

ELIZABETH CITY STATE UNIVERSITY
Student Policy on Political Campaign Activity

Preamble

Elizabeth City State University is one of the sixteen constituent institutions of the University of North Carolina System which are deemed public institutions. As a public institution ECSU is prohibited from participating or intervening in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Political intervention includes not only making financial contributions to but also publication or distribution of written or oral statements on behalf of or in opposition to a particular candidate. However, all members of the University community are free to express political opinions and engage in political activities in accordance with policy 300.5.1 Political Activities of Employees in the UNC Policy Manual.

This policy shall govern the manner in which political campaign activities are conducted on campus by/or in conjunction with the University affiliated student organizations.

1. Definitions

Under this policy the following definitions shall apply:

- a. University.** Refers to Elizabeth City State University.
- b. University affiliated student organizations.** Groups that are formally part of the University such as student clubs and organizations that have been officially recognized by the Office of Student Affairs.
- c. Unaffiliated organizations.** Groups that are not defined as University affiliated organizations, even though some of the members or participants may be University personnel and students.
- d. Fund raising.** Includes the charging of admission, solicitation for funds, sales, or donations in any form including raffles and drawing by a recognized student club or organization, University affiliated organization, or a non-university affiliated organization.
- e. Solicitation.** Any effort or attempt to (a) importune, entreat, implore, ask, attempt to try to obtain an order or to invite a business transaction for a product offered or being sold; (b) seek orders, subscriptions, political or charitable contributions, or any other kind of financial support; or (c) distribute literature, handbills, sample or other printed material for the purpose of advertising products, services, or other commercial enterprises to members of the University community.
- f. Solicitor.** Any person or entity that engages in solicitation.

- g. Political campaign activity.** The solicitation of campaign contribution, service in furtherance of candidates, political parties and political action committees, and advocating a particular position a referendum, but also promoting action on issues which have become highly identified as dividing issues between the candidates.
- h. Facilities.** Buildings and grounds owned or controlled by the University.

2. Purpose

This policy is for the following purposes:

- a.** To preserve the University's right to regulate University affiliated student organizations political campaign activities and solicitation activities on its property; and
- b.** To protect the campus community from political campaign activities and solicitation activities that are disruptive , unrelated to the University's mission and educational purpose, or incompatible with the normal operation ; and
- c.** To enable the University to enforce compliance with the state's statues governing political activities on University campus and University's policies.

3. General Guidelines

Under this policy the following guidelines will apply:

- a.** Candidate forums or debates may be held on campus as part of the University's educational mission as long as all qualified candidates are invited to participate.
- b.** Candidates may be invited to appear on campus in a non-candidate capacity, e.g. to participate in a class, provided that no campaigning or fundraising is done at the event and a non-partisan atmosphere is maintained and /or to present an award or monetary gift to University.
- c.** A University affiliated student organizations may use University facilities for partisan political purposes and be willing to take responsibility for any cost that may occur.
- d.** The University affiliated student organizations must be in compliance with 500.3.14 Student Activity Admission Policy, 500.3.1.3 Student Fundraising Policy and 500.6.3 Promotion Policy for Student Events and Activities.
- e.** The University affiliated student organizations must adhere to 500.3.16 Reservation Policy when making reservation for the event which includes completing an Activity Request Form and selecting the appropriate venue.
- f.** Fundraising for any candidate running for political office is prohibited in accordance with 500.3.1.3 Student Fundraising Policy.
- g.** Courses at the University may require students to participate in the political campaign. However, the students have the right to choose and vote for the candidate of their choice.
- h.** Student publication may run editorials expressing the editors' views on candidates for public offices; provided that the publication's editorial policy is free of editorial control by University administrator or faculty advisors. A statement on the editorial page must indicate that the views expressed are those of the student editors and not of the University.

- i. Voter registration and “get out to vote” drives by the University affiliated student organizations must be done on a non-partisan basis and they may not focus on a particular party.
- j. The following disclaimer must be included in all written materials, advertisement, and announced at the beginning of all events: “Elizabeth City State University does not endorse or oppose any political candidates. The views expressed are those of the candidate (s) only. The University affiliated student organization is sponsoring the event.”
- k. Any communication disseminated through the University e-mail system that could be construed as relating to political activity must include a clear statement that such communication represents the personal position of the author.

4. Prohibitions as to Students

The following are prohibited for student use for any political campaign:

- a. Elizabeth City State University or school banners may not be displayed;
- b. University’s bulk-mailing privilege;
- c. University mailing lists-including the addresses and e-mails addresses of departmental offices or the offices of faculty or other employees;
- d. University provided office supplies, telephones, facsimile machines, computers, copiers, printers and/or other institutional resources;
- e. Posting information on the University administered website that is favorable to one candidate or issue or posting a hyperlink on a University administered website to a candidate or campaign site;
- f. Federal and State laws restrict gifts and honoraria for public officials, including meals and tickets to sporting events.