|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **UPEI Student Union** | **Policy Number****UPEISU 31** | **Revision #: 2** |
| Policy TitleUPEI Student Union Executive Non-partisanship | Pages1 of 2 |
| Creation Date July 17, 2015 | Version Date January 6th, 2019 | Review Date Summer 2019 |
| Authority: UPEISU Council | Responsibility: Ombudsperson |

Preamble

The UPEI Student Union’s external advocacy acts as a voice for its membership on the Municipal and Provincial levels of government. Therefore, independence and impartiality are of vital importance to the credibility of the UPEI Student Union among its stakeholders.

Not only must the UPEI Student Union be independent and impartial, but it must also be perceived as such. Therefore, it is essential that UPEISU executive members avoid engaging in partisan activities in their roles as executives of the UPEI Student Union.

If an executive wishes to be involved in partisan activities, statements, or messages, that executive member must clearly state that such activity, statement, or message is exclusively in a personal capacity and not reflective of any Student Union affiliations that an executive member has.

1. Partisan Activity
	1. A partisan activity is any activity that provides direct or indirect support or opposition to any political party at any time, whether during an election period or not, or to a candidate for public office.
	2. Examples of partisan activity
		1. *Seeking to become a candidate in a provincial election*
		2. *Publicly endorsing a candidate or party for office*
		3. Publically giving money or non-cash gifts to a candidate or political party, either directly or indirectly, outside of standard diplomatic practises.
		4. Allowing a candidate or political party to use UPEI Student Union equipment, facilities, volunteers, or other resources in an impartial manner
		5. Making public statements that support or oppose a candidate or political party
		6. Suggesting or convincing people to support or oppose a candidate or political party

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **UPEI Student Union** | **Policy Number****UPEISU 31** | **Revision #: 2** |
| Policy TitleUPEI Student Union Executive Non-partisanship | Pages2 of 2 |

* + 1. Using the UPEI Student Union website or social media to post any links to statements made by a third party that support or oppose a candidate or political party
		2. Posting signs that support or oppose a candidate in a political party
		3. Distributing literature or voter guides that directly promotes or opposes a candidate or a political party
1. Supporting or Opposing Policy
	1. UPEI Student Union executives may support or oppose a policy that is also supported or opposed by a candidate or political party, but UPEI Student Union executives must do so in a non-partisan manner.
	2. When supporting or opposing a policy, the UPEI Student Union executives should focus on the policy itself, and be cautious to not connect its views to any candidate or political party.
2. Dealing with Partisan Activities
	1. Given that a breach of this policy would also be a breach of the Executive Bylaw, the situation would be investigated by the Ombudsperson and presented to Council.
	2. On first offence, a verbal warning will be issued to the councillor by introducing a motion to censure the offending party.
	3. On second offence, the council will take a majority vote to issue a written warning to the offending party. If a majority vote succeeds, then the Chair will write and distribute the warning to the offending party.
	4. On the third offence, termination/impeachment will be considered as an appropriate reprimand for the recurring behaviour.