

Student Organizations & Political Campaign Activities Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can student organizations get involved in campaigning for an issue or candidate if they choose?

Student organizations are free to express their views about the parties and candidates, and to urge voting for particular parties or candidates, and to sponsor events for candidates as long as they comply with rules governing use of university facilities.

2. What are the rules for governing use of university facilities?

Conduct that obstructs or impairs university-run or university-authorized activities, or that interferes with or impedes the ability of a person to participate in university-run or university authorized activities are prohibited.

For example, student organizations may reserve booth spaces to distribute to and/or collect information from people who voluntarily choose to participate. Student organizations may not interfere with the normal functioning of the university community (e.g. block hallways, use sound-enhancing devices, etc.).

Door-to-door canvassing is not permitted in the residential facilities on campus.

3. Where can student organizations set up informational booths related to political campaigns (Union, residence halls, other facilities, etc.)?

Union and other campus booth spaces: To reserve booth spaces, contact Reservations at 465-2462.

Residence halls: Space may be reserved in the Housing and Residential Education Community Center for distributing materials and collecting information from students. To reserve space, please contact Housing and Residential Education at 465-2040 and housing@uwgb.edu.

4. Where can student organizations put up posters?

Posters may only be affixed to public bulletin boards. In most cases, you will not post posters yourself. Deliver posters to the following locations:

You Post & Remove: (9)

- Instructional Services: Board to Right of Entry to IS1004
- Student Services: Board in hallway between Student Services and Theatre Hall
- Mary Ann Cofrin Hall: Board near MAC113
- Wood Hall: Board near WH102
- Rose Hall: Board in walkway to Circle Entrance (East & West)

- Theatre Hall: Walkway between Theatre Hall and Studio Arts
- Cofrin Library: Walkway between Student Services and Cofrin Library (*both sides= 2*)
- Lab Science: Entry from Walkway between Environmental Science and Lab Science

You Drop Off & They Post: (62)

- 3 Kress Events Center Desk
- 53 Community Center of Residence Life
- 4 University Information & Ticketing Center/University Union
- 1 Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs (MESA) Front Desk
- 1 Mauthe Center

1-Take to the OSL office – they need this for confirmation that events are done

1-To Keep (Place in org records for reference)

5. Are there restrictions on poster content?

Student organizations are free to express their views about the parties and candidates, to urge voting for particular parties or candidates, and to sponsor events for candidates.

Posters must identify sponsoring organization and contact information.

Posters promoting events must include the following statement: If you have a disability and would like to discuss accommodations, please contact the Student Engagement Center at 465-2720.

6. Can student organizations put information in students' mailboxes on campus?

No. Those mailboxes only accommodate individually addressed mail.

7. Can student organizations write messages in chalk on campus sidewalks?

Yes, as long as they follow these regulations: The chalking area may be used for a maximum of eight calendar days, and it cannot be within 15 feet of any entrance. The sponsor must be clearly stated in the message. Chalking must be located outside of any apron, overhang, or area that is not exposed to the weather and not on any building, sign, structure or wall. Chalking is not permitted in front of the Weidner Center. Chalking cannot interfere with or overlap someone else's chalking.

8. What are funding issues related to political activities and student organizations?

a) State law prohibits the use of state-owned buildings for political fund-raising.

- b) Student groups may not use segregated fees to make direct gifts, contributions, or donations to political campaigns or candidates.
- c) Student organizations may use segregated fees to support their own expressive activities and views on public policy issues and other interests.

Student organizations are encouraged to arrange non-partisan events, such as campus tours for legislators and candidates, as well as to sponsor forums in which political figures or candidates may debate one another.

Student organizations are encouraged to help educate and inform students about upcoming elections, including urging students to exercise their right to vote.

This document was prepared by the Office of Student Life, in consultation with UW System policy and UW-Green Bay departments (November 2011). Contact sec@uwgb.edu or 465-2720.

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