

St. Thomas University Students' Union, Inc. Policy Manual

EP2 - Non-Partisan Policy Statement

Approved & Implemented on October 2nd, 2022 – 3rd Meeting of the 49th SRC.

Article 1. Definitions

1.1. "Partisan activity" refers to partisan political activity that provides direct or indirect endorsement, or opposition to any political party at any point in time, whether during an active election period or not, or to a candidate for public office.

1.2. "Students' Union" refers to St. Thomas University Students' Union.

1.3. "Council" refers to the Student Representative Council.

Article 2. Policy statement:

2.1. The purpose of this policy to ensure the St. Thomas University Students' Union as a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to effectively represent and advocate the position of the organization before University administration, municipal government, provincial ministries and federal departments for the students of St. Thomas University, remains non-partisan and impartial.

2.2. No Students' Union Executives, and volunteers shall actively involve themselves with any political party during their term in office, including but not limited to:

2.2.a. Become a running candidate in municipal, provincial or federal election.

2.2.b. Allow a candidate or political party and/ or use the Students' Union's resources, facilities or equipment for partisan political causes, campaigns, or candidates.

2.2.c. Express endorsement to a municipal, provincial or federal candidate.

2.2.d. Make public statements that endorse or oppose political party or a candidate, including suggest one should vote for a particular candidate or political party, either directly or indirectly.

2.2.e. Hold position within a political party and/ or political campaign while in office.

2.2.f. Distribute materials that either support or oppose a candidate or political party.

2.2.g. Posting signs that promote a candidate or political party.

2.3. In order to be involved in any partisan activities, the executives who wish to do so must disclose that the activity, messages and statement is made exclusively in a personal capacity and not a reflective of an executive member of the Students' Union nor that of the organization.

2.4. No Students' Union's website, social media platforms, and promotional resources shall be used to post and share partisan political content created by either a direct or indirect party with the purpose of endorsing a political candidate and/ or political party.

2.5. Marketing materials in accordance with the Branding Guide and the logo of the Students' Union shall not be used in promotional materials that support or oppose a candidate or political party.

2.6. If found in violation of this Policy Manual, the executive member or volunteer shall be requested by the Student Representative Council to refrain immediately from engaging in such activities.

2.6.a. Further sanctions in accordance with the Code of Conduct, the By-Laws and Human Resources policy shall be applied if the executive member fails to comply with said request from the Council.

Article 3. Partisan Campaigning at Students' Union events

3.1. All Candidates meeting and/or event shall require extended invitation to all candidates during election campaigning periods.

3.2. Notwithstanding all Candidates meeting and/or event, no partisan campaigning of any sort shall be permitted at Students' Union events, including reserve designated space for political parties, and information tables.

3.3. If found in violation of this Policy Manual, the Students' Union shall prohibit such individuals to attend future events at the discretion of the Student Representative Council.