

12-13-2002

SR-02-03-(16) 46 LA

Marshall University

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**LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
RECOMMENDATION**

**SR-02-03-(16) 46 LA**

Recommends that the Faculty Senate, University President, and University Board of Governors actively encourage the Higher Education Policy Commission and state legislators to sponsor a bill that creates a new revenue stream through a cigarette tax hike. This bill would provide secured revenue for the sharing equitably among all of the three state-supported medical schools: the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine at Marshall University, the WVU School of Medicine, and the WV School of Osteopathic Medicine.

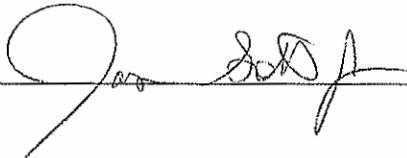
**RATIONALE:**

1. The current cigarette tax rate in the state of West Virginia is among the lowest in the nation.
2. With a tax rate hike on cigarettes, from 17 cents per pack to 55 cents per pack, it could generate new revenue for the state at approximately \$60 million per year.
3. A recent online poll to 1,041 people by The Herald-Dispatch (between November 6 – 7, 2002) revealed that respondents support such a raise of the cigarette tax (with a margin of 60.1% in favor, 39% against, and 0.9% undecided).
4. Using the cigarette tax revenue to support medical education can be well justified by social and health care concerns.

**FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT:**

APPROVED

BY SENATE:



DATE:

12-13-02

DISAPPROVED

BY SENATE:

DATE:

**UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT:**

APPROVED



DATE:

1-3-03

DISAPPROVED:

DATE:

**COMMENTS:**

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