

Inviting Candidates for Public Office on Campus

CUNY Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs Frederick Schaffer issued an advisory memorandum on Oct. 14, 2004 discussing the use of college facilities by candidates for public office. Schaffer notes that New York State courts have recognized that partisan political activities are private and not public functions, and the use of public resources for such purpose is improper. The memo further states that it is permissible to use facilities in support of a forum which provides fair and impartial treatment of candidates, and which does not promote or advance one candidate over another. The policy does permit the college to license the use of its facilities for political purposes including fundraisers provided the political organization or candidate is charged fair market value. If the candidate is not charged, the College is in the prohibited position of using public resources for partisan political purposes and making the equivalent of a campaign contribution. This policy applies to all college constituencies, faculty, staff, students, and all college facilities. Please contact Baruch College's Office of Public Affairs to coordinate events involving such invitations by calling 646 660-6095 or emailing Eric.Lugo@baruch.cuny.edu

Approved by the Cabinet, 2006