

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BOARD POLICY

7.20030 BP

STUDENT POLITICAL ACTIVITY

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- I. The district, in order to carry forward its programs of acquainting students with their future responsibilities as adult citizens of a community, will encourage interest and appropriate participation of students, both on- and off-campus, in the political activities and issues of local, state and national government.
- II. Caution will be exercised to assure that district staff members are impartial and do not, through their encouragement of student participation, propagandize their own beliefs. It is recognized that the adviser of a political party club, by the very nature of such sponsorship, will be in a position requiring a stated political position. The adviser is expected to display enthusiasm as sponsor of the club, but should demonstrate discretion expected of a staff member of a public community college.
- III. The following guides shall apply:
 - A. Campus political party organizations made up of students will be permitted. The central committee of the major parties will be notified of this prerogative.

Such student political organizations must conform to the same college requirements and controls as all other college approved activities.
 - B. School publications, when dealing with political issues or candidates, will not editorially endorse any political party, candidate, or issue without providing equal opportunity for divergent views.
 - C. Nonpolitical student organizations that support any off-campus issue or candidate shall make it clear that the statement is the opinion of a campus organization and must also state whether this opinion is acclaimed by the entire organization, by a majority of the members, or merely by the leaders of the organization.
 - D. Campuswide polls to determine opinion on candidates and issues will have prior approval of, and will be conducted in a manner approved by the student government body. The results of such polls will not be given publicity as an official poll or opinion of the college or the district.

The guidelines stated above are not intended in any way to alter the principles of academic freedom as expressed in board policy.

Adopted: Board of Trustees
May 19, 1975
Reviewed: November 22, 2005