
Type:	C - Institutional	Last Approved: March 15 2012
Executive Responsibility:	Vice-President Administration & Finance	Next Review: Sept. 2015
Administrative Responsibility:	Manager, Human Resources	Procedure:

STATEMENT:

This policy is intended to cover Municipal, Regional, Provincial and Federal political campaigns.

As citizens of the community, VIU employees have the right to engage actively in the political process.

It is recognized that the University’s mission of education is fundamental to a democratic society; however, public trust requires that the University and its resources not be used to promote partisan political causes and candidates.

The following general guidelines will help employees understand the boundaries of involvement in the political process.

1. Employees may speak and act as individual citizens but must not say or imply that their views represent the views of the University. An employee may use his or her University title only for purposes of identification but may not imply that the University endorses or agrees with the employee’s statement or activity. If there is a chance of confusion, the employee should clarify that he or she is speaking individually and not as a representative of the University.
2. Employee participation in political activities in support of candidates must be done on their own time and with their own equipment and resources.
3. Requests for leave without pay to participate in a political campaign can be made as per the employee’s collective agreement, or, in the case of administrative employees, directly to the employee’s supervisor.
4. Permissible activities may include hosting an all-candidate forum at VIU or conducting a series of events intended to educate the campus community on candidates and issues relevant to an upcoming election are permissible providing there is no disruption to the learning or operating environment. Use of VIU facilities and equipment will be subject to rental and equipment fees.

Employees involved in political campaigns should also review:

- [Policy 41.05](#) Presentations on Campus
- [Policy 44.06](#) Rental of University Facilities