

## Presentation

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Maria Julieta Calmon Villas-Boas, at that time, Professor at the Bahia School of Nursing and Head of the Medical and Ophthalmology Clinic of the Hospital of the Clinics of Bahia, portrayed her impressions of the student organizations of the nursing schools, in an article published in the journal *Annals of Nursing* in January of 1952.

In her article, she addressed the objectives and characteristics of each student organization, including: *Associação Nacional de Estudantes de Enfermagem* (National Association of Students of Nursing); *Diretório Acadêmico ou Centro Acadêmico e suas comissões* (Academic Board or Academic Center and its Committees); *Junta Administrativa* (Administrative Board); *Juventude Universitária Católica* (Catholic Youth in Universities) and *Associação de Antigas Alunas* (Alumni Association).

Some of the aspects noted in her text were: (1) A poor participation of the working registered nurses as members of the Brazilian Association of Registered Nurses. (2) The emphasis on the adequate preparation of students, that in her view, was achieved through their active participation in these student organizations. (3) The establishment of a favorable position in student political affairs. 4) The adherence to Christian values as the basis for a professional practice with a missionary vision. At the end of her article, Maria Julieta made some recommendations which, at that time, she judged as essential for the students of nursing.

Without a doubt, if we interpret her text today, we have the opportunity to re-evaluate the status-quo of the university political projects and the present student movements, and are able to find the motivation that serves to discuss the purpose of student activism in the nursing area in our time.