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STUDENT CONDUCT & WELFARE COMMITTEE
Recommendation

SR-91-92-98(SCW)

That Special Group Registration be allowed for full-time second-semester freshmen and full-time first and second semester sophomores who are admitted to Marshall University's BSN program and who are currently "in-track."

RATIONALE: See attached report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Special Group Registration. Please note that the recommendation contained in this report includes students who are enrolled in St. Mary's School of Nursing. The Student Conduct and Welfare Committee, at its February 28 meeting, moved that students enrolled in St. Mary's should not be included in the recommendation made to the Faculty Senate.

FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT:

APPROVED BY SENATE: Robert Sweeney DATE: 3-26-92

DISAPPROVED BY SENATE: _____ DATE: _____

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT:

APPROVED: [Signature] DATE: 3-30-92

DISAPPROVED: _____ DATE: _____

COMMENTS:

SR-91-92-98(SCW)

Report on the Meeting of the
Ad Hoc Committee on Special Group Registration
February 19, 1991

Attending: Trish Del Nero, Robert Eddins, Anne Raybon

At the end of the Spring Semester of 1991, the Faculty Senate passed, and the University President approved, Senate Recommendation 90-91-(105)257(SCW), which established general guidelines for allowing certain groups of students, who could demonstrate special needs, to register for classes in advance of other currently enrolled students. At the time, this privilege, which was designated Special Group Registration (SGR), was recommended for only two groups of students -- those who are physically challenged and those who are certified as learning disabled. An Ad Hoc Committee on Special Group Registration, to consist of representatives from the student body, the faculty, and the administration, was formed to evaluate requests from other groups of students wishing to be considered for SGR privileges.

In late January of this year, Dr. Lynn Welch, Dean of the School of Nursing, submitted to the Student Conduct and Welfare Committee a request that nursing students be given SGR privileges. In the past, nursing students were allowed to register for courses in advance of other students. However, in the Spring of 1991, when the Committee discussed Special Group Registration, the School of Nursing (which unfortunately was between Deans at the time) failed to present a document explaining its students' special needs. In the absence of such a document, the Committee failed to recommend continuation of SGR for those students.

The School of Nursing has abided by the Committee's decision this year. However, Dean Welch believes that this has been to the nursing students' detriment, and the Ad Hoc Committee feels that, at least for a select group of nursing students, SGR is the only way the University can meet its educational obligation to these students. After some discussion, the Ad Hoc Committee reached the conclusion that students who are dually enrolled in St. Mary's School of Nursing and Marshall University have the same special needs as students who are enrolled in Marshall's School of Nursing. In the 1960s, the Board of Trustees entered into an agreement with St. Mary's Hospital, in which Marshall agreed to provide academic courses needed by St. Mary's students, who are pursuing a two-year program leading to an R.N. St. Mary's students must be admitted to Marshall before they can enroll in these courses. Therefore,

The Ad Hoc Committee on Special Group Registration recommends that special group registration be allowed for full-time second-semester freshmen and full-time first & second semester sophomores who are admitted to the Marshall University's BSN program and who are currently "in-track." The Ad Hoc Committee also recommends that full-time, first year students who are enrolled in St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing and admitted to Marshall also be allowed to participate in SGR.

Rationale: The Ad Hoc Committee believes that this select group of students¹ should be allowed the privilege of SGR because they fit the criteria established by SR90-91-(105)257(SCW) and presented in bold print below:

A. The students (or their Representative) must demonstrate that their reasons for requesting SGR are significantly different from those of large numbers of other students on the campus.

Many students on campus are required to enroll in courses that are frequently closed due to high demand. This is especially true for courses offered by the College of Science (most notably ZOO 227, which will be listed as BSC 227 in the Fall). However, only freshmen and sophomore nursing students (and certain St. Mary's/Marshall students) are *required* to take these courses in a *specified semester* in order to satisfy requirements for a program into which they have already been *admitted*.

The Ad Hoc Committee believes that once the University has admitted students into a lock-step program, the University has an obligation to provide those students with the *opportunity* to complete that program in a timely fashion. As long as the University remains in dire financial straits, it is impossible to offer enough sections of these courses to satisfy demand. It is true that other students need these high-demand courses. However, they are not required to take them in a specified semester, or they are required to take them as pre-requisites for admission into a program. Nursing students are in a very different situation.

B. The students (or their Representative) must demonstrate that the factors they present as constraints on the scheduling of their classes are beyond their control or that of the academic department or other university unit to which they belong.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Special Group Registration explored other possibilities for making these courses available to the students who most need to take them.

*Mr. Eddins informed us that the Registrar's computer system is not capable of blocking out seats in classes for certain students, thus eliminating one possible avenue for allowing the University to fulfill its obligation to nursing students without giving them the privilege of avoiding the long lines associated with pre-registration at Marshall.

*We also discussed the possibility of designating certain sections of chronically over-enrolled classes specifically for nursing students. However, this practice is not allowed by the School of Nursing's accrediting body, which seeks to ensure that students enrolled in a BSN program receive a well-rounded college experience.

*Unfortunately, the University is not in a position to offer additional sections of these problem courses. Mr. Eddins estimates that four additional section of ZOO 227 in the Fall of each year would provide enough spaces for all students who wish to enroll in the class. Because of faculty, space and money shortages, the University will not provide these additional sections.

¹Other groups of nursing students do not require SGR. Junior and senior level nursing students are only required to register for courses offered through School of Nursing, in which they are guaranteed spaces, and no longer need SGR. First semester freshmen accepted into the School of Nursing or St. Mary's are notified of their acceptance earlier than other students. This will allow them to register for early sessions of summer orientation, ensuring they will get the classes they need. "In-track" students are those who have fulfilled requirements and are therefore currently at the appropriate level in their programs. Students who are "out-of-track" (who may have failed a course or dropped to part-time status, for example) are not included in this recommendation.