UNIVERSITY POLICY
CAMPUS VISITS BY CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE

POLICY
It is the policy of Slippery Rock University to foster free inquiry and to encourage the timey discussion of a wide variety of issues. Political campaigns may have events on campus as long as the University does not endorse the campaign, it is open to campaigns from all candidates and parties, and University funds are not used to support the campaign. Groups and/or individuals inviting candidates to campus should notify the Public Affairs Office prior to the visit.

RATIONALE
This policy provides the terms and conditions under which the University permits political campaigns to have events on campus including topics such as maintaining institutional neutrality, paying for the cost of events and the official point of contact for major events such as in presidential campaigns. The policy ensures that the University is in compliance with federal and state law, protects the University's tax status, and protects the institution from political entanglements.

As a state supported University, federal tax law requires the University to remain politically neutral and prohibits any participation, directly or indirectly, in the campaign of any candidate or political party. While Slippery Rock University welcomes all political candidates and parties, it cannot support, endorse or promote any political candidate.

As a public institution of higher education, Slippery Rock University acknowledges its role in educating students and serving the community as a venue for the exchange of ideas. In fulfilling this responsibility, Slippery Rock University is committed to the free exchange of ideas and opinions, and encourages its students, faculty and staff to exercise their vote and participate in the democratic process. The University is dedicated to protecting the freedoms of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly while maintaining its ability to impose reasonable time, place and other restrictions on any campaign events.

PROCEDURE
(1) Equal opportunity for all candidates

Slippery Rock University will provide political candidates or their supporters opportunities to speak at University's facilities, so long as a similar opportunity is made available to all candidates. Official student groups may reach out to campaigns to host political events on campus under the conditions described in this policy.

(2) Point of contact

If recognized student groups, such as student political organizations, wish to host an event on campus they must contact the Public Affairs Office to describe the event and the suggested venue. In cases where the number of participants is not large, the group will asked to have the event in the Smith Student Center following standard Center guidelines for hosting external events.
If a candidate or campaign contacts a University faculty member, staff member, or administrator in their official capacity, that person must contact the Public Affairs Office who will engage with the candidate or campaign on the nature of the event, the anticipated size of the event, the anticipated media coverage and other aspects such as may be required for elected officials, presidents and former presidents, or candidates for the position of president of the United States.

(3) Coordination with other units on campus

The Public Affairs Office will contact other offices, personnel and officials on campus as required by the nature of the event. Such offices may include legal affairs, communication, facilities services and the Slippery Rock University police department.

(4) Use of University resources

The University shall not authorize the use of any University funds, services or resources for the purpose of affecting the outcome of any election.

(5) Costs for the use of University facilities

Candidates and/or their supporting organizations must reimburse the University for expenses related to room set-up and clean-up and any damages resulting from the event. However, the University may provide resources toward expenses related to the event that are in the best interest of the University, such as making minor cosmetic improvements in space that may be viewed by a national audience. "SRU" branding of the event may occur where appropriate.

(6) Use of University facilities for political campaign advertisements

University facilities shall not be used for the production of political campaign advertisements.

(7) Liability

The University will not be liable for any accidents or incidents occurring during the campaign event.

(8) Other

The president of the University may grant exceptions to this policy. Such exceptions will be in writing.

**SCOPE**

This policy applies to all students, faculty, staff and administrators of the University who are acting on behalf of the University. Nothing in this policy should be construed to limit one's ability to express personal opinions or restrict one's right to engage in political activities. However, when an affiliate of the University participates in political activity it must be done outside of his or her affiliation with the University.

**RESPONSIBILITY**
The Public Affairs Office is responsible for the implementation of this policy.

Authority for creation and revision:

University Cabinet: 2008