

Agenda Item 10

Enclosure 6

Paper ETC 91 / 02

Education and Training Committee

**CONSULTATION ON WIDENING THE ROLE
OF THE NURSING DEANS**

from the Council of Nursing Deans

for discussion and decision

Executive Summary

The Committee is invited to comment on these proposals, noting that the Council of Nursing Deans does not intend either to duplicate or to supplant any existing work or functions in HPC and the professional bodies.

Council of Deans and Heads of UK University Faculties for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting

October 2002

Dear Colleague

Widening the role of the Council of Deans

As you may well be aware, the Council of Deans of UK University Faculties for Nursing Midwifery and Health Visiting, has recently been discussing widening its formal representative role to encompass the allied health professions.

At its meeting on 17 October the Council discussed how this might be implemented. A consultation paper on these proposals is attached with this letter, together with a copy of our booklet on the role and activities of the Council in the academic year 2001/2, which has just been published.

Before coming to any conclusions the Council asked the Executive Team to consult with education representatives of the allied health professions.

I would emphasise that it is not the Council's intention to supplant or replicate the roles of the several existing groups of heads of department and education leaders in individual professions and disciplines. However, I do believe that the Council of Deans with a wider remit will be an effective voice in higher education for collective views on education and research in nursing and the allied health professions. Clearly, if these proposals are implemented, the name, mission statement and aims of the Council will be amended to reflect its new wider role.

We would be very pleased to receive your comments, which should be sent to:

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Paul and/or I will also be very willing to discuss these proposals with you by phone, email, or meeting at your convenience.

It would be very helpful if your comments could be received before 9 December 2002, so that they may be taken into account by our Executive Team, prior to discussion at our Annual General Meeting in January 2003.

Yours Sincerely

Eileen Martin

Chair of Council

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Council of Deans and Heads of UK University Faculties for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting

Widening the role of Council to encompass the Allied Health Professions Proposals for Consultation

1. Introduction

The Council of Deans has been considering widening its representational role to include the allied health professions. At its meeting on 17 October the Council discussed a paper suggesting how this might be implemented, and expressed agreement in principle with the approach described. It asked the Executive Team to consult allied health professional education representatives before proceeding to decision at the AGM in January 2003. Any change would take effect in the academic year 2003/4.

This paper describes the proposals. 'Nursing' is used here as a generic term to include midwifery and health visiting.

2. Reasons for change

The arguments for widening the role of the current Council include:

- Representing the wider interface in healthcare education between higher education, the NHS and the Departments of Health.
- Recognition that the majority of issues on which the Council has lobbied recently applied equally to nursing, midwifery, and the allied health professions.
- Providing an effective collective representative voice from higher education for the allied health professions.
- Maintaining the credibility of the Council with Government departments and other stakeholders in the context of the developing multi-professional agenda.
- Ensuring the continuing successful development of the Council as a forceful and legitimate representative body for Deans and Heads of Health Faculties.

3. Approach

The proposals are to evolve the current Council to take on a wider role. They are not to wind up the current Council and establish a new body. The Council discussed carefully whether a wider role should also encompass social care, but decided not to propose this at this stage.

4. Name

The Council discussed these alternative names of a new Council put forward by the Executive Team.

- **Council of Deans and Heads of Nursing and the Allied Health Professions**
- **Council of Deans and Heads of Health**
- **Council of Deans of Nursing and the Allied Health Professions**
- **Council of Deans of Health**

The Council will take a decision on this in January, following consultation.

5. Institutional representation at the Council

The Council considered very carefully a new basis of institutional representation, with the aims of:

- Maintaining the involvement, commitment, and input from existing representatives leading education in nursing, midwifery, and health visiting
- Maintaining and extending involvement, commitment, and input from Deans of multi-professional faculties/schools
- Involving representatives leading education in the Allied Health Professions

In its deliberations the Council also kept in mind the overall numbers of colleagues likely to attend Full Council meetings. Much above 100-120 might give problems in finding good venues with integral accommodation, and make meetings much more difficult to manage. The Council believes that its institutional membership would probably increase by 8/9 members.

On the basis of 9 new members, 2 representatives per member HEI, and assuming a 70% maximum attendance at meetings, the maximum size of a Full Council meeting would be just under 120.

The **current** institutional representation is defined in the Constitution as follows:

“Membership of the Council shall be open to one or two senior members of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting Faculties/Schools/Departments as follows:

- i. Where the Dean/Head is a registered nurse, midwife or health visitor the nominated member shall be Dean/Head or another senior member of the faculty who is a registered nurse, midwife or health visitor.
- ii. Where the Dean/Head is from a non-nursing background there may be two members of the Council; the Dean/Head and a senior nurse, midwife or health visitor. In this case the institution may only exercise one vote.”

The Executive Team recommended to Council **revised representation** as follows:

(i) For member institutions which have provision in both nursing **and** the allied health professions:

There would be two representatives per member HEI. They should be of senior status with strategic responsibilities for nursing, midwifery, and/or the allied health professions, normally a dean or head of department.

One representative should normally be a registrant with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), and the other should normally be a registrant with the Health Professions Council (HPC).

Where an institution has a dean of school/ faculty of health who is not a registrant with either the NMC or the HPC, s/he may be an additional representative for that institution. [Note: On the present membership, it is estimated that this will only apply to 6 member institutions.]

(ii) For member institutions which have provision in either nursing or the allied health professions:

There would be one representative from the HEI, who would be of senior status with strategic responsibility for the provision, normally a dean or head of department, and normally a registrant with the NMC or HPC.

Where the institution has a dean of school/ faculty who is not a registrant with the NMC or HPC, s/he may be an additional representative for that institution.

[Note: On the present membership, it is estimated that this will only apply to 4 member institutions.]

[Note also: Given their membership of our partner Council, the Council of Heads of Medical Schools, it is not anticipated that Medical Deans of Faculties that include nursing and/or the allied health professions would seek to be representatives at the Council of Deans under these provisions.]

6. Votes

In all cases the Council recommended that votes in meetings and ballots for election of Officers and the Executive Team should be on the basis on one vote for each member institution.

7. Subscriptions/Income

It is recommended subscriptions remain at the levels agreed for 2002/3, but that the subscription level banding should in the future be based on FTE numbers for all nursing and allied health students, as from academic year 2003/4. The subscription levels for 2002/3 are banded as follows:

- Less than 500 FTE students £800
- Between 500 and 999 FTEs £1,600
- More than 1000 FTE students £2,500

The proposals will result in an increase in income, both from existing members who will be in higher subscription bands, and from new members. This will support additional expenditure associated with the wider role of the Council.

8. Executive Team

The current composition of the Executive Team is:

Chair, Vice Chair, 3 Officers, 4 nation representatives, 1 co-opted non-nursing dean, (Total 10).

It is suggested that, given the approach of 'evolving the existing Council' outlined above, the Council extends the co-option powers of the Executive to allow two additional members from outside the existing nursing membership. After a defined period, of say

two years, the Council would then review the composition of the Executive with members then re-elected from the new wider Council.

9. Summary

The summary recommendations accepted in principle by the Council on 17 October as a basis for consultation are as follows:

- i. The Council should seek to widen its representative role to encompass the allied health professions**
- ii. The Council should select one of the following alternative names:**
 - Council of Deans and Heads of Nursing and the Allied Health Professions
 - Council of Deans and Heads of Health
 - Council of Deans of Nursing and the Allied Health Professions
 - Council of Deans of Health
- iii. Institutional representation should be on the following basis:**
 - For member institutions which have provision in both nursing and the allied health professions:
Two representatives per member HEI, of senior status with strategic responsibilities for nursing, midwifery, and/or the allied health professions, (normally a dean or head of department).
One representative should normally be a registrant with the NMC, and the other normally be a registrant with the HPC.
Where an institution has a dean of school/ faculty of health who is not a registrant with either the NMC or the HPC, s/he may be an additional representative for that institution.
 - For member institutions which have provision in either nursing or the allied health professions:
One representative from the HEI, of senior status with strategic responsibility for the provision, (normally a dean or head of department), and normally a registrant with the NMC or HPC.
Where the institution has a dean of school/ faculty who is not a registrant with the NMC or HPC, s/he may be an additional representative for that institution.
- iv. Voting in the Council and in elections for Officers and the Executive Team should be on the basis of one vote per member institution**
- v. The Executive Team should co-opt additional members as specified in paragraph 8. A further review of the composition of the Executive Team should be carried out in two years time.**
- vi. The Executive Team should consult on these proposals with education representatives of the allied health professions**

Council of Deans
October 2002

The Council of Deans met on October 1, 2002, at the University of Michigan. The meeting was held in the Grand Ballroom of the University Club. The meeting was attended by the following members of the Council of Deans: [Faint names and titles]

The meeting was presided over by [Faint name]. The meeting was opened with a prayer by [Faint name]. The meeting then proceeded to the business of the day. The first item of business was the report of the [Faint name].

The second item of business was the report of the [Faint name]. The third item of business was the report of the [Faint name]. The fourth item of business was the report of the [Faint name].

The fifth item of business was the report of the [Faint name]. The sixth item of business was the report of the [Faint name]. The seventh item of business was the report of the [Faint name].

The eighth item of business was the report of the [Faint name]. The ninth item of business was the report of the [Faint name]. The tenth item of business was the report of the [Faint name].

The eleventh item of business was the report of the [Faint name]. The twelfth item of business was the report of the [Faint name]. The thirteenth item of business was the report of the [Faint name].

The fourteenth item of business was the report of the [Faint name]. The fifteenth item of business was the report of the [Faint name]. The sixteenth item of business was the report of the [Faint name].