

I.G. President's Statement on Political Fund-Raising

Sept 23, 1999

Political Fund-Raising/Campaign Activities by Members of the UB Community

As the November election draws near, it is appropriate to remind ourselves of several important parameters pertaining to political fund-raising and other campaign activities by or among university personnel. These parameters are found in state law and it is essential that UB employees stay within them.

This message is not intended as a comprehensive review of existing laws regarding political activities by state employees, but it will provide guidelines for appropriate and inappropriate behavior. Your attention to and compliance with the following points are greatly appreciated:

- There must be a clear separation between political campaign activities and the performance of duties as employees of the State University of New York. Political activities, including fund-raising, may not be conducted on university property or time, using university funds (all sources), or in UB's name.
- No political fund-raising tickets may be sold, purchased or transferred on campus, inside or outside of buildings. Similarly, no money or checks may be paid or collected on campus for such purposes.
- Moreover, university employees are prohibited from soliciting political contributions off hours and off campus from other university employees, if such circumstances give either the reality or appearance of coercion. UB personnel should not solicit such contributions, nor attempt to compel any other political action or vote, from those individuals over whom they have supervisory authority.
- No university telephones, faxes, supplies, letterhead, postage or other state resources of any kind may be used for political purposes.

These and other restrictions are primarily contained in Section 74 of the Public Officers Law, Section 107 of the Civil Service Law and Section 17-158 of the Election Law. Copies of these New York State laws are available for pickup at the circulation desk of Lockwood Library and the Law Library on the North Campus and at the circulation desk of the Health Science Library on the South Campus. It is important to understand that, pursuant to state law, political activities on state

time or property may subject employees to criminal prosecution and the loss of employment.

We encourage members of the UB community to take an active part in the political processes of our country, but such activity should be pursued as individuals and within proper parameters as established by the laws of the State of New York. Thank you for your close attention to these issues and complete compliance with applicable restrictions.

Sincerely,
William R. Greiner
President