

University of Wyoming Guidance on Campaign E-mails

In the past, University of Wyoming employees have received e-mails from political campaigns, raising questions about the appropriateness of getting these messages. There have also been inquiries about whether UW sells or otherwise makes available its e-mail lists to political candidates or causes.

A number of companies across the country compile lists of e-mail addresses to sell to political campaigns. Campaigns, political parties and political action committees may also develop their own lists from a variety of sources. However, it is important to emphasize that UW does not furnish its employee e-mail lists to outside organizations, nor can we stop their collection since e-mail addresses appear on the University's web site as well as on a number of public documents.

UW's e-mail system filters some SPAM, but some mass mailings still make it to employees' inboxes. If employees receive unsolicited e-mail election messages or literature, they can delete it or unsubscribe but should not forward it to other employees.

E-mails that originate from UW accounts are another matter. UW employees cannot use the UW e-mail system, as well as any other equipment or resources of the university, for electioneering purposes. In addition, campaign materials should not be forwarded to promote candidates or causes.

If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact Chris Boswell at chris.boswell@uwyo.edu.