

**THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM  
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER RULES**

---

---

**07.03.01.Z1 Institutional Neutrality and Political Campaign Events on Health Science Center Property or Using HSC Resources**

*Approved February 14, 2002*

*Approved by HSC President on September 16, 2009*

*Approved by Executive Committee on July 13, 2011*

---

---

Supplements System Regulation 07.03.01

**1. GENERAL**

As a state-supported institution of higher education, The Texas A&M University System Health Science Center (HSC) will protect the freedoms of speech, expression, petition, and peaceful assembly while maintaining its right to regulate reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions concerning acts of expression and dissent.

**2. INSTITUTIONAL NEUTRALITY**

In order to maintain its integrity as a public institution, the HSC expects all faculty, staff, and students to avoid any behavior that could reasonably be interpreted as official HSC endorsement, support, or promotion of political candidates or partisan political activities. Nothing in this rule should be construed to limit the right or ability of any member of the HSC community to express personal opinions in accordance with System Regulation 07.03.01, or to exercise the right to engage in political activities outside official capacity or affiliation with the HSC.

No HSC component may endorse, recommend, or otherwise indicate partisan political support for any candidate for an elected office, or for any current officeholder of such an office. This does not prohibit the HSC from participating in the policy-making process by educating legislators and agency officials about the impact and implications, whether positive or negative of proposed or existing actions or policies by the State of Texas.

**3. USE OF FACILITIES**

The HSC prohibits non-institutionally affiliated entities from using its facilities for political purposes.

- 3.1 Subject to 3.3 and 3.4, political candidates (either incumbents or new office seekers), members of their staff, or their campaign representatives are not permitted to utilize HSC resources or facilities in such a way that would involve the endorsement, support, or promotion of political candidates or partisan political activities.

3.2 Current office holders are welcome to visit any HSC campus, and this rule does not apply to activities that are strictly related to the performance of that person's official duties. These visits will be coordinated by the Office of Governmental Affairs, and during such visits, the office holder shall be afforded all due respect and courtesies to which their office entitles them. However, during these visits, the officeholder should not engage in any partisan political activities while on campus.

3.3 All areas where expressive activity takes place are subject to reasonable time, place and manner restrictions. In an effort to ensure safety and to promote an environment conducive to study, advanced reservation for expressive activity is required (in a form approved by HSC) for events or activities that are promoted in advance and/or sponsored by student organizations, and/or expected to draw a crowd of more than 25 people. Advance reservation is also required for activities near intersections, and/or in close proximity to academic buildings anytime classes, and/or study activities, and/or research are taking place. In sponsoring a partisan political activity on campus, a recognized student organization must do the following: accept the responsibility to comply with all applicable sections of the Student Handbook, demonstrate to the Office of Student Affairs the financial ability to sponsor the event, assume direct responsibility for coordinating the event with appropriate HSC officials, meet all costs associated with the event, and pay for any and all damage to the university property resulting from the event.

#### 4. USE OF RESOURCES

Individuals are not permitted to utilize HSC facilities or resources, including websites or email systems in such a way that would involve the endorsement, support, or promotion of political candidates or partisan political activities.

No HSC employee shall expend or authorize expenditure of any HSC funds, services or supplies for the purpose of influencing the outcome of any election, or partisan political activity.

#### **Office of Responsibility**

Vice President for Governmental Affairs