

MEMORANDUM

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To: University Community
From: Robert L. Potts, Chancellor
Date: June 24, 2008
Re: Political Campaigns

Currently, and during the weeks and months ahead, we will see increased interest in local, state and national political campaigns. Employees at ASU-Jonesboro are fully entitled to support the candidates of their choice in any way they wish, on their own time, but the use of one's university position or resources is prohibited by our long-standing policy concerning political campaigns and individual involvement. This policy is also required by the tax laws relating to the tax-exempt status of non-profit entities. The ASU policy is available for review in the online Policies and Procedures Manual at: http://finance.astate.edu/operproc/ADM_Political_Camp.htm.

Faculty and staff should not involve the university name, logo, imagery, mascot or any other form of identification in a way that would suggest a university endorsement of a particular candidate or issue.

Those who direct or advise student groups and organizations have a particular responsibility to ensure that the students and their university association are not used for political purposes.

Some university facilities are available to community groups for a fee; such facilities must be made available equally to any group, as long as applicable university policies are followed. So, we welcome political speakers and candidates on campus, so long as it is clear that the university does not support any one candidate or party.

Healthy debate about public issues and candidates is an important part of the educational enterprise. We should support the political process through our individual involvement, but it is very important that the university maintain a position of neutrality in political races. Thanks so much.

R.L.P.
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