Guidelines for Political Student Groups

The Center for Student Engagement has developed the following guidelines for GW political student groups ("PSGs") and any similar politically active organizations recognized by the university. These guidelines are meant to jointly recognize GW students’ active participation in the political process and GW’s institutional obligation, as a non-profit entity, to remain neutral in the political process.

All PSGs, regardless of candidate, political party or political action committee ("PAC") affiliation, are prohibited from:

1) Coordinating university fundraising with the fundraising for any candidate for public office, political party, PAC, or any similar politically active organization.

2) Reimbursing GW administrators, faculty, or staff for campaign contributions.

3) Permitting candidates for political office to use GW facilities (including, but not limited to, mailing lists, office space, telephones, copy machines) to support the candidate or a campaign, political party, or PAC.

4) Placing GW registered visual trademarks (logos) on any communications (including, but not limited to, mailings, flyers, online, and social media).

   a. Any PSG communications must unambiguously convey that messaging is on behalf of individual students or their PSG, and not GW. PSGs should include disclaimer language on their OrgSync profile, website(s), and social media profiles as follows: “The views expressed herein are purely those of the [PSG’s Name], and its individual members, and do not necessarily represent the views of the George Washington University.”

   b. All group logos and merchandise, excluding flyers and posters, produced by the PSG should be approved by the office of Licensing and Trademark Programs (ltp@gwu.edu) in accordance with student organization guidelines.

In addition, all PSGs must utilize the following standard naming convention when created to support an individual candidate: "GW Students for XX" or "Students for XX." No other PSG naming convention will be recognized by GW.

Questions should be directed to Anne Graham, assistant director of student involvement at awein@gwu.edu or 202-994-0177. PSGs should also work closely with their assigned staff advisor to ensure compliance with these guidelines and other policies governing registered student organizations.