

## **07.03.01.R1 Political Campaign Events on Campus**

Approved June 24, 2005



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### **Rule Statement**

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As a state-supported institution of higher education, Texas A&M University-Commerce remains neutral in political activities. Individual faculty, staff, and students continue to enjoy the constitutional rights and privileges concerning freedom of speech and participation in political events.

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### **Reason for Rule**

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This rule identifies the extents and limits of the university relative to political affiliations, doctrines, campaigns, or events held on campus.

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### **Procedures and Responsibilities**

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#### **1. ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATES AND OFFICEHOLDERS**

Texas A&M University-Commerce may not endorse, recommend, or otherwise indicate political support for any candidate for an elected office, or for any current officeholder of such an office.

#### **2. DISCRIMINATION BASED ON POLITICAL VIEWPOINT**

Texas A&M University-Commerce will not discriminate against any organization or individual on the basis of political affiliation or doctrine, nor will it favor any political organization or doctrine over another.

#### **3. POLITICAL CAMPAIGN EVENTS ON TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-COMMERCE PROPERTY**

3.1 Political Campaign Meetings or Speeches. Student organizations that are officially chartered and currently registered with the Texas A&M University-Commerce Campus Activities' Office, and faculty or staff groups that are recognized by Texas A&M University-Commerce and which meet on campus,

may invite candidates for political office or current officeholders to speak at the group's meeting.

3.2 Political Campaign Advertising. Advertising for all off-campus political campaigns is limited to "open board" posting areas on campus. Off-campus political campaign materials may not be placed in or on the grounds or on automobile windshields or utility poles. Officially chartered and currently registered student organizations may create and post advertisements for their events including on-campus political speakers, provided their names and the dates of their events are clearly printed on all materials. In the event a campus is used as an official polling place, the official elections and campaign rules and regulations of that election will supersede Texas A&M University-Commerce political campaign advertising regulations.

#### 4. CURRENT OFFICEHOLDERS

When a holder of a political office visits Texas A&M University-Commerce, the officeholder shall be afforded all due respect and courtesies to which the officeholder is entitled. However, the officeholders may not engage in any partisan political activities, including campaigning for themselves or on behalf of others, unless they comply with the preceding Section 3 of this rule. If the nature of an officeholder's visit is not clear prior to arrival, university officials should use their best efforts to determine in advance if the officeholder will be engaging in any partisan activities during the visit.

#### 5. USE OF SYMBOLS, INSIGNIA, AND OTHER IDENTIFYING MARKS

Subject to the preceding Section 3 of this rule, the use of any symbol, insignia, or other identifiable mark of Texas A&M University-Commerce or The Texas A&M University System in association with any partisan political activity, including campaigns by political candidates, is prohibited.

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### **Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements**

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System Policy [\*07.03 Conflicts of Interest, Dual Office Holding, and Political Activities\*](#)  
System Regulation [\*07.03.01 Political Campaign Events on Property Under the Control of The Texas A&M University System\*](#)

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### **Contact Office**

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