

Political Campaigning Guidelines

The UWM Student Union Reservations and Event Planning office will regard all events involving an individual campaign for public office (municipal, regional, state and federal) as an external event regardless of the affiliation of the sponsor(See Guidance on Political Activity at UW System Institutions II.2). These events will be subject to charges concurrent with facilities use by persons or organizations not associated with the institution. Although university sponsorship is required for these events, these sponsorships will not effect the client/billing status of the reservation (see UWS 21.04). Allowances will be made to accommodate space reservations for such events in the Student Union during the 2 regular academic semesters (Fall and Spring) as an exception to the REPS space reservation policy. Under no circumstances will any client or campaign be allowed to fundraise within the UWM Student Union (See REPS Policy Major Event Space Usage).

Forums and debates involving various office holding or office seeking individuals will be allowed, and can be reserved by any university department or organization (See UW Extension Admin. Policy – Laws and Policies Surrounding Political Campaign Activities #3). The client/billing status for these events will be determined by the UWM Union REPS office and UWM Union administration based on the origin of the event, source(s)of funding and the amount of involvement by the university sponsor (See UWM Use of Facilities Policies and Procedures S-23, IVc).

Reference Materials:

UWS 21.04 Use of facilities by persons or organizations not associated with an institution (2) : Persons or organizations using university facilities under this section must reimburse the institutions for the costs, if any, incident to the use of the facilities.

Guidance on Political Activity at UW System Institutions II. Guidance for UW Students and Recognized Groups.

#2 In accordance with UW System Financial and Administrative Policies (F20) and consistent with campaign finance law, student groups cannot use segregated fees to make direct gifts, contributions or donations to political campaigns or candidates.

WI State statute Chapter 11.36 Political Solicitation involving public officials... (3) Every person who has charge or control in a building, office or room occupied for any purpose by this state...shall prohibit the entry of any person into that building, office or room for the purpose of making or receiving a contribution.

UW Extension administrative policy – Laws and policies Surrounding Political Campaign Activities of University Employees.

#3. Institutions are encouraged to arrange campus tours for legislators and candidates, and sponsor candidate forums to promote discussion of higher education and other important issues. However, campus administrative officials should avoid sponsorship of, or of official involvement in, political events which are designed to benefit one candidate over another...UW institutions can organize events whos primary purpose is to foster knowledge of higher education, but cannot support activities when the primary purpose is the electoral effort of an individual.

Political Events...can be sponsored by organizations...that are recognized by a UW institution...as long as [they] meet the requirements governing the use of campus facilities...

#4. Fundraisers for a candidate for political office cannot be sponsored by an institution or held at a University facility...A fundraiser sponsored by a student organization and held in a [university owned residence(s), dormitory(s), dining hall(s) and lounge(s)] is permissible.