

Policy 600.5 – Student Political Groups & Campaigning

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Issuing Office: Administration & Finance

Date Revised:

Approved By:

References: UMW Policy 600.4

I. POLICY

Students may form University-recognized partisan and/or issue-oriented groups for the purposes of political awareness and campaigning subject to certain restrictions.

II. PURPOSE

Participation in the political process is both a right and obligation of all citizens and is encouraged on the part of our students, faculty and staff. As a public institution, Montana Western has a special obligation to allow political appearances by candidates and to be impartial in its relationship with all candidates seeking political office. The following policy guidelines for student political groups are directed to those ends.

III. PROCEDURES

Montana Western supports the development of "political awareness" groups of a partisan and/or issue-oriented nature, such as, the College Democrats or College Republicans, etc.

Such groups may be eligible for official status and potential funding through the normal procedures of the ASUMW Student Senate. However, any monies distributed to these groups from the University or ASUMW may not be used for the direct solicitation of support or opposition for any candidate or ballot issue (with the exception of ASUMW elections) or for political fundraising. Any outside funds used for these activities may not be deposited in the same account as monies distributed by the University or ASUMW.

IV. AUTHORITY

UMW Policy 600.4 Political Campaigning and Solicitation Policy is in force.

All property of the University of Montana Western (UMW), including all of the buildings and improvements thereof, is the property of the State of Montana and is under the jurisdiction and control of the Board of Regents of Higher Education of the Montana University System. All UMW property is managed for the specific purpose of fulfilling the educational mission of UMW as a State-supported institution of higher education. Accordingly, the use of UMW property and facilities is subject to all applicable state and federal laws, the policies of the Board of Regents, and UMW policies.

V. RESPONSIBILITY

Vice Chancellor for Administration & Finance/Student Affairs, Facilities Services Office, ASUMW Student Senate, Dean of Students, Chancellor, Provost/Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs