

## UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH POLICY 05-06-05

**CATEGORY:** FINANCIAL AFFAIRS  
**SECTION:** Funds Management  
**SUBJECT:** Political Contributions  
**EFFECTIVE DATE:** September 13, 1992  
**PAGE(S):** 1

### I. SCOPE

This policy establishes regulations on the use of University funds for either direct or indirect contributions to political campaigns, and applies to administrators, faculty and all other employees of the University functioning in their official University capacities and/or with University funds.

### II. POLICY

The University, as a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, is expressly prohibited from making political contributions or participating in political campaigns in any way. No University funds, including monies in "special" or "discretionary" accounts, may be used to make political contributions or participate in political campaigns, even if the private donor consents to such use of the funds. This ban on use of University funds for political contributions or activities applies to purchasing tickets for political dinners, publishing statements on behalf of candidates, and other such "indirect" contributions.

A violation of this prohibition could have very serious consequences including jeopardizing the University's tax exemption. For this reason, any employee found to have violated this policy is subject to disciplinary action.

Individual University employees may make private contributions from their own personal funds to political parties and candidates. They may not, however, allow even the appearance that they are doing so in their official University capacities.

### III. REFERENCE

[Policy CS 10, Participation in Political Campaigns](#) (formerly 02-03-09)