



Date: March 21, 2016
To: Executive Council, Deans and Directors, Department Heads
From: Chris Boswell, Vice President for Governmental and Community Affairs
Re: Political campaigns – use of facilities

The 2016 election season is upon us, and more than a few candidates have already announced that they are running, while others will make their intentions known in the coming weeks and months. It seems appropriate, therefore, to offer a reminder about existing policy regarding electioneering activities at UW. This memo borrows very heavily from a 2014 version penned by Mike Massie when he was UW's Director of Governmental Relations.

As a starting point, candidate forums, candidates visiting UW on their own to meet with members of the university community, and general course discussions typically do not raise issues of concern. This memo should not be interpreted as applying to these types of activities. Nor should this memo be perceived as limiting a candidate's ability to interact with students, staff and faculty in public areas of campus. Candidates have rights, just like the rest of us.

In contrast, when a candidate or a candidate's supporters want to reserve university facilities for exclusive use related to the campaign, please keep the following in mind:

1. UW Regulation 2-178 allows use of university facilities by external parties or individuals for "political campaigning by or for candidates who have filed for public office or for ballot measures" only with the expressed authorization of the UW president or the president's designee. Persons who have publicly announced their candidacy, even if they have not filed, should be considered candidates and thus fall under the provisions of this UW Regulation.
Here is a link to the regulation: http://www.uwyo.edu/generalcounsel/_files/docs/uw-reg-2-178.pdf
2. External users may be assessed fees, charges and deposits for use of university facilities. External users may use designated bulletin boards to advertise their events.
3. UW students, faculty, staff and recognized student organizations (RSOs) are considered external users under UW Regulation 2-178 when acting in a capacity as private citizens or in a manner unrelated to university purposes--such as campaigning for a candidate or hosting events at UW for such a candidate.
4. University facilities do not include the common areas of campus which typically are not reserved for use, such as Prexy's pasture.
5. The Wyoming Union schedules and rents breezeway tables through its events office. In accordance with UW Regulation 2-178, the President has approved the use of Union tables and rooms by political candidates and candidate campaign groups, subject to the Union's rules. As such, no specific approval from the President is necessary for use of Union tables and rooms, however registration and standard charges established for external users may be applicable.

If contacted by a political candidate or an organization that seeks space in a building or facility under your authority, I recommend you direct the requestor to the Wyoming Union Coordinator at 766-3161 to schedule space in the Wyoming Union. As noted above, the use of other facilities requires specific UW presidential approval. If you have questions, please call (766-2238) or e-mail chris.boswell@uwyo.edu.

cc: Dick McGinity, President
Crystal Bennett, Manager, Central Scheduling