

ANNUAL POLICY NOTIFICATION MEMORANDUM

TO: All University of New Mexico Students, Faculty, and Staff

FROM: UNM Compliance and the Office of Government and Community Relations

SUBJECT: Annual Policy Notification Regarding Political Activities

As part of our annual policy notifications series, we encourage you to review the following UNM policies that pertain to political activities/policy advocacy.

The University of New Mexico encourages all members of the University community to be informed and engaged in the political process. However, during the coronavirus pandemic, our access to legislative and executive branch members and staff has been, and will continue to be, conducted mainly through electronic means. UNM fully supports campus-based activities and programs, when public health orders allow, that provide community members a forum through which to participate in the democratic process. Please be aware, however, that UNM maintains policies regarding political activities.

The Office of Government and Community Relations oversees all central, health sciences, and branch campus political activities at the federal, state, county and city levels. We are here to advance the priorities of The University of New Mexico to these governmental entities and to support all of our students, faculty, and staff relative to political activities. These policies do not address every potential situation. We want to work with you, so please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Barbara Damron, Chief Government Relations Officer, with any questions you may have regarding these policies and permitted political activities. Please feel free to contact Dr. Damron at 505-280-9072 or via email bdamron@salud.unm.edu.

UNM Policies Related to Political Activities:

- Regents' Policy Manual - Section 6.5: Political Activity by Employees <https://policy.unm.edu/regents-policies/section-6/6-5.html>
- UAP 2050: Government Relations and Legislative Action <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2050.html>
- UAP 2060: Political Activities <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2060.html>
- C150: Political Activities of UNM Faculty <https://handbook.unm.edu/c150/>

UNM Regents' Policy on Political Activities by Employees – RPM 6.5

All University employees have the right to engage in political activities so far as they are able to do so consistent with their obligations to the University, and in accordance with applicable law. In order to ensure its autonomy and integrity, the University shall not be an instrument of partisan political action. The expression of political opinions and viewpoints will be those of the individual and not of the University as an institution. Under state law, employees of the University may not serve as members of the New Mexico Legislature.

This policy applies to all employees (faculty and staff) of the University.

- To review the complete Regents' policy, please see: <https://policy.unm.edu/regents-policies/section-6/6-5.html>

UNM Policy on Government Relations and Legislative Action – UAP 2050

Federal, state, and local support is extremely important to the teaching, research, and public service

mission of the University. Through this support, the University can enhance current programs and develop resources to support future programs. To ensure effective development and management of federal, state, and local government support and compliance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations, the Office of Government and Community Relations must coordinate the University's contacts with elected officials and lobbyists. In determining legislative priorities and other related activities, the Office of Government and Community Relations consults with a broad cross section of the UNM community.

- To review the complete policy, please see: <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2050.html>

UNM Policy on Political Activities – UAP 2060

The University recognizes and approves the right of free speech and expression of opinion on any subject by any member of the University community, whether the subject relates to on- or off- campus issues. Those who speak or act shall do so in their personal capacities and not in the name of the University, unless there has been specific authorization by the administration to do so.

In order to assure its autonomy and integrity, the University shall not be an instrument of partisan political action. The expression of political opinions and viewpoints must clearly be those of the individual and not of the University.

This policy applies to faculty, staff, and students and addresses the appropriate use of space and resources for political activity on all of the University's campuses.

- To review the complete policy, please see: <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2060.html>

UNM Hospitals Policy on Political Activity – HR 85

It is the policy of the University of New Mexico Hospitals to recognize the right of free speech and expression of opinion by any member of the Hospitals community. Unless authorized by the Hospitals CEO, no employee shall act on behalf of the Hospitals or any associated organizations. The Hospitals shall not be instruments of partisan political activity. All expressions of political opinions and viewpoints will be those of the individual and not the Hospitals. Like any other personal, non-official undertaking, political activity must be done on the employee's own time. Employees may request annual leave to engage in such activity.