

University of London

SPECIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN NURSING STUDIES

There will be a meeting of the Special Advisory Committee in Nursing Studies on Friday 19 February 1982 at 2.30 pm in Senate House.

A G E N D A

1. MINUTES

TO CONFIRM: The Minutes of the meeting on 16 October 1981 (previously circulated).

2. MATTERS ARISING

Constitution and Membership of the Special Advisory Committee

TO REPORT: The following new members have been appointed:

- Mrs M Ferguson, BdfC (Recognised Teacher)
- Dr J L H O'Riordon, Middx HMS (Board of Studies in Medicine, Geriatrics)
- Mr Bernard Finn, Joint Board of Clinical Nursing Studies (Other Person)
- Mr Stanley Holder, St Mary's Hospital (Other Person)
- Dr I F Burton, BdfC (Other Teacher)

A complete list of members of the Special Advisory Committee is attached as DOCUMENT A.

3. COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC ORGANISATION/SUBJECT AREA REVIEW COMMITTEES

TO CONSIDER: (1) The Third and final Discussion Document of the Committee on Academic Organisation;

(2) The first reports of the Subject Area Review Committees.

TO REPORT: (1) Schools and Boards of Studies/SACs have been invited to comment on these documents to the Vice-Chancellor by 12 March 1982. The Vice-Chancellor has written as follows:

'When the Joint Planning Committee considered the position last month, they were keenly aware of the Court's need to receive academic advice in good time to articulate principles of grant distribution for 1982-83, which must inevitably be one of the most crucial and complex allocation exercises ever undertaken by the Court. To this end, the Court would need to have clear academic guidelines by their meeting on 19 May, even if the University's final recurrent grant for 1982-83 has not been announced by then. This timetable implies that the Joint Planning Committee will have to prepare a paper for the meeting of the Senate on 28 April. The JPC paper will take into account the responses of Schools and University Committees to the CAO and SARCs' reports, as well as the two earlier reports of the CAO and responses to them and the letters of 1 July 1981 from the University Grants Committee announcing the University's allocation of recurrent grant for 1981-82 and student numbers for 1983-84. In order to meet this timetable it seems essential that the responses to the Third Discussion Document of the CAO and the SARCs' reports should be received here by mid March at the latest.'

(2) Third Discussion Document of the Committee on Academic Organisation: Following the establishment of the first Subject Area Review Committee the Vice-Chancellor had asked that the Committee on Academic Organisation should concentrate their third report on the following activities, none of which has direct relevance to Nursing Studies:

- (a) The research and teaching Institutes;
- (b) The central library provision and the Library Resources Co-ordinating Committee;
- (c) The University of London Union and sports facilities;
- (d) The centrally-organised examination services;
- (e) Certain other services to the federal University such as the Botanical Supply Unit, careers advisory service, student accommodation, industrial relations and training advice, university entrance requirements, and administrative computing services (but not the already highly rationalised computer services);
- (f) The administrative departments constituting the "core secretariat" in the Senate House.

(3) Subject Area Review Committees' reports: As reported at the last meeting (minute 7), Nursing Studies is among a number of subjects not specifically being dealt with by any of the first five Review Committees set up to report in January on 'key areas' which included the Biological Sciences, the Physical Sciences and Social Studies. Notes on the present position and relevant comments from the SARC reports are given in DOCUMENT B.

(4) As copies of the Third Discussion Document (pink cover) have been widely distributed in all Schools and copies of the SARC reports in non-Medical Schools, copies have not been circulated with the agenda.

[Note: If any member of the Committee would like a copy of any of these reports, please contact the Secretary, Mrs J M Longden, Senate House, ext 358.]

4. NURSING STUDIES AT BEDFORD COLLEGE

TO CONSIDER: Proposals for second-year courses as given in the addendum to the agenda of the last meeting (16 October 1981).

TO REPORT: (1) At the last meeting of the Special Advisory Committee an addendum to the agenda giving details of proposals for second-year courses at Bedford College was tabled together with a revised overall plan for the four-year course (the latter being circulated with the Minutes as Document B).

(2) After a full discussion of the proposals, it was agreed that final decisions should be deferred pending further discussion within the College on points raised at the meeting. The Committee also wished to have detailed information on practical nursing attachments, and Bedford College have been asked to provide this (DOCUMENT C, to be tabled if not available in time for circulation with the Agenda).

5. LECTURE IN NURSING STUDIES

TO RECEIVE: A report on the progress of attempts to obtain financial support for a lecture to be organised by the Special Advisory Committee and Bedford College.

6. APPOINTMENT OF MPhil AND PhD EXAMINERS

TO REPORT: The following letter (of 26 November 1981) has been received from the Academic Registrar:

"You will be aware that when your Board nominates for the examinations of an MPhil or PhD candidate, three examiners, two of whom are external to the University, or an examiner who is overseas at the time of the examination, a special request for the additional fees payable and expenses incurred has to be made to the Finance of University Examinations Sub-Committee. The Academic Council therefore required from Boards of Studies a statement of the reasons for the appointment.

From the beginning of the current session UGC grant-aided Schools are required to meet the costs incurred by the Central Offices in fees and expenses of examiners and in view of this the Finance of University Examinations Sub-Committee in November resolved that the relevant School or Institute be consulted before approval is given in any individual case. Such cases, with the statement of reasons for the appointment, will be considered by Schools before approval may be given."

7. NOTIFICATION OF THESIS TITLE

TO RECEIVE: The following notification of thesis title for the Internal PhD:

AKINSANYA, J A (ChelC)

Supervisor: Professor J C Hayward

Nursing Education: the Contribution
of Biological Sciences

8. FINAL REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL WORKING PARTY ON COURSE-UNIT-DEGREES

TO CONSIDER: The Final Report of the Academic Council Working Party on Course-Unit degrees.

TO REPORT: (1) The Academic Council considered this report at its meeting on 30 November 1981. The Council noted that the Report is the culmination of an enquiry into the problems associated with course-unit degrees which started approximately four years ago, when a Working Party under Professor Overend was asked to look into certain aspects of the operation of course-unit examinations. A copy of the Report is attached as DOCUMENT D.

(2) The Academic Council has resolved that its study of the Report should continue, but meanwhile the Report be circulated to Schools and Boards of Studies with a

note of the principal issues raised in the Council's preliminary discussion (DOCUMENT D attached) with a request for observations by the end of Spring 1982 and not later than 31 March 1982.

(3) Section 5 of the Report discusses the approval of course proposals and degree programmes. It concludes (para 5.9 and recommendation 11.4) that the power to approve course proposals should be transferred from Boards of Studies to Schools except in three special circumstances. These include (para 5.8(ii)(b) occasions where:

'Schools are embarking upon the teaching of completely new fields not long established in academic studies nationally.'

It was the intention of the Working Party that this should cover new fields of study such as Nursing Studies and Speech Sciences.

(4) In the Note on the general issues raised by the Academic Council in preliminary discussion on the Report (Document D.2) emphasis is laid on the importance which the Academic Council attaches to the proposal that Boards of Studies/Special Advisory Committees should hold annual reviews of the operation of course-unit degrees in their subjects. With the agreement of the Chairman of the Board of Studies in Geology, the Chairman of the Academic Council Working Party has suggested that, in considering this aspect of the report, Chairmen of Boards and SACs may wish to have reference to the report submitted to the Board of Studies in Geology on course-unit examinations held in 1980/81, a copy of which has been sent on a limited basis to the Chairmen of Boards of Studies and SACs operating course-unit degrees. This report gives examples of problems which the Working Party envisaged would be covered in the proposed annual review.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

TO REPORT: The next meeting of the Special Advisory Committee in Nursing Studies will be held on Friday 14 May 1982 at 2.30 pm in Senate House.