Rule Statement

As a state-supported institution of higher education, Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) is required to remain neutral in political activities. The University recognizes the constitutional rights and privileges of individual faculty, staff, and students concerning freedom of speech and participation in political events. While PVAMU encourages the free exchange of ideas and will protect freedom of speech, the University maintains its right to impose reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions regarding political activities in University facilities.

Reason for Rule

This Rule provides guidance governing the use of PVAMU facilities for political activities and events.

Official Procedures and Responsibilities

1. INSTITUTIONAL NEUTRALITY

   1.1 PVAMU will remain neutral in regards to any partisan political activity. The University will not endorse, support or promote any political candidate or any partisan political activity. Furthermore, all University employees including faculty, staff, and students should avoid any behavior that could reasonably be interpreted as official University endorsement or support of political candidates or partisan political activities.

2. DISCRIMINATION BASED ON POLITICAL VIEWPOINT

   2.1 PVAMU will not discriminate against any organization or individual on the basis of political affiliation or doctrine, nor will it favor any political organization or doctrine over another.

3. USE OF UNIVERSITY FUNDS, SERVICES, OR FACILITIES

   3.1 In accordance with System Policy 07.03 Conflicts of Interest, Dual Office Holding and Political Activities, no PVAMU employee shall expend or authorize the expenditure of any University funds, services, or supplies for the purpose of influencing the outcome of any election, or partisan political activity.
3.2 Political candidates or non-institutional affiliates are not permitted to reserve University facilities for political campaign events.

3.3 Recognized student organizations, faculty, and staff groups may reserve University facilities for speakers or programs related to political events on campus. University organizations/groups desiring to sponsor such an event must complete a Request to Schedule an Event/Program/Sales/Solicitation Form and submit it to the Office of Student Engagement for approval prior to the event.

3.4 All approved political events held on campus are subject to the guidelines within University Administrative Procedures 61.99.99.P0.03 Freedom of Expression and 41.01.01.P0.01 Use of University Facilities.

4. VISITS BY CURRENT POLITICAL OFFICEHOLDERS

4.1 In any circumstance where the nature of an officeholder’s visit is not clear prior to arrival, University officials should use their best efforts to determine in advance if the officeholder will be engaging in any partisan activities during the visit. The President or designee may request a written statement from the sponsoring campus organization to clarify the nature of the visit.

5. USE OF SYMBOLS, INSIGNIA, AND OTHER IDENTIFYING MARKS

5.1 PVAMU prohibits the use of its name, logos, symbols, insignias, or other identifying marks in the endorsement, support, or promotion of political candidates or partisan political activities.

6. SPONSORSHIPS OF POLITICAL EVENTS BY RECOGNIZED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS OR FACULTY/STAFF GROUPS

6.1 Recognized student organizations and faculty and staff groups may sponsor candidates for political office or current officeholders to speak at a University event in accordance with all applicable University requirements. In sponsoring a partisan political activity on campus, a recognized student organization or faculty/staff group must be responsible for seeking the appropriate approvals for any space requests, communicating and collaborating with the appropriate University officials about the event. On days when a venue is being used as a polling site, all campaign materials must be at least 100 feet from any entrance.

7. DISCLAIMER STATEMENT

7.1 PVAMU reserves the right to require that a statement be made prior to the presentation of any speaker or on promotional materials that the views expressed by the speaker are not necessarily those of Prairie View A&M University, The Texas A&M University System, or the sponsoring group.

Related Statutes, Policies, Regulations and Rules

System Policy 07.03 Conflicts of Interest, Dual Office Holding and Political Events

System Regulation 07.03.01 Political Campaign Events in Facilities Under the Control of The Texas A&M University System
UAP 41.01.01.P0.01 Use of Facilities

UAP 61.99.99.P0.03 Freedom of Expression

Contact Office

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