UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
FACILITIES USE POLICY

SUBJECT: Use of University of Wisconsin-Madison Facilities for Political Purposes

POLICY OF: University of Wisconsin-Madison

DATE: July 2005, April 2004; August, 1978

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Under specific conditions, student organizations, political parties or candidates for public office may reserve University facilities for political purposes. A political purpose includes any action taken to influence the nomination, election, or re-election of an individual to public office, or to influence the vote in a referendum." (sec. 11.01 (16) Wis. Stats.) The Wisconsin Statutes, Board of Regents’ regulations and UW-Madison rules all affect the ways in which University facilities may be used for political purposes.

1. Of primary importance is the principle that activities with political purposes may not occur in conjunction with any efforts to accomplish the University's statutory mission of instruction, research, extended training and public service.

2. Student organizations may use University facilities only for events that are primarily for students, faculty and staff. Student groups may invite candidates for public office to speak in University facilities with no limit in the number of appearances by a candidate. All publicity for such events must state that attendance is limited to students, faculty and staff and that the events are not open to the public.

3. Student organizations may use University facilities for revenue generating events only after completing an explicit agreement with the University office responsible for reserving the facility to be used. It is the responsibility of the sponsoring group to comply with any applicable state and federal election laws concerning contributions for political purposes.

4. In all advertising and publicity, the status of a registered student organization as a student organization must be clearly and prominently noted.

5. Political parties and candidates for public office may reserve University facilities for public meetings as follows:

   Leaders of political parties and candidates for public office may hold public meetings on campus, if facilities are available, and subject to necessary routine procedures administered by the chancellor or his designee.
During an election campaign, such as the primary or general election, each recognized candidate for public office may hold one public meeting at a University auditorium. In addition, each political party may hold one public meeting at a University auditorium on behalf of its candidates for national office, and one public meeting on behalf of its candidates for statewide office.

State conventions of recognized political parties may also use University facilities. Members of the audience should be given a reasonable opportunity, in appropriate situations, to ask questions at the end of the presentation.

If you have further questions, please contact the Director of the Central Reservations Office, 262-5168.