Oppé.

MINUTES

CONFIRMED: The Minutes of the meeting on 17 October 1980. 13

MEMBERSHIP

REPORTED: The changes given in the Agenda. The Chairman welcomed the new members. 14

SPECIAL UNIVERSITY LECTURE

CONSIDERED: The nomination of a lecturer for 1981/82. It was agreed that Bedford College should act as host and that Dr Burton should be asked to nominate a lecturer. The matter could then be dealt with by Chairman's Action. 15

AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREES OF MPhil and PhD

CONSIDERED: Revised regulations for the MPhil and PhD degrees. It was suggested that, as Nursing Studies is a relatively new discipline, it would be better to leave the question of additional qualifications necessary for registration for an MPhil or PhD degree as open as possible, until it was clearer in which directions Nursing Studies would develop, but it was also felt that, in order to maintain standards, requirements should not be too lax. 16

AGREED: That there should be an entry under Additional Qualifications for Admission for the Degree of MPhil and of PhD to read as follows: 17

A candidate should normally have a degree in Nursing Studies or a professional qualification in Nursing combined with a degree in a subject relevant to the field of research. The University may consider applications on behalf of candidates with other qualifications.

The question of additional qualifications should be kept under review, in order that any changes necessary in the light of experience of the types of candidates coming forward can be made.

COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC ORGANISATION - DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

REPORTED: The information given in the Agenda. The Secretary informed the Committee that Chairmen of SACs would shortly be receiving guidance on their consideration of the document, it having been agreed by the Academic Council that it would be desirable for the document to be considered in the first instance by Schools, who should report by the requested date of 31 March. The Academic Council will be circulating a formal request for advice in the near future, which will include a list of questions designed to help Boards of Studies and Special Advisory Committees in their consideration of the document. 18

AGREED: That consideration of the discussion document should be deferred, pending the receipt of the letter from the Academic Council and discussion within Schools. 19

BSc COURSE AT CHELSEA COLLEGE

APPROVED: A new 2nd cu course entitled 'Principles of Nursing' to be taught in the first year. 20

NOTED: (1) That, notwithstanding the information sent to the University and given in the Agenda and Document A.3, the College would be continuing to include the course 'Communication in Nursing' in the first year; 21

(2) That the proposed new course would provide a general framework for Nursing Studies at an early stage in the course. Existing practical/clinical work would become more integrated into the academic studies; 22

(3) That the College considered there was justification for accepting pressure from students that existing work and assessment during the first year should contribute towards assessment for the award of a degree by being designated formally as a course-unit course; 23

(4) That it is accepted that the capacity to allow provision for options is an exception rather than the rule in professionally-aligned degree courses. The Nursing students have most opportunity of taking options during Years 2 and 4 of the course and they have shown an interest in a wide variety of subjects. 24

NURSING STUDIES AT BEDFORD COLLEGE

AGREED: (1) The outline degree structure as given in Appendix A to Document B circulated with the Agenda. 25

(2) The first year Nursing and Sociology courses, for which details were given on pages 3 and 4 of Document B, were accepted in principle and it was agreed that the course proposals, when received, might be approved by Chairman's Action. 26

(3) The Special Advisory Committee would wish to be the Board of first instance for the approval of all courses designed particularly for inclusion in the degree programme leading to the award of a BSc with Nursing Studies as the main field, irrespective of whether such courses may be deemed to fall within the area Nursing, Biological Sciences or Social Sciences. This would follow the practice agreed by the Special Advisory Committee when it was first established, bearing in mind that the Committee's membership includes representatives of all relevant Boards of Studies and that the terms of reference include the following: 27

1. To consider and initiate proposals for securing the most advantageous use of the resources of the University and its Schools in the field (ie Nursing Studies) with which the Committee is concerned.
2. To be informed of all proposals submitted by Schools or otherwise under consideration for courses of study which fall within the purview of the Special Advisory Committee and if it so desires to offer advice to Schools upon such proposals.
3. To approve the scope and value in Course-Units of courses devised by Schools under the appropriate Regulations for degrees based on Course-Units.

It was accepted that it might not be practicable for the Special Advisory Committee to be the Board of first instance for courses primarily designed for students studying for a degree with another main field (eg, Social Administration), although members understood that the teachers at Bedford College were finding it more desirable to offer special courses for Nursing Studies than was at first envisaged. As Board of first instance for approving courses, it would follow that Visiting Examiners would be drawn from the panel appointed by the Special Advisory Committee, which would include teachers in the different subject areas.

(4) It is accepted that there is no single standard model for degree courses in Nursing Studies in institutions in Britain and that there is scope for a wide variety of courses emphasising different aspects of the field, the only common factor being the integration of nursing practice with academic studies in order that the practice should be seen as a component of the latter. 28

(5) Although students on the degree course would undertake less practical nursing than student nurses preparing for the qualification of SRN only, it is possible for the degree students in general to learn the essential concepts/practices of nursing in a shorter time of practical experience, as they are not combining dual roles of student and employee but are benefiting from teaching all the time. It is the experience of other degree courses that the degree students have sufficient practical experience to give them confidence/competence on qualifying as an SRN. 29

(6) Members would wish to have reassurance that Bedford College and the Middlesex Hospital School of Nursing would be providing sufficient support to the new course in terms of finance and staff, and noted that a second lecturer 30

in Nursing Studies is to be appointed to the Department of Sociology at Bedford College in the near future and before the course commences. In particular, it would be necessary for teachers in the Nursing School, who will be the principal tutors to the students for nursing practice to be appointed to the academic staff of Bedford College (possibly in an honorary capacity) if they are to be involved in the examining of courses.

(7) In respect of the degree structure, it was suggested that Bedford College might wish to give further consideration to the following suggestions:

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- (a) That for the nursing units titles broader than those proposed (eg, Obstetric Nursing, Paediatric Nursing) might be found less restrictive;
- (b) Pharmacology is becoming increasingly important to nursing and should, perhaps, be given greater emphasis;
- (c) It is important that Pathophysiology should be included and taught by University teachers. It might be included in the third year where, at present, there are no courses in Biological Sciences;
- (d) The courses in Research Methods should include adequate emphasis on the application of such methods to the Biological Sciences;
- (e) The order in which students follow a course in Psychiatric Nursing and a course in Psychology should, perhaps, be reversed, so that students first obtain some theoretical knowledge on which to base their practical experience.