

University of London

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Extension

3rd December, 1985.

Our ref MG/DW.
Your ref

Sir Frank Hartley,
University of London,
Senate House.

Dear Sir Frank,

I am writing as Chairman of the University's Special Advisory Committee in Nursing Studies to comment on the proposal to transfer the Nursing Studies Department of King's College to St. George's Hospital Medical School.

The activities of the Department of Nursing Studies at King's College were built upon those existing at Chelsea College (before the KQC merger), not only in Basic Medical Sciences and Sociology/Psychology but, above all, in the Nursing Education Research Unit. The success of the initiative has been due, to a significant degree, to the commitment of many individuals from outside the Department of Nursing Studies and the proposed relocation inevitably will separate the Department from such committed participants.

There can be no question that the current B.Sc. degree programme, which is the keystone of the Department's teaching, is both innovative and highly successful. Being of recent origin (only 5 cohorts of students have graduated), the policy for development must be to build upon the present pattern of courses: to embark on changes without strictly academic or professional justification could be disastrous. The English National Board already has expressed concern for professional aspects should the transfer to the Medical School take place but there is concern also for those parts of the degree programme ancillary to the strictly professional studies. After detailed and critical appraisal, the Special Advisory Committee in Nursing Studies approved the structure of the present degree programme and its component course units; if relocation involves substantial academic reorganisation as it must, it follows that it would be necessary to submit the degree programme as a whole and its constituent courses to the SAC for approval.

You will be aware that there is already University policy in regard to Nursing Studies that emerges from the reports of Working Parties chaired by Professor LeQuesne and by Sir John Ellis reporting in September 1983 and April 1985 respectively. The LeQuesne Working Party clearly stated that "it is convinced that this broad education (i.e. Nursing Studies) is best obtained by basing the course on a multi-faculty school rather than on a single faculty Medical School" (para. 4.4). The Ellis Working Party drew attention to benefits that would flow from the KQC merger by facilitating the association of Nursing Studies with Nutrition and Medicine in a

multi-faculty structure (para. 5.3). Association of Nursing Studies with these and other activities of the multi-faculty school, such as Health Education Studies and with the Age Concern Institute of Gerontology, open up exciting possibilities and create conditions for future development of degrees in other Health Professional Studies.

The views of the Working Parties were reached after serious and mature consideration and their reports lay down what must be regarded as guide-lines for the academic development of Nursing Studies in the University of London. I trust that the Working Party under your Chairmanship will take due note.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Ginsburg

Professor M. Ginsburg
Chairman
Special Advisory Committee in Nursing Studies

c. c. Dr. E. Thompson