

12-13-2002

SR-02-03-(19) 49 LA

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Recommended Citation

Marshall University, "SR-02-03-(19) 49 LA" (2002). *Recommendations*. 545.
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**LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION**

SR-02-03-(19) 49 LA

Recommends that the Faculty Senate support legislation which will amend Article Six, Section Thirteen of the State Constitution to allow employees of the state higher education system the right to serve in the legislature.

RATIONALE:

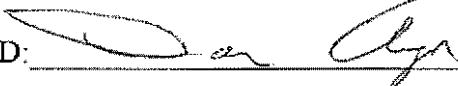
1. State employees are citizens and citizens should be allowed to serve.
2. There is a precedent that public school teachers – though technically not state employees, but who receive the majority of their salaries from state taxes – are allowed to serve.
3. The state higher education system can be better served only when more employees of the state higher education system are serving as its advocates in the legislature.
4. The issue of conflict of interest has often been raised as a reason for disallowing election of state college faculty members to the legislature. It may be observed that lawyers are allowed to be elected and serve, in spite of the fact that their income and well-being is acted upon by the legislature. Other professionals are also able to be involved in discussions affecting their income and well-being. It should also be recognized that some states allow service in the legislature for state college faculty members.

FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT:

APPROVED BY SENATE:  DATE: 12-13-02

DISAPPROVED BY SENATE: _____ DATE: _____

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT:

APPROVED:  DATE: 1-3-03

DISAPPROVED: _____ DATE: _____

COMMENTS: _____

