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**LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
RECOMMENDATION**

**RETURNED TO COMMITTEE**

**SR-05-06-(01) 46-103 LA**

Recommends endorsement of the attached, "Legislative Agenda of West Virginia Higher Education Faculty in 2006" as prepared by the Advisory Council of Faculty (ACF).

**RATIONALE:**

Endorsement and support of the attached ACF agenda will show solidarity among the colleges and universities regarding important parity issues. These issues, if achieved, will improve faculty parity with peer institutions, West Virginia state employees, West Virginia public school teachers; and give West Virginians the opportunity to obtain state-supported higher education funded at the national average.

**FACULTY SENATE CHAIR:**

FACULTY SENATE: Larry Stibler DATE: 10/10/2005

**UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT:**

READ: [Signature] DATE: 10/13/05

**COMMENTS:** The Executive Committee, at its October 10, 2005 meeting recommends that the three topics be presented as separate recommendations. The committee had reservations about forwarding to the Faculty Senate a recommendation that seeks endorsement of "across the board" topics.

## **ADVISORY COUNCIL OF FACULTY 2006 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

The theme for this year's issues, suggested by Governor Manchin's aid Jay Cole, will be "Higher Education: The Engine of Economic Development." The following issues emanate from the inequities current in Higher Education:

### **Parity with Peer Institutions:**

1. Provide legislative funding for WV higher education at or above the national average, so that our "state located and state assisted" higher education becomes a truly "state supported" system.
2. Provide legislative funding for new faculty positions in order to assure quality higher education programs.

### **Parity with Public School Teachers:**

1. Extend the "K-12" designation in the constitutionally mandated "right of every West Virginian to an education" to include "P-20," in recognition that a college education in today's global world economy is a necessity, not a luxury;
2. Close the 1.5% gap between public education and higher education state retirement contributions.
3. Allow higher education employees the right to serve in the Legislature as do public school employees.

### **Parity with All Other State Employees:**

Put into West Virginia code the Annual Experience Increment pay (AEI) for higher education faculty (amend and re-enact State Code §5-5-1 to include higher education faculty for AEI).