



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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COLLEGE OF NURSING

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May 1, 1984

TO: Faculty Senate, May 1 Meeting

FROM: Dr. Constance M. Baker
Dean and Professor

Constance M. Baker

The necessity of responding to Professor Moore's unidentified source of information, however well intentioned, is somewhat troublesome. However, the inquiry does give me the opportunity to provide the University faculty with information about the College of Nursing and the Nursing faculty.

The University of South Carolina's College of Nursing is the 12th largest nursing school in the United States. As a part of the University of South Carolina, the College of Nursing is committed to education, research, and service of the highest quality. It is the intention of the nursing faculty to continually improve the baccalaureate and master's programs and to strengthen faculty research and scholarship as the basis for development of a doctoral program in Nursing. Since I was appointed Dean in August 1981, we have filled nearly all faculty vacancies with nurses holding the Ph.D. The College of Nursing faculty is now over one third doctorally prepared, and we fully expect to be 50 percent by Fall. When one considers that only 45 nurses in the entire state of South Carolina hold a doctorate, it is a remarkable achievement that 30 of them are employed at the University of South Carolina.

Research and scholarship are developing, and grant production has increased from 9 grants in 1981-82 to 36 grants this year, representing a 400 percent increase. Recently we were notified that three federal grants totaling over 1.5 million dollars have been approved, along with several small grants from private foundations. With this kind of achievement, I must challenge Professor Moore's statement "that there has been a rather long standing hesitation on the part of the nursing school to go along with this pilot project." We have an outstanding nursing faculty, and they have demonstrated their ability to meet any challenge appropriate for academicians. I see no evidence of faculty hesitation; in fact, it is sometimes necessary for me to run faster to keep up with them.

Although 7 students participated in a preceptor pilot project in summer school 1981, I am unaware of any discussion or arrangement during my deanship for a pilot internship program in the community hospitals for the senior students, nor do I anticipate any such agreement. Our

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undergraduate students spend 15 to 18 faculty-supervised hours per week throughout five semesters with patients and families in the clinical agencies. This is sufficient time to learn how to be a beginning staff nurse, which is the purpose of the baccalaureate program. We would jeopardize our accreditation status to place "10-15 students in various hospitals for training by the nursing staff." Hospital nursing staff do not usually hold the necessary academic credentials to teach nursing students, nor do they have the time required to teach nursing students. Further there is a state law which prohibits more than 10 non-licensed nursing students with one nursing faculty member at any one time in the clinical practice areas. For these reasons, it is extremely unlikely that any kind of internship would be developed for undergraduate nursing students.

I trust this information more than answers the questions voiced by Professor Moore. Thank you.

/bhc