

Guidelines for Student Groups and Political Candidates

Federal Law states that, “In order to maintain their tax-exempt status under 501(c)(3), private colleges and universities must not engage in prohibited political campaign or lobbying activity. Failure to follow these proscriptions could result in a loss of tax-exempt status for the institution, or imposition of an excise tax” (The Catholic University of America-Campus Legal Clearinghouse).

- Student Organizations that wish to invite a politician to campus must first receive approval from the Director of Student Activities prior to extending the invitation.
- Student Organizations must not show support for a particular political candidate. When extending an invitation to campus, student organizations should invite each candidate running in that office.
- Debates and Public Forums are allowed on campus as long as the Student Organization and University refrains from supporting, endorsing or opposing a political candidate or party.