

1-31-1991

SR-90-91-(53)206 (SCW)

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**STUDENT CONDUCT AND WELFARE COMMITTEE**  
**Recommendation**

**SR-90-91-(53)206 (SCW)**

That priority registration be available only to physically challenged students and students enrolled in the H.E.L.P. program.

**RATIONALE:** This issue of Priority Registration was addressed by the Student Conduct and Welfare Committee at the request of the Faculty Senate. The Registrar's office provided Student Conduct and Welfare with a list of those groups who are given priority in registration and also reported that to their knowledge there was no specific policy regulating this practice. Student Conduct and Welfare in turn requested that each group provide the Committee with the rationale supporting the need for priority registration for their particular student group. Currently, priority registration is available to the following groups: Physically Challenged students, students enrolled in the H.E.L.P. program, Marshall University School of Nursing students, St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing students, student athletes, Yeager Scholars and John Marshall Scholars. Review of the rationale provided for each group resulted in some interesting findings. While the rationale from each student group was not identical, there were some common supporting statements. The most common rationale among the groups was that due to programmatic limitations (i.e., special seminars, practices, clinical activities) these groups of students had scheduling constraints which limited the number of class periods in which they could schedule classes, therefore priority registration enabled them to register for the specific classes needed in the times in which the students were available. Another rationale given was that certain student groups must provide evidence of satisfactory progress toward a degree. Unique rationales belonged to the Physically Challenged students and the students enrolled in the H.E.L.P. program. These included, respectively, the need to schedule courses in such a way as to allow a physically challenged student the opportunity to develop a schedule which is most suited to their physical need (i.e., scheduling consecutive courses in the same building to minimize travel around campus, scheduling courses in different buildings with enough time between them to enable the student adequate time to travel from one building to another) and to allow the academically challenged student the opportunity to develop a schedule which is most suited to their special academic needs. One of the most compelling arguments in favor of students in the H.E.L.P. program, as opposed to those on academic scholarship, was that these students would be best placed in classes taught by exceptional teachers.

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The Committee felt that there should be an approved policy regulating priority registration. While sympathetic to the problems encountered by students such as the student athletes and those students in special seminars or laboratory assignments, the Committee felt that the reasons provided to substantiate the privilege of priority registration would actually apply to the majority of students enrolled at Marshall University. More specifically, most students attend college for the sole purpose of demonstrating progress to a degree and many programs involve coursework which involves large blocks of time similar to those consumed by practice times or the clinical assignments of the nursing students. Additionally, after examination of the groups and rationales involved, the Committee felt that only those student(s) with compelling reasons for priority registration which were not a result of too few classes being offered to accommodate the number of students requiring them or too few classes being offered at high demand times of the day should be allowed the privilege of priority registration. The only two groups to which this applies were the Physically Challenged students and the students enrolled in the H.E.L.P. program.

**FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT:**

APPROVED BY SENATE: Kathryn Dreyer DATE: 1/31/91

DISAPPROVED BY  
SENATE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT:**

APPROVED: Al B. Friel DATE: 2/14/91

DISAPPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMENTS:**

See "Comments"

Comments on SR-90-91-(53)206 (SCW)

In approving this Faculty Senate recommendation, I want to note that a similar recommendation from Student Government also was influential.

Several groups petitioned this office requesting consideration for priority registration; however, only the needs of the physically challenged and those enrolled in H.E.L.P. distinguished those groups from the total student population in any significant way.

I am accepting the recommendation that priority registration be limited to the two named groups with the understanding that it will be reviewed at the end of the year to determine if it is satisfactory or if it may be creating unnecessary hardship. In line with this, I will appoint a broad-based committee representing appropriate constituencies to (1) evaluate the policy, (2) determine criteria for priority registration consideration and (3) develop a process to be put in place administratively for an annual evaluation of the need for priority registration privileges for other students or student groups who may be identified as having special needs.

I have an immediate concern that learning disabled students not currently served by the H.E.L.P. program will be excluded from priority registration and suggest that a procedure be developed to afford those individuals the same opportunity.