

IHCC Policy 3.10 Election Activities on Campus

Part 1. Policy Statement.

One of the State of Minnesota's objectives for public higher education is to "promote democratic values and enhance Minnesota's quality of life by developing understanding and appreciate of a free and diverse society" (M.S. 135A.011). Inver Hills Community College promotes democratic values through educating the college and the broader community about the election process, voter registration, civil discourse, and related matters. In order to effectively carry out this mission, Inver Hills Community College remains non-partisan. College resources may not be used to advance the interests of any political party or candidate.

Policy Procedures:

I. CLASSES/PUBLIC MEETINGS ON CAUCUS/ELECTION DAYS

A. Caucus Day Restrictions

No event, including classes, may be scheduled after 6:00 p.m. on the day of a major political party precinct caucus, unless advance permission is received from the Board of Trustees. Minnesota Statutes section 202A.19, subd. 3 (2008).

B. General Election and Primary Day Restrictions

On general election, primary days, and other election days within the political subdivision in which is Inver Hills Community College is located, no events may be scheduled between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., other than regularly scheduled classes. Classes regularly scheduled during those hours may be held as usual. Minnesota Statutes section 204C.03, subd. 2 (2008).

II. COMPUTERS/TECHNOLOGY USE

A. Web-site Links to Political Candidates are Prohibited

Inver Hills Community College websites may not include links to a weblog or website maintained by a political candidate, party, or committee. Minnesota Statutes section 10.60, subd. 3(b) (2008).

B. Contact with Elected Officials

Employees may use System computers to communicate with elected officials "provided this use, including the value of the time spent, results in no incremental cost to the state or results in an incremental cost that is so small as to make accounting for it unreasonable or administratively impracticable." Minnesota Statutes section 43A.38, subd. 4 (2008).

C. Political Activities

Employees may not use System information technology for political activities prohibited by law. MnSCU Board Procedure 5.22.1, Part 5, subp. C and D.

III. EMPLOYEES

A. Solicitation of Funds

Employees are prohibited from soliciting or receiving funds for political purposes, directly or indirectly, during hours of employment. Minnesota Statutes section 43A.32 (2008); MMB Administrative Procedure 32.

B. Use of Position to Influence Others

Employees may not use their official authority or influence to compel another person to apply for membership in or become a member of a political organization, or to make or promise to make political contributions, or to engage in any political activity. Employees may not use their position to gain advantages for an organization with which they are associated that are different from those available to the general public. Minnesota Statutes sections 43A.32, 43A.38, 211B.09 (2008); MMB Administrative Procedure 32.

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V. FACILITIES USE

A. Candidate Forums

Inver Hills Community College may host public forums in which registered candidates for a particular office who meet objective criteria are invited to participate. Participating candidates should be given equal opportunity to speak or answer questions. Information about appropriate time, place, and manner can be found in the Student Activism Policy and the Facilities Use Policy.

V. VOTER REGISTRATION

Inver Hills Community College makes voter registration forms available to each student as early as possible in the fall semester and consults with the Student Senate in determining the most effective way to distribute voter registration forms and facilitate Election Day registration of students. Collected forms are sent no later than 21 days before the general election to the Secretary of State. Minnesota Statutes section 201.1611 (2008).

Related Documents:

- M.S. 10.60, subd. 3(b)
- M.S. 43A.32
- M.S. 43A.38, subd. 4
- M.S. 135A.011
- M.S.202A.19, subd. 3
- M.S. 204C.03, subd. 2
- M.S. 211B.09
- MnSCU Board Procedure 5.22.1, Part 5, subp. C and D
- MMB Administrative Procedure 32

Responsible Administrator: Chief Human Resources Officer

Policy History:

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Last Revision date: NA

Date most recent policy revisions go into effect: 07/2010

Date and Subject of Revisions:

11/21/2016 – changed to new template, assigned policy number.