



BOARD OF REGENTS OF
THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA

CHANCELLOR SONNY PERDUE
270 WASHINGTON STREET, S.W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

PHONE: (404) 962-3000
FAX: (404) 962-3013
EMAIL: CHANCELLOR@USG.EDU

February 13, 2025

Presidents
University System of Georgia
sent via email

Dear Presidents:

The Board of Regents (BOR) of the University System of Georgia (USG) convened for its scheduled meeting on February 11, 2025. During this meeting, the following BOR policies were revised.

Campus Affairs

- **Board Policy 6.14.1 In Political Campaigns**
- **Board Policy 6.14.2 By Unaffiliated Outside Parties**

The attached Exhibit provides background information on the policy revisions and also shows the language added / removed from the policy sections. Questions regarding the revisions to the BOR policies should be directed to Chris McGraw, Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs. Mr. McGraw may be reached at chris.mcgraw@usg.edu.

Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Chancellor

Enclosures

cc: Tracey Cook, Chief Fiscal Officer
Teresa MacCartney, Chief Operating Officer
Dr. Costas Spirou, Interim Chief Academic Officer
Ashley Jones May, Chief of Staff and Vice Chancellor for External Affairs
Dr. Angela Bell, Vice Chancellor for Research and Policy Analysis
Dr. Timothy Chester, Chief Information Officer
Jeff Davis, Vice Chancellor for Fiscal Affairs

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Karin Elliott, Vice Chancellor for Human Resources
Dr. Scot Lingrell, Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs
Chris McGraw, Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs and Secretary to the Board
Sandra Neuse, Vice Chancellor for Real Estate and Facilities
Jenna Wiese, Vice Chancellor for Internal Audit, Chief Audit Officer
Laura Lynch, Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Programs and Policy
Josiah Heidt, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Legal Affairs
Wesley Horne, AVC Compliance, Chief Ethics Officer
Institutional Chief Business Officers
Institutional Provosts
Institutional Chief Human Resource Officers
Institutional Legal Officers
Institutional Audit Directors

Exhibit
BOARD OF REGENTS POLICY MANUAL
Revised Policies with Markup
Meeting of February 11, 2025

Revisions to Board of Regents Policy Manual, Sections 6.14.1 In Political Campaigns and 6.14.2 By Unaffiliated Outside Parties

Background:

Current Board policy allows for political campaigns to use institution facilities for political speeches, subject to certain limitations. Current policy separately provides requirements for use of institutional facilities and property by unaffiliated outside parties generally. The proposed revisions would align these two sections to make clear that the requirements for use of institution facilities and property apply to all outside parties in the same manner, regardless of the reason for the use and also make clear that institutions should take reasonable steps to ensure that use of facilities or property by a political campaign does not create the appearance that the institution supports the political candidate or cause. Finally, the proposed revisions make clear that this use of facility policy is separate from institutions' policy and legal obligations related to the unrestricted outdoor areas of campus covered by Board Policy Section 6.5.2.

Effective Date:

The effective date of this policy revision is February 11, 2025.

Former Policy Language:

6.14 Use of Institutional Facilities and Property

6.14.1 In Political Campaigns

The President of each University System of Georgia (USG) institution may authorize the use of institution facilities for political speeches; however, such use shall be limited to meetings sponsored by recognized organizations of the institution and shall be held only at places designated by the President.

The use of USG materials, supplies, equipment, machinery, or vehicles in political campaigns is forbidden.

6.14.2 By Unaffiliated Outside Parties

An outside party may request permission to use a USG institution facility for an event that is not contrary to the mission of the institution; however, in such instances, the President of the institution shall require the completion of a USG-approved license agreement, including a properly executed indemnification and liability insurance agreement unless said outside party is constitutionally prohibited from doing so.

Revised Policy Language in Change Tracker

6.14 Use of Institutional Facilities and Property **By Unaffiliated Outside Parties**

A University System of Georgia (USG) institution may allow unaffiliated outside parties to use institution facilities for events that are not contrary to the mission of the institution. In such instances, the institution shall require:

- (i) reasonable compensation for use of all USG or institution resources required for the event; and
- (ii) the proper execution of a USG-approved license agreement. Such license agreement shall include appropriate indemnification and liability insurance provisions, unless said outside party is constitutionally prohibited from doing so.

All decisions related to use of institutional facilities open to any unaffiliated outside party must be made without regard to the content or viewpoint of the unaffiliated outside party's planned expressive activity.

Such use of an institutional facility may include a political campaign or similar event. An institution's facility use process must follow [BOR Policy 6.4](#) on Political Interference and [BOR Policy 8.2.18.3](#) on Employee Political Activities. Institutions should undertake reasonable efforts to ensure that no USG or institution trademarks or insignias are used or displayed before, during, or after the event unless otherwise approved by the Chancellor or designee. Incidental or inadvertent display of USG or institution trademarks or insignias during a campaign event shall not be deemed a violation of this policy and does not imply an endorsement of a political candidate or cause.

Use of institutional facilities under this policy is separate from, and does not qualify as, an institution's designation under [BOR Policy 6.5.2](#) on Institution Freedom of Expression Policies of certain accessible, high-traffic locations on campus as public forum areas for individuals or groups who are not members of the campus community. Use of institutional facilities by unaffiliated outside parties is also subject to reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions.

New Policy Language:

6.14 Use of Institutional Facilities and Property By Unaffiliated Outside Parties

A University System of Georgia (USG) institution may allow unaffiliated outside parties to use institution facilities for events that are not contrary to the mission of the institution. In such instances, the institution shall require:

- (i) reasonable compensation for use of all USG or institution resources required for the event; and
- (ii) the proper execution of a USG-approved license agreement. Such license agreement shall include appropriate indemnification and liability insurance provisions, unless said outside party is constitutionally prohibited from doing so.

All decisions related to use of institutional facilities open to any unaffiliated outside party must be made without regard to the content or viewpoint of the unaffiliated outside party's planned expressive activity.

Such use of an institutional facility may include a political campaign or similar event. An institution's facility use process must follow [BOR Policy 6.4](#) on Political Interference and [BOR Policy 8.2.18.3](#) on Employee Political Activities. Institutions should undertake reasonable efforts to ensure that no USG or institution trademarks or insignias are used or displayed before, during, or after the event unless otherwise approved by the Chancellor or designee. Incidental or inadvertent display of USG or institution trademarks or insignias during a campaign event shall not be deemed a violation of this policy and does not imply an endorsement of a political candidate or cause.

Use of institutional facilities under this policy is separate from, and does not qualify as, an institution's designation under [BOR Policy 6.5.2](#) on Institution Freedom of Expression Policies of certain accessible, high-traffic locations on campus as public forum areas for individuals or groups who are not members of the campus community. Use of institutional facilities by unaffiliated outside parties is also subject to reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions.