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**STUDENT CONDUCT AND WELFARE COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION**

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That second-semester freshmen and first and second semester sophomore student athletes be given Special Group Registration privileges.

RATIONALE: Lee Moon, Director of Athletics, requested that SGR be reinstated for actively participating student athletes who represent Marshall in inter-collegiate athletics. Mr. Moon cited several reasons for his request. Those the Ad Hoc Committee considered crucial are:

- * New NCAA legislation pertaining to the number of credit hours which must be completed in the course of the academic year, which makes it exceedingly difficult for student athletes to maintain their eligibility. This new legislation specifies that the student athlete must successfully complete 24 credit hours per year towards his/her degree. Only 25% of these hours (9 credits) can be completed during summer sessions. This means that a student athlete must complete 18 credit hours (an average of 9 hours per semester) toward his or her degree during the regular academic year. Additionally, the new legislation requires that a student athlete have certain percentages of course work pertaining to his or her specific degree program completed by certain points in the college career. Specifically, the student athlete must have 25% of his or her course requirements completed before the third year, 50% completed before the fourth year, and 75% completed before the fifth year.
- * Inter-Collegiate athletics requires an extensive time commitment on the part of the student athlete. This time commitment is intensified by the restrictions put on the use of athletic facilities at Marshall. Those facilities are reserved for use by inter-collegiate teams for four hours each day. Many student athletes are required to put in at least this much time at practice each day.

It is recognized that NCAA requirements, as well as problems involved in scheduling facilities for extensive team practice, do pose hardships for student athletes which other students do not face. Although the average full-time student takes a heavier load than the one which is required of student athletes by NCAA regulations, the time commitment involved in practicing for and playing in team sports, and the difficulty which some of our student athletes have with academics, frequently makes it difficult for the student athlete to stay within the new NCAA guidelines concerning numbers of credits completed. Although many students are involved in extracurricular activities which take up a huge amount of time, these are not usually "group activities." A member of student government, for example, might easily put in twenty hours per week, but these hours are more easily scheduled around his or her other activities. The Ad Hoc Committee could not think of any "group activity" which requires as much time as practicing for example, football.

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