



Participation in Political Campaigns

The University of Pittsburgh – Johnstown encourages discussion about politics (issues, candidates, and process) as part of the academic environment. The University has established guidelines and expectations for organized political campaign activity on campus so that a civil and respectful academic environment is maintained. This policy is in accordance with [University Policy 02-03-09 Participation in Political Campaigns](#), Pitt-Johnstown [Code of Conduct](#) and the Pitt-Johnstown Student Registered Student Organization policy

I. SCOPE

This policy establishes regulations on participation in political campaigns by faculty, staff, and students of the University, and supersedes any existing University policy on this subject.

II. POLICY

General Individual members of the University community have a right to participate or not, as they see fit, in the political process so long as there is no conflict with the discharge of their regular duties. The University of Pittsburgh, as an institution, however, does not endorse, support or take positions for or against any political candidate for office and no individual may speak or act in the name of the University in a political campaign.

A voluntary organization consisting of members of the University community (other than groups which have formal responsibilities for governance, administration, or instruction) may adopt resolutions endorsing or opposing a candidate or taking a position on an issue involved in a campaign for the purpose of assisting or opposing a candidate. Such resolutions, whether written or verbal, should clearly indicate that they speak only for their organization and do not state a University position.

University funds, facilities, or services may not be used for any participation or intervention in a political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office, except as provided below. Individual University employees may freely make private political contributions from their own personal funds. They must not, however, allow even an appearance that they are doing so in their official University capacities (for example, by using University stationery to forward a contribution).



These principles are not intended to inhibit or restrict the reporting of student or employee involvement in politics or the expression of editorial views, identified as such, in nonpartisan media such as student publications and broadcasts.

Student Activities Fees In order to ensure the proper expenditure of student activities fees, the following rules shall apply:

Student activities fees shall not be used to fund contributions or honorariums for any candidate running for public office.

Student activities fees shall not be used in whole or in part to pay dues or membership fees to any organization engaged in the support of a candidate running for public office or other political activity.

Endorsements by Recognized Student Organizations Recognized student organizations have the autonomy to make endorsements of candidates provided their membership has been given an opportunity to vote on such an endorsement.

All endorsements by recognized student organizations shall make it clear that the endorsement represents the view of that organization and does not represent a position of the University of Pittsburgh.

Recognized student organizations may set up tables or booths to distribute candidate information only at the following approved locations around the University.

Interior Table Locations

Student Union

Biddle 1st floor common area

Reserve Through

Campus Activities and Engagement

Campus Activities and Engagement

Invitations to Political Candidates to Speak on Campus Candidates for public office may be invited to speak or appear on campus by University affiliated organizations. University facilities must be reserved through the [Conference Services](#) and have the approval of the Vice President for Finance and Administration.

Candidates may appear on campus to make their views known to the University community as an educational program to promote a better-informed citizenry. Such meeting must be open to all members of the University community. Any program involving candidates shall be arranged so that discussion between the candidate and the audience can occur. All points of view shall be permitted to be raised in free and open discussion. All candidates for a particular office shall be given an opportunity to appear on campus subject only to the requirements that their appearance be sponsored by a University affiliated organization.



Candidates shall be charged for all costs incurred by the University arising out of their appearance with are related to their status as candidates, e.g., cost of additional security.

Distribution of Leaflets In order to provide the needed mechanisms for student organizations to participate in campaigns, the following key exterior locations have been approved for leafletting. Under no circumstances will it be permissible to tape, glue, staple, or otherwise affix such literature to University or private property.

- Exterior side walks of the Student Union
- Front and Back Patios of Own Library
- Center area of Campus Mall

Distribution of political leaflets at other campus locations is prohibited except with prior approval of the Director of Campus Activities and Engagement.

Political Rallies With the exception of leafletting in approved locations and the invitation of speakers, as described above, all other kinds of political activities on campus, including rallies, are prohibited.