Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees  
October 21, 2008

SUBJECT: Political Activity (FGCU-PR5.014)

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approve revisions to university regulation.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The regulation, Political Activity, is being updated to reflect procedural steps outlined in an existing policy. This addition to the regulation would allow for the elimination of the policy. This regulation is also being revised to address campaign activity.

All state universities are required to utilize the Board of Governors’ Regulation Development Procedure. This updated FGCU measure assists in handling matters based upon today’s current practices and expectations.

Supporting Documentation Included: Notice and Political Activity Regulation (FGCU-PR5.014)

Prepared by: Director of Human Resources Steven Belcher

Legal Review by: General Counsel Vee Leonard (09/12/08)

Submitted by: Vice President for Administrative Services and Finance Joe Shepard
FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY

NOTICE OF REGULATORY ACTION
September 12, 2008

REGULATION TITLE:
Political Activity

REGULATION NO.:
FGCU-PR5.014

SUMMARY:
The regulation, Political Activity, is being updated to reflect requirements for employees who desire to pursue public office, as well as campaign activity on University property.

FULL TEXT:
The full text of the regulation being proposed is attached and can also be found at http://www.fgcu.edu/generalcounsel/promulgation.asp

LAW IMPLEMENTED:
Section §§104.31, 110.233, 112.313 Florida Statutes

UNIVERSITY OFFICIAL INITIATING THE PROPOSED REVISED REGULATION:
Steven Belcher, Director, Human Resources

UNIVERSITY OFFICIAL APPROVING THE PROPOSED REGULATION:
Dr. Joseph Shepard, Vice President for Administrative Services and Finance

PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED NEW REGULATION:
Diane St. John, Administrative Assistant, dstjohn@fgcu.edu; (239) 590-1101 (Phone), (239) 590-7470 (Facsimile); 10501 FGCU Blvd. South, Fort Myers, FL 33965-6565

ANY COMMENTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED NEW REGULATION SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 26, 2008 BY 5:00 P.M. THE COMMENTS MUST IDENTIFY THE REGULATION ON WHICH YOU ARE COMMENTING.

THIS NOTICE WAS POSTED ON THE FGCU WEBSITE ON: SEPTEMBER 12, 2008.
REGULATION: FGCU-PR5.014

Political Activity

Effective Date of Regulation: 01-15-08

(1) Any employee of the University may seek election to, and hold, public office upon prior notification to the University President of his/her intentions and shall adhere to the provisions of Section 104.31, Florida Statutes. The written notification must be provided in advance of any announcement of intent to hold public office, must address how the political activity will impact the employee’s normal duties and responsibilities, and whether the political activity will involve interests which conflict or interfere with their employment at the University. Such notification shall be provided in advance of the announcement for public office.

(2) If an employee selects to seek election to run for public office and such action is determined by the President determines that the employee’s candidacy or service will materially interfere with the full discharge of the employee’s duties, then the employee must submit a request for a leave of absence or resignation. The President’s written determination will be forwarded to Human Resources for inclusion in the employee’s official personnel file.

(3) All employees shall adhere to the provisions of Section 104.31, F.S.

(a) If an employee desires to campaign on campus, that employee must register with the Office of Campus Reservations.

(b) Campaign signage on University property regarding a public office is prohibited.

(c) While on duty, no employee shall coerce or attempt to coerce, command, advise or influence any other employee’s position on an issue or person on the ballot.

(d) No employee is prohibited from participating in any political campaign during the employee’s off-duty hours, so long as such activities are not in conflict with the law.
Specific Authority
§240.227(1) FS.
Law Implemented:
§§104.31, 110.233, 112.313, 240.227(1)(10) FS.
History of Rule:
New 4-17-97
History of Regulation:
New 1/15/08, Amended
Effective Date of Regulation
January 15, 2008