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SR-99-00-16R (LA)

Marshall University

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**LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION**

SR-99-00-16R (LA)

Recommendation that the Faculty Senate support six hours reassigned time each spring semester for a faculty member to represent faculty interests during the legislative session, and that this person suffer no reduction in salary, provided: 1) adequate notice is given, 2) a suitable replacement is found, and 3) reimbursement of necessary travel and incidental expenses would be provided.

Selection of the faculty representative will be by a mailed secret ballot vote by the *entire* faculty, following a nominating process to be determined by the Faculty Senate.

Issues will be determined by the Faculty Senate, using its usual channels such as recommendations by the Legislative Affairs Committee, motions from Faculty Senators, etc.

RATIONALE:

Representation of faculty interest via a lobbyist is fair, equitable and desirable given that faculty may not serve in the legislature. Currently issues of interest to faculty include those such as PEIA cost increases; tuition waivers for faculty and their families; higher education employees gaining the right to serve in the legislature; post-547 issues; legislatively mandated caps on the percentage of faculty who may be tenured, and more.

It is noticed that WVU has several individuals who serve as lobbyists, *de facto* or officially. Surrounding states have faculty lobbyists. One or two Marshall faculty may be said to be quasi-lobbyists already because they supervise interns at the legislature.

The recommendation above is designed to allow for systematic, evenhanded, formal procedures by which all faculty may have the opportunity to be represented by a lobbyist who is selected by a defensible process in which faculty have confidence.

FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT:

APPROVED: Donna Donathan DATE: 4/4/00

DISAPPROVED: _____ DATE: _____

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT:

APPROVED: _____ DATE: _____

DISAPPROVED: Sam Olin DATE: 4/12/00

COMMENTS:

On 12/16/99, the senate referred back to the Legislative Affairs Committee for the following:

1) more clarification as to the selection of lobbyist, 2) the number of lobbyist, 3) the mechanisms of appointment, and 4) the decision of issues.

On 3/30/00, this recommendation was amended from the senate floor: Deletions are ~~striked~~ out and the additions or changes are in **bold print** as follows: Recommendation that the Faculty Senate support six hours reassigned time each spring semester for a faculty member ~~to serve as~~ lobbyist to represent faculty interests during the legislative session, and that this person suffer no reduction in salary, provided: 1) adequate notice is given, ~~and~~ 2) a suitable replacement is found, **and 3) reimbursement of necessary travel and incidental expenses would be provided.**

Selection of the ~~lobbyist~~ **faculty representative** will be by a mailed secret ballot vote by the *entire* faculty, following a nominating process to be determined by the Faculty Senate.

~~Lobbying~~ Issues will be determined by the Faculty Senate, using its usual channels such as recommendations by the Legislative Affairs Committee, motions from Faculty Senators, etc.

Rationale

Individuals are already designated to represent our institution and these individuals represent all Marshall University constituencies. Our representatives bring history, experience, knowledge of the issues and continuity to our legislative representation. Rather than sending a series of individuals who might offer only a one-dimensional look at the issues, the university speaks with a clear focus, a concise message and one united voice. That is in the best interests of Marshall University.

One other note: in the rational from the legislative affairs committee, it was mentioned that "one or two Marshall faculty may be said to be quasi lobbyists already because they supervise interns at the legislature." Clearly, the purpose of having a legislative internship program is for students to learn more about the legislative process as a part of their education. Their internship should have nothing **what so ever** to do with lobbying.

DDA