10-4-1979

Nursing Education Planning Committee Meeting Minutes, October 3rd, 1979

University of Texas at Tyler

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TO: Members of the Nursing Education Planning Committee

FROM: Donald W. Whisenhunt, Chairman

SUBJECT: Minutes of Meeting, October 3, 1979

The Nursing Education Planning Committee met at 10:30 a.m. on October 3, 1979, in the Administrative Board Room of The University of Texas at Tyler. All members of the committee were present. Dr. James H. Stewart, Jr. and Dr. Patricia Gajda were also present.

Dr. Whisenhunt welcomed the members of the committee and requested that any necessary changes to minutes of previous meetings be communicated to Mrs. Norton. Corrections to the minutes of the August 13, 1979, meeting are as follows. On page 2, paragraph 7 should be amended to read, "Mrs. Murphy made the further comment that the two faculties, TESN and U.T. Tyler, should meet and begin to develop the philosophy right away." On page 4, paragraphs 5 and 6, remarks attributed to Mrs. Dauth should be attributed to Mrs. Jackson.

Dr. Whisenhunt invited the members of the committee to question or respond to the first draft of the proposal for the generic nursing program that was delivered to them on Wednesday, September 26.

1. Philosophy.

Mrs. Murphy asked whether U.T. Tyler has a philosophy to be included in the draft of the proposal. Mrs. Rowe responded that the nursing faculty has given extensive consideration to the philosophy but that the actual document has not yet been written. Dr. Whisenhunt added that there was agreement among the members of the faculty on the philosophy. Dr. Stewart asked whether we are able to espouse it. Mrs. Rowe's response was affirmative.

2. Supply of Nurses for Acute Care Facilities.

Mrs. Jackson remarked that the proposal emphasis seems not to be to provide nurses for hospital and extended care institutions but to stress providing nurses for the community. If we are going into a basic program which emphasizes so heavily the community, how will we meet the needs of the acute care facilities which are not being met at the present? Mrs. Rowe responded with a clarification of several courses in the proposal emphasizing that the courses are planned to provide a sequence which will stress clinical training for acute care facilities. Also, some
course numbers need to be changed to reflect university format. Dr. Whisenhunt added that item 7, page 11 may not be stated strongly enough and this is one of the reasons that input from the committee is so important to clarify the proposal.

3. Clinical Laboratory Hours.

Mrs. Hill asked what the total clinical laboratory hours will be. Mrs. Rowe responded that they will be as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEMESTER</th>
<th>HOURS OF DIRECT PATIENT CONTACT PER WEEK</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td>18</td>
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Mrs. Rowe's clarification continued with the plan to delete the Fine Arts elective, item 1 on page 8, and replace it with Nursing elective hours which will be taught in the summer terms. Mrs. Jackson asked whether these electives will be taught in the long terms. Dr. Gajda responded that the Nursing faculty is in no position to make administrative decisions at this early date. Dr. Whisenhunt added that the philosophy of U.T. Tyler is to provide courses when there is a demand for them. Mrs. Rowe added that the institution will try to meet student needs.

4. Nursing Hours in the Curriculum.

Mrs. Murphy asked how the number of nursing hours was determined. This proposal seems to lack clinical orientation; it allows 71 non-nursing hours which does not seem heavy enough in nursing clinical education. Dr. Gajda responded that this program does compare favorably with other institutions in the state with high rates of students passing the Nursing examination. Mrs. Murphy believes that only eighteen hours a week is not adequate amount of actual clinical hours. Dr. Whisenhunt asked for her recommendation. The number 24 hours per week was discussed.

5. Competency Laboratory.

Mrs. Jackson asked what will actually take place in the NURS 3104 Competency Laboratory. Mrs. Rowe explained that this will be rephrased to provide for independent study individually assigned with a full-time faculty member as instructor. Mrs. Jackson commented that this would compare to a skills laboratory. Mrs. Rowe added that NURS 3801, page 3, would also be a skills laboratory.

6. Medical-Surgical Component.

Mrs. Jackson asked whether the program would provide for a Medical-Surgical component and Mrs. Rowe responded in the affirmative.
7. **Projected Enrollments and Possible Attrition Rates.**

Mr. Pearson commented that the projected enrollments in the program in item 9, page 13, look small in relation to needs and inquired as to what attrition rate might be expected. Mrs. Rowe responded that the University's GPA requirement of 2.5 on a 4-point scale for entrance might help provide for a low attrition rate. Dr. Whisenhunt added that the University has taken a conservative approach to forecasting enrollment figures. It is fully expected that enrollment will be larger. Mr. Pearson commented that there seems to be a tendency for diploma graduates to go to work in hospitals while baccalaureate graduates tend to go into other fields.

Mrs. Rowe replied that eventual plans provide for a Masters program to be developed in the future. This would contribute to nurses staying in the Tyler area. She also emphasized that the faculty of U.T. Tyler is very clinically oriented. A brief discussion ensued about retention rates at other universities, difficulties of students meeting the 2.5 GPA requirement, use of achievement testing and admission counseling, and the fact that the highest attrition rate is in the freshman year.

Mrs. Roge asked whether the proposed program can take over what TESN is presently doing plus providing the projected need for 400 more nursing graduates each year. Dr. Whisenhunt replied that the objective of U.T. Tyler is to do as much as can be done. Nursing needs are not presently being met anywhere. This program should help overcome some of the problems we have in this area. Mrs. Murphy commented that with the faculty resources of both institutions available, the faculty requirements should be met. Dr. Whisenhunt continued that the formula funding for nursing is very good and, if the students are there, the program will produce the money to provide for the needs of the students.

8. **Present B.S.N. Program.**

Mrs. Murphy asked whether the present program will be continued. Mrs. Rowe and Dr. Whisenhunt responded that U.T. Tyler will plan to continue to offer the upper-level program for R.N.'s as long as there is a demand for it.

9. **Advanced-Standing Examinations.**

Mrs. Murphy asked for clarification on the Credit by Examination item on page 8. Mrs. Rowe replied that this item will be changed to provide for the opportunity for students to take this option on selected courses. A discussion followed on accreditation by the National League of Nursing, challenge examinations, and tuition for challenged courses.
10. Prerequisite Courses in Natural Sciences.

Mrs. Murphy opened a discussion of the Natural Sciences prerequisite hours as outlined in the proposal. Mrs. Hill added that the Pharmacology requirement seems short. Mrs. Rowe replied that this would be an introductory basic course only. Pharmacology and nutrition would be integrated into the major clinical courses. Mrs. Jackson commented that there is a similar course at TESN now. Several members of the committee agreed that it is vital to maintain a high level of instruction in this facet of the nurse's education throughout the clinical courses.


Mrs. Roge asked where the clinical courses for psychiatry will occur. Mrs. Rowe responded that this would depend on what TESN decides to do and what institutional facilities are available.

12. Revision in the Proposal and Need for Further Communication with Area Institutions.

Mrs. Hill asked, assuming the proposal is accepted by the Coordinating Board, if revisions could be made in it in the future. Dr. Whisenhunt replied affirmatively. Another process on the campus will be followed in which all the ramifications of the program will be considered. Changes can be made by submitting the proper forms to the Coordinating Board. Mrs. Rowe commented that one example of the certainty of further modification of the program is that the present faculty has no member with credentials in psychiatric nursing. Dr. Whisenhunt added that plans provide for a new Coordinator of the Nursing Program to be hired by January 1. Both these new individuals will undoubtedly have input into the program.

Mr. Pearson asked what assurances the hospitals would have that their input would be considered. Dr. Whisenhunt replied that this program is designed to serve the needs of the area. If proper communication should not take place, it would be appropriate to bring this to his attention. Mr. Pearson further inquired whether there would be a written agreement between the institutions. Dr. Gajda responded that self-examination and outside evaluation are necessary for maintenance of accreditation. Dr. Whisenhunt added that our affiliation agreements will continue. U.T. Tyler would expect and solicit an evaluation of the program from the hospitals. Mr. Pearson remarked that this is a matter that needs to be on the record.

Dr. Whisenhunt further commented that this group would continue to exist and would continue its advisory relationship.
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13. **Board of Nursing Examiners.**

Mrs. Murphy asked when U.T. Tyler officials plan to seek consultation with the Board of Nursing Examiners. Dr. Whisenhunt responded that it is necessary to present proposals to the Coordinating Board first. He further explained that by Friday this proposal will be put into the final form and will be taken to the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System by Dr. Stewart. On the following Monday it will be presented to the Coordinating Board.

14. **Clinical Experience.**

Mrs. Hill read an excerpt from a recommendation from the Coordinating Board study calling for more clinical experience in Nursing Training. Mrs. Hinson commented that the more clinical experience involved in training, the more likely the nurse is to stay in the hospital to work.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

DWW: jan

**XC:** Dr. James H. Stewart, Jr.
Dr. Patricia Gajda