

University of London

SPECIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN NURSING STUDIES

The next meeting of the SAC in Nursing Studies will be held on Friday 23 May 1986 at 2 30 pm in the Senate House

MINUTES of the meeting held on 21 February 1986.

Present: Prof M Ginsburg (Chairman), Prof D Barltrop, Mr A Beattie, Mrs J L Brooking, Mrs M Ferguson, Dr E M Fordham, Mr S J Holder, Mr P Holgate, Dr J MacLeod-Clark, Prof J H L Playfair, Miss B Robottom, Miss J R W Ross, Dr M B Segal, Dr J A Weinman, Dr A While, Dr J Wilson Barnett

In attendance - Mr P Burt-Jones (Dept of Extra-Mural Studies)

Apologies were received from: Mr R Combes, Mr B Finn, Prof J G Grudzinkas, Prof J P Payne

Membership

Reported: The following changes of membership have taken place since the last meeting: 30

- Dr R T Cullinan (St Barts HMC), representing the SAC in Principles of Medical Statistics and Biometry has resigned. A replacement is being sought.
- Mr P B Boulos (UCL) has replaced Prof Wastell as representative of the Board of Studies in Surgery.
- Prof D Barltrop (CXWMS) has replaced Prof Oppe as a representative of the Board of Studies in Medicine.

Minutes

Confirmed: The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 1985. 31

Matters Arising

a) Nursing Studies at KCL (KQC) (Minute 2 refers)

Reported: (1) The Chairman had written to Sir Frank Hartley on behalf of the SAC. 32

(2) The St Georges accomodation working party were recommending to the JPC that there would be considerable academic disadvantages in moving the Dept of Nursing Studies to Tooting. 33

b) Working Party in Health Studies (Minutes 4, 5 refers)

Reported: The Working Party with an extended membership would continue its work soon after Easter. 34

c) Panel of Visiting Examiners: Chairman (Minutes 26,27 refers)

Reported: Professor Oppé would continue as Chairman in 1986. 35

Extra Mural Diploma in Nursing: Report of the Working Party

- 36 Considered: (1) The final report of the working party established by the SAC on 12 October 1984 to make recommendations on the standing of the diploma in relation to further degree level study.
- 37 (2) A paper from Dr Wilson-Barnett setting out the Dept of Nursing Studies's thinking on a one calendar year top-up course.
- 38 Reported: (1) The working party recommends that the SAC :
- (i) approve the proposal for a one-year top-up course at Kings College, leading to a BSc (Hons) in Nursing Studies, for selected holders of the Diploma in Nursing.
 - (ii) initiate further inquiries into the prospects for an External Degree in Nursing and/or multiprofessional MSc in Health Sciences, as suitable courses of study for selected holders of the Diploma in Nursing.
 - (iii) establish means to keep itself informed on a regular basis about developments in the Diploma in Nursing.
- (2) In discussion the following were amongst points made:

General issues arising from the Report

- (i) Since the working party submitted its interim report in May 1985 developments nationally had been very rapid for example, the CNAAB had recently accepted the Diploma for entry to the final year of nursing degree courses in certain Polytechnics. One of the purposes of establishing the working party, namely to assess the standing of the Diploma in relation to degree level study, had therefore been to a great extent overtaken by events outside and a central feature of the final report was a specific proposal for a one year top-up course to be offered by this University.
- (ii) The Diploma itself was subject to change and the recommendations in the report related specifically to the course as presently structured.
- (iii) The proposed top-up course in the report was intended for a small number of the very best diplomates and several members expressed concern about this. Firstly these diplomates could well be capable of a Masters course and might indeed be better served by such a course. Secondly, the University itself would not be catering for the many other diplomates who would be able to benefit from degree level study and looking for opportunities for this, although it was clear that public sector institutions would be in this market. On balance however, it was accepted that the proposed top-up course was a reasonable step forward.
- (iv) The proposed top-up course should be regarded as an academic experiment. As such it should be rigorously monitored and the examiners would need to be vigilant in ensuring comparability of standards with students from the four year degree course. In this respect it would be very desirable for as much commonality as possible in assessment for the two groups of students.
- (v) The top-up course would be made up of existing course units; while the one year and four year students would not be taught together in all the units, this arrangement would considerably reduce the resource implications of mounting the course for the intended small number of students, for which the King's Nursing Department had already been given additional student numbers.

- (vi) It was anticipated that finance for students to take a 1 year full-time course after 3 years of part-time study for the diploma could be a major problem as secondments were becoming increasingly difficult to obtain and although these students could well be eligible for an Lea grant, they might be unwilling to give up their jobs for a year. It was concluded that a number of methods of financial support would need to be explored, but the Department of Nursing Studies was reasonably confident that they would be able to attract six students a year and at a later stage would look to the possibility of offering the course part-time.

Content of the proposed course

- (vii) Some concern was expressed based on the syllabuses included in the top-up course in the report, at an apparent absence of a sufficiently strong scientific basis in the biology course unit. This concern was considerably ameliorated by the description of the full course unit on the Human Life Cycle which was included in the tabled revised course.
- (viii) It was noted that as the one year course would consist entirely of course units already approved by the SAC, no further approvals would be required once the Academic Council had given the necessary approval in principle to the one year course.

- Agreed: (1) To accept the report and to recommend to the Academic Council that approval be given in principle to a one calendar year top-up course to be offered by the Department of Nursing Studies at KCL, for diplomates from the Extra Mural Diploma in Nursing holding predominantly A and B grades. 39
- (2) That the SAC should be kept informed on developments with the Diploma. This should involve both regular annual reports and special reports as and when major changes occurred. The SAC also welcomed a statement from Mr Burt-Jones that an ongoing revision of the Extra Mural Advisory Committee for Nursing would result in much greater overlap of membership with the SAC. 40
- (3) That once the one year full-time course had been approved, the possibility of a post Diploma degree course through the External System should be fully explored. 41

Panel of Advisors for Appointed Teachers

- Agreed: To recommend to the Academic Council the appointment of the following panel of advisors in Nursing: 42

External

Prof Baroness McFarlane (U of Manchester)
Prof P Proffit (U of Edinburgh)
Dr A Tierney (U of Edinburgh)
Prof C M Chapman (U of Wales)

Internal

Prof T E Oppé (St My's HMS)
Prof M Ginsburg (KLC)
Dr J Wilson-Barnett (KLC)

Examiners for Higher Degrees

- Approved: The appointment of examiners for the following PhD candidate: 43

Mrs Catherine J Seers: "Pain, Anxiety and recovery in patients undergoing (KCL) surgery"

Joint Internal : Dr J Wilson-Barnett (KCL) (Supervisor)
Dr Marie Johnston, Senior Lecturer, Dept of Psychology
RFHMS

External: Dr Alison Tierney, Director, Nursing Research Unit,
University of Edinburgh

45. Agreed: To recommend to the Academic Council the appointment of examiners for the following PhD candidate:

Ms Fiona Ross: "Evaluation of a drug guide in primary care"
(KCL)

Internal: Dr J Wilson-Barnett (KCL) (Supervisor)

External: Dr Lisbeth Hockey, Emeritus Reader, Dept of Nursing,
University of Edinburgh
Prof Idris Williams, Professor of General Practice
University of Nottingham

Applications for Suspension of the Regulations for University Entrance

46. Noted: A letter from the University Entrance Requirements Officer, the criticisms in which did not apply to admissions for the Nursing Studies degree at KCL.

Date of next meeting

47. Friday, 23 May 1986 at 2.30 pm.