

University of London

SPECIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN NURSING STUDIES

The normal meeting of the Special Advisory Committee in Nursing Studies will be on Friday 13 May 1983 at 2.30 p.m. in Senate House

MINUTES of the meeting held on 18 February 1983

Present: Professor T E Oppe (Chairman), Professor H Baum, Dr I F Burton, Mr M Bury, Dr T R Cullinan, Mrs M Ferguson, Mr B Fynn, Mrs E M Fordham, Professor M Ginsberg, Professor J H Green, Professor J C Hayward, Mr S Holder, Dr J L H O'Riordan, Professor J P Payne, Dr S J Redfern, Dr J R W Ross

Apologies for absence were received from: Professor R Goldsmith, Professor R A Pinker, Miss I M Speight, Mr J A Weinman, Mr W L Whitehouse, Dr J Wilson-Barnett, Dr R Anderson

MINUTES

Confirmed: The Minutes of the meeting on 15 October 1982. 14

MEMBERSHIP

Noted: Changes in Membership and welcomed Professor Westell and Mr Bury to the Committee. 15

B Sc EXAMINERS 1983

Nominated: Dr Joseph Laity to replace Dr Herxheimer as Visiting Examiner for the Course "Therapeutics and Pathology" at Bedford College in 1983. 16

CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR NURSING AND ENGLISH NATIONAL BOARD

Nominated: The following persons for consideration by the DES: 17

- (a) UK Central Council      Dr J Wilson-Barnett  
   Department of Nursing Studies  
   Chelsea College
- English National Board Professor R Goldsmith  
   Professor of Physiology  
   Chelsea College

It was noted that Dr Wilson-Barnett has already been nominated by the Royal College of Nursing Research Committee to serve on the UK Central Council.

NURSING STUDIES IN THE UNIVERSITY

Reported: That the Working Party on Nursing Studies is expected shortly to be submitting its report to the Vice-Chancellor and Joint Planning Committee and it is likely that this report will be considered with those in a number of other subjects on which Schools and Boards of Studies/Special Advisory Committees are being asked to comment by 11 April. 18

The Chairman reported that the Working Party would be strongly supporting the continuation of nursing degree studies in the University with the maintenance of at least the present annual intake of students and a further increase in due course.

Agreed: That when copies of the report are available, they should be sent to members with a slip asking whether a special meeting of the SAC is considered desirable. Such a meeting, if held, should take place at 2.30 p.m. on Friday, 18 March. 19

NURSING STUDIES AT BEDFORD COLLEGE

Approved: The revised proposals for course S290, Therapeutics and Pathology for 1983 only in the first instance, subject to amendment of the 125 hours to be shown as "Seminars or Tutorials" rather than Project Work. 20

It was noted that as there are only five students on the course, it is inappropriate to have formal lectures and the teaching is wholly through seminars/tutorial. Now that Dr Laity has been appointed as a Visiting Examiner for the course in the summer, he will also be asked to assess an interim examination taken this term and his report will be available at the meeting in May (or possibly the Special Meeting in March). It was also agreed that Bedford College will provide copies of the summer examination paper for all members (and not only the Working Party considering the future of the course).

*It was pointed out that all examination papers are available for any any University members.*

- 21 Considered: Preliminary proposals for the following new courses for which details were included in the Agenda:

S380 Issues in Maternal, Child and Family Health (1 c u)  
S302 Research Methods in Nursing (1 c u)  
S326 Health Care in Britain (1 c u)  
S401 Extended Essay in Nursing (1 c u)

In the course of the discussion the following points were made:

(i) The College are presently proposing that "Issues in Maternal, Child and Family Health" would not include special study of the problems of children with chronic handicapping conditions. These aspects will, however, be discussed in the course on Sociology, Health and Illness (Year 4). It is intended that the course should reflect the practical experience available to students in their placements and it is not presently envisaged that handicapped children will be met in the placements. Although some concern was expressed that a workload of 24 lectures and 24 hours seminar/tutorial is light for a B Sc course with a value of 1 c u, Dr Burton emphasised that it would be a reasonable workload within the Social Sciences where students are required to undertake a great deal of reading and private preparation.

(ii) The intention of the course "Research Methods in Nursing" would be to formalize material which students would already have touched upon in many of the first and second year courses. It was suggested that it would be desirable to give some emphasis to Methods in Psychology and to quantitative work in the Bio-medical Sciences relevant to Nursing as well as to Medical Sociology and Nursing Research

(iii) The Extended Essay in Nursing would be commenced in the third year and lead to a project report to be examined at the end of the fourth year. It was suggested that this could lead to failure to recognise that a student was not understanding research methods until it was too late and that it would be useful for Bedford to arrange for the students to be exposed to research projects in their third year and to participate if possible. (It was noted that the Department of Community Medicine at St Mary's Hospital Medical School already receives nursing students from the University of Surrey so that it would seem possible that similar arrangements might be made for Bedford students.)

(iv) The workload of 48 hours lectures and 12 hours seminar/tutorial work was considered not wholly appropriate for the course "Health Care in Britain". Such courses should be exploring ideas and the actual factual knowledge to be conveyed is limited. Furthermore, as this course is only available to the five nursing students, formal lectures were deemed inappropriate. It was, however, recognised that Nursing students require more teaching in this area than Social Science students who have a wider background of Sociology and Economics.

(v) Members were concerned that the course unit examinations for the B Sc degree would not include questions on Clinical Nursing Care and, in particular, that the teaching of Paediatric and Geriatric Nursing will not be examined for the B Sc. It was recognised that Bedford hope that students will draw upon their experience in Clinical Practice when answering questions on Issues in Nursing but it was not deemed that such examinations would fully test their knowledge of clinical nursing care. It was agreed that this is a separate matter from testing their practical skills as a nurse. SRN students have to pass Clinical examinations set by registered tutors monitored by the GNC. It was suggested that, where a University degree is leading also to the professional qualification of SRN, the University has a responsibility for assessing knowledge of Clinical Nursing. It was therefore agreed that Bedford College should consider the matter further and perhaps have discussions with the GMC with a view to discussion at the next meeting of the SAC.

(vi) It was recognised that there were problems in integrating lecturers in a hospital school of nursing into the University's own assessment system and in using them as University examiners. It was suggested that the Director of Nursing Education at the Middlesex Hospital might be invited to attend the next meeting of the SAC to discuss the integration of university courses and teaching in Clinical Nursing Practice (although it was recognised that the Middlesex Hospital is not used for attachments in all areas, eg, Obstetrics and Paediatrics).

#### NURSING COURSE AT CHELSEA COLLEGE

- 22 Approved: Proposals for the new course "Social Aspects of Health Care".

#### GOVERNMENT ENQUIRY INTO HUMAN FERTILISATION AND EMBRYOLOGY

- 23 Agreed: That although reference to ethical consideration should be included in any Nursing degree course, the Special Advisory Committee would not wish, as such, to send a submission to the Enquiry.

FUTURE OF LONDON EXTERNAL SYSTEM

Agreed: That, whilst the future extension of the external system is welcomed in principle, Nursing is an area in which practical experience should be integrated with academic teaching and is thus unsuitable for study by external students. It might be possible in future to offer external students postgraduate study in some aspects of Nursing which exclude the necessity of associated practice. 24

APPOINTMENT OF PhD EXAMINERS

Appointed: Professor G Brown (Department of Sociology, Bedford College) and Professor E S Paykel (St George's Hospital Medical School) to examine Ms Webb together with the supervisor, Dr Wilson-Barnett. 25

PROPOSED MSc IN NURSING

Received: Draft proposals for a M Sc degree in Nursing, which Chelsea College propose to introduce in 1984. Although the proposals will be discussed in detail at the May meeting, it was noted that Professor Hayward would welcome early comments from members. 26