Elective and Non-Elective Offices and Political Activities

System Policy: 07.03  
Approved: December 5, 2008  
Most Recent Revision: November 12, 2015  
Next Scheduled Review: November 12, 2020

A&M Commerce Rule: 07.03.01.R1  
Approved: June 24, 2005  
Revised: October 17, 2012  
Next Scheduled Review: October 17, 2017

Responsible University Office:  
Office of the President

Responsible University Administrator:  
Assistant to the Chief of Staff

Texas A&M System policy provides, with certain restrictions, for faculty as citizens to hold elective and non-elective offices. The restrictions apply to conflict of interest, interference with the faculty member’s duties or the duties of others, and the manner in which the faculty member's activities reflect on the university.

Faculty members have the right to participate in political activities, so long as such participation does not interfere with the discharge of duties and responsibilities to the university or involve the university in partisan politics. Employment with the university is incompatible with holding some public offices (see System Policy 07.03, Section 3.3 Employees as Candidates and Officeholders for more information).

As a state-supported institution, A&M-Commerce remains neutral in political activities. Individual faculty members continue to enjoy their constitutional rights and privileges concerning freedom of speech and participation in political events. While A&M-Commerce encourages the free exchange of ideas and will protect freedom of speech, the university maintains its right to impose reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions on acts of expression on university property. Faculty members involved in political activity must make it clear that their statements are made as private citizens and not as university employees. They may not represent their person political viewpoints as official university endorsement, support, or promotion of political candidates or partisan political activities. They may not use the classroom as a forum for any type of partisan political activity, nor may they use state supplies or equipment in connection with any political campaign.