

University Activities

Employee Activities

University Activities

Employee Activities

AGENDA

Political Activities

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Office of Legal Affairs
Legal Symposium - Fall 2008

AGENDA

- *University Activities*
- *Employee Activities*
- *Potential Consequences*

DISCLAIMER: THIS PRESENTATION IS ONLY A GENERAL OVERVIEW. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

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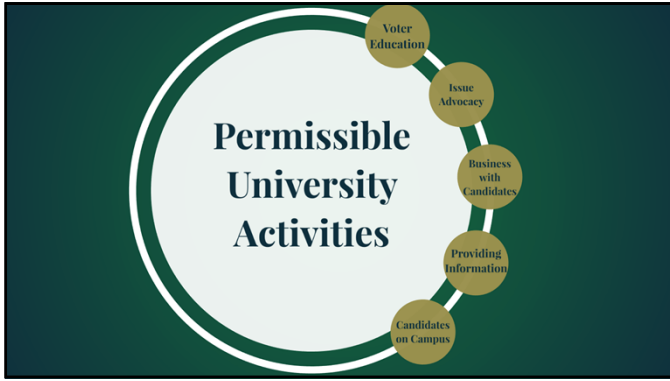
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Voter Education and Registration

1. Voter Guides, Candidate Questionnaires, and other Voter Education Activities
2. Voter Registration Efforts, Polls, Get-Out-The-Vote
3. Websites and Online Information

Voter Guides, Candidate Questionnaires, and other Voter Education Activities

1. Guide is made available to the public
2. Contains no editorial opinion, and content and structure implies no bias or candidate preference
3. Assess position on wide range of subjects

Voter Registration

Cannot target voters of a particular party or help a specific candidate

Conducting Polls and Disseminating Results

Questions must be framed neutrally and accepted polling techniques used

Get-Out-The-Vote

Cannot favor a specific party or candidate

Websites and Online Information

- UNC Charlotte can provide links to a candidate's official website, but must have links to all candidates for that office

- Links must be presented in a neutral manner

- Online information must be neutral and provide information on all candidates for that office





Issue Advocacy

- UNC Charlotte may engage in issue advocacy. This is limited to non-political, public policy issues.
- Distinct from endorsing a political or partisan cause.

Example: Advocating for a more sustainable future

CAUTION

Cannot:

- Identify candidates by name
- Express approval or disapproval for a candidate
- Make specific reference to voting

Issue Advocacy near an election can be tricky



Engaging in Business with a Candidate

1. Goods and services may be sold, leased, or provided to candidates if they are made available to every candidate
2. The goods or services must generally also be made available to the public
3. Charges and fees must be fair-market value and usual rates to public
4. Activities must be ordinary ongoing activities, not specifically created for candidates

Permissible University Activities



Information and Data

UNC Charlotte may provide factual information and data to political candidates.

UNC Charlotte should make it clear that the University will not be identified with any candidate or political party and the data must be made equally available to all candidates

For example, research and economic data, or any educational information on other topics.



Hosting Candidates on Campus

Campaigns:

- Equal Opportunity
- No Fund Raising
- Non-Affiliated Group

Debates:

- Non-Partisan Panel
- Broad Topics
- Equal Opportunity



Hosting (Non)Candidates on Campus

Political candidates may speak on campus if:

- Expert in a non-political field
- Holds (or held) public office
- Distinguished military, legal or public service career

**No campaign activity can occur*
**Clearly state that the individual is not appearing a political candidate and there is no mention of an upcoming election*

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Endorse

Participate

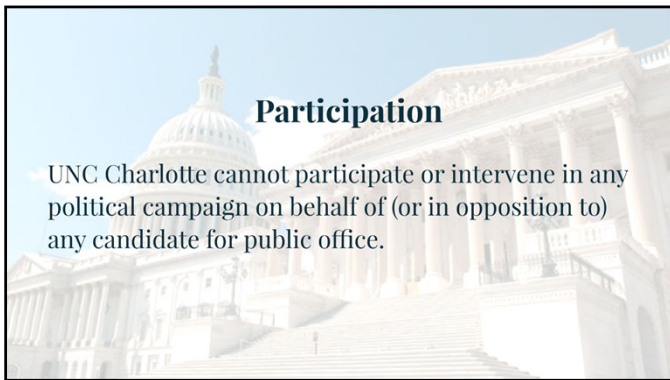
Lobbying

Prohibited University Activities

Endorse

UNC Charlotte cannot endorse any political party, candidate, or cause







Lobbying

UNC Charlotte cannot engage in substantial quantities of lobbying for purposes of influencing legislation

Note: Contact the Office of the Chancellor and Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Constituent Relations before engaging in any lobbying activities

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Permissible Employee Activities

Participate

Classroom Activity

Employees can participate in civic activities...

- Registering to vote
- Becoming an candidate (consistent with University Policy)
- Solicit, accept, receive, and make campaign contributions
- Participate in elections
- Participate in political campaigns or organizations

However,

All activities must be conducted independently from the employee's UNC Charlotte employment



Teaching

Permissible Activities also include teaching, inquiry, and classroom discussion on political issues within the subject matter of the course

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Prohibited Employee Activities

- Employment Time
- UNCC Resources
- Perception
- Misuse Authority

University Time

What does this mean?

An employee cannot participate in a political activity, including managing a campaign, during a period of time s/he is expected to perform services for UNC Charlotte

Prohibited Employee Activities

Employment Time

UNCC Resources

Perception

Misuse Authority

Employees Cannot Use UNC Charlotte Resources for any Political Activity

In other words...

What does this mean to you?

UNC Charlotte Vehicles = **NO**

UNC Charlotte Office Mailings = **NO**

UNC Charlotte Printers/Scanners/Copiers = **NO**

UNC Charlotte Email = **NO**

Prohibited Employee Activities

Employment Time

UNCC Resources

Perception

Misuse Authority

Participation

Employees must make it clear that they are participating as an individual and not on behalf of the University

Senior Officers

It's all about perception...

Senior Officers at UNC Charlotte (Chancellor, Provost, Vice Chancellors, and Deans) cannot:

- Solicit, accept, or receive financial contributions from other persons or organizations on behalf of a candidate
- Endorse or oppose a candidate for a partisan political office in a political advertisement, broadcast, campaign literature, or similar material

Prohibited Employee Activities



Misuse of authority --

- Employees may not inappropriately use their authority to secure support for, or opposition to, any person or issue in any election
- Employees cannot use their authority to coerce, solicit, or compel another UNC Charlotte employee to support, contribute, or oppose a political candidate, party, or cause

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Enforcement

- Loss of Tax Exempt Status
- Excise Tax Liability
- Criminal Misdemeanor
- Policy Violations can lead to University Disciplinary Action

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