

Ethics Help Line at 866-758-2146 with questions related to prohibited

and political activity at the University



In order to

ensure compliance with state and federal lobbying laws, University policy requires employees' communications with state, federal and locally elected officials be reported to the Office of Governmental Relations.

As an individual employee you may, of course, communicate on political subjects on your own time and at your own expense. Clearly, it would be inappropriate for you to give the appearance that you are representing or speaking for the University if you are not specifically authorized to act in this capacity. Personal political communications are not prohibited and do not need to be reported to the Office of Governmental Relations. All questions concerning whether political activities are prohibited and/or required to be reported, as well as political gift and disclosure rules, should be directed to the Office of Governmental Relations (217-333-8634).

A scenario for consideration

Dean Green stops at a local restaurant on her way to a home game and runs into Senator Smith. The Senator asks Green what she thinks about pending legislation that would amend federal immigration law. Green tells the Senator that, in her opinion, the proposed amendments would have a negative impact on the ability of universities to admit and hire students and faculty and would harm their mission.

Who should be contacted?

Because Green's contact and communications with the Senator could imply that she is expressing opinions on pending legislation on behalf of the University, Green should report that contact and the substance of the communication to the Office of Governmental Relations. Green's conduct was not prohibited political activity because Green did not use University resources or act during compensated work hours when expressing personal political views to an elected official.