

Lehigh University Student Organization Policy on Political Activity

The university, as an educational institution, is concerned with the pursuit of truth, the development of the intellect, and the acquisition of knowledge. Its aims are not political. Political activity on college campuses is wholesome and worthwhile educationally if truth is sought, the intellect is developed, and knowledge is acquired. Hence, the university's greatest contribution to political activity lies in its ability to stimulate rational debate on the confusing and perplexing issues that face our nation today.

Based upon these principles, the following guidelines delineate political activity for the Lehigh community, pointing out which activities are germane to the university and which are not.

Political Activity and the Use of the University's Name

While all members of the university community have a right, in fact, an obligation as responsible citizens, to engage in political activity, such efforts should not be done in the name of Lehigh. Applicable federal law makes it abundantly clear that the university may not "participate in, or intervene in"...political campaigns; further, "no substantial part" of the activities of the university may be directed toward influencing legislation. (See Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.)

Hence, both individuals and groups affiliated with Lehigh engaged in political activity are duty-bound to make it clear that they do not speak on behalf of Lehigh.

Lehigh Political Clubs, Organizations, Committees, etc.

The University permits students and faculty to organize voluntary political clubs. These clubs are self-supporting and are permitted to exist insofar as they engage in lawful activities. Indeed, as these organizations provide the opportunity for rational debate of issues on the campus, they are encouraged to flourish. Senate recognized political organizations must follow all Senate Allocations guidelines and the policy on [Fundraising and Sales](#) when raising or spending funds. Further, they are obligated to point out to donors that contributions are going to a political club and, therefore, are not tax exempt. Student political groups that are not recognized by Student Senate must also work with the Office of Student Involvement and will need the sponsorship of a recognized club to reserve space or host events or other activities on campus.

Use of University Facilities for Political Meetings

Lehigh political clubs may use university facilities by requesting space on 25live. No spaces will be set aside for political clubs or organizations for their exclusive use on a long-term basis. Groups not affiliated with the university should contact Conference Services

at 610-758-5306 or inocs@lehigh.edu for information on and all associated costs. Groups not affiliated with the university be charged for the use of facilities. External non-affiliated groups will only be accommodated if the space has not been requested by a Lehigh organization. In all cases (both Lehigh and non- Lehigh groups), the policy of assigning space will be even handed.