From:	The President
To:	MC Communications List
Subject:	Political Activity and Events at the College
Date:	Tuesday, May 01, 2012 12:22:22 PM
Attachments:	POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND EVENTS.pdf

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE
Office of the President

May 1, 2012

MEMORANDUM

To: Montgomery College Colleagues

From: Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President

Subject: Political Activity and Events at the College

With state and national election seasons upon us, it is important to take a moment to remind ourselves of our rights and responsibilities during this time. First, let me say that it is wonderful to be a part of a vibrant community where people participate in the dialog and debate about issues of the day. We are so fortunate to live in a country where freedom of speech and expression are valued and protected. We should never take that for granted.

Attached please find a memorandum from General Counsel Rocky Sorrell on the matter of political activity and events at the College. I asked Mr. Sorrell to prepare this update as we enter into important state and national elections. Mr. Sorrell's memorandum provides extensive background in legal matters related to political activity in a public institution. This memorandum is consistent with similar communications to the College community in past election seasons.

Every faculty member, staff member, and student in the College community has a right to express himself or herself with regard to candidates and issues. When doing so, the individual has a responsibility not to imply that the College supports or opposes anyone or any issue. In addition, public resources (including, but not limited to, employee time, computers, printed material, and rooms) cannot be used by an individual to advance a candidate or issue with the College's explicit or implied support. In accordance with the attached memorandum, College-sponsored events should generally be structured so that all candidates or representatives of all sides of an issue have an opportunity to be heard. Please note that our student organizations are not bound by the same obligations and can organize events according to their interests.

The classroom is and always has been a special place for the exploration of ideas, which include political issues. The academic freedom accorded to faculty provides for freedom of discussion and research; College Policy 58003 expresses our commitment to this value. As a faculty member myself, I hold academic freedom dearly, and will always protect that of my faculty colleagues.

Your attention to these matters is appreciated. Questions regarding any legal matter related to political activity should be directed to Rocky Sorrell or Tim Dietz in the Office of General

Counsel. Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Donald Pearl can address questions regarding academic freedom.

I thank you for your civic engagement and your help in maintaining our institutional role as a steward of public resources that provides a fair environment for discussion, discourse, and debate.