Barry University Guidelines for Political Events and Activities

I. Purpose
As a Catholic University, Barry University (the “University”) is committed to its role as an academic institution in which a variety of ideas should be responsibly presented and critically examined. Fostering dialogue across a range of divergent opinions is fundamental to the development of intellectual vitality and social awareness in our students and is integral to the nature of a university. Political events, debates, presentations, forums and related events (“Programs”) are a vital part of fostering dialogue and developing social awareness. The University is also committed to presenting fair and accurate information about critical social, moral, political and/or ecclesiastical issues. The University is committed to maintaining the rights and dignity of all speakers.

The University also recognizes that students, faculty, and staff engage and participate in the political process and such participation serves an educational purpose. The University adheres to the principle enunciated by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops that “in the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation.” (www.usccb.org). The University’s status as a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code prohibits it from participating or intervening in any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office. The Internal Revenue Code permits tax-exempt organizations to sponsor political forums, candidate speeches and/or debates provided no candidate either directly or indirectly receives an endorsement, preference, or support from the University.

The approved hosting or sponsorship of Programs does not imply support or endorsement by the University of the views expressed by those who participate in Programs.

II. General Guidelines
For politically related activity, the University does not participate in, directly or indirectly, or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. The following guidelines apply to politically related Programs:

- Invitations to speakers who are running for public office, hold public office or sponsoring an event or forum with potential political/public relations implications (even if mission congruent), must be approved by the designated Divisional Vice President or Provost.

- Use of the name or seal of the University or any of its schools/colleges on letters or other written materials intended for support of a political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office, including the solicitation of funds for such purpose or activities is prohibited. This includes a prohibition on use of University letterhead, envelopes, email accounts, social media platforms, telephone lines and voicemail systems for communication.

- Use of University facilities to raise funds through admissions, fees, contributions, donations, or sale of materials or services to benefit a political party, campaign, or
candidate is prohibited.

- Use of University funds to purchase promotional material, pay for campaign ads or contribute in any way to a political campaign is prohibited.

- Use of University resources, including but not limited to, mail distribution services, the University seal or other identifying marks, stationery and letterhead, facsimile and duplicating machines, email accounts, social media platforms, telephone lines, and voicemail systems for political campaigns or solicitation of endorsement of, or opposition to, candidates for public office is prohibited. This does not preclude marketing or advertising approved politically related Programs.

III. University-Sponsored Political Forums

- The forum or debate must be non-partisan and sponsored for the purpose of educating voters.

- All legally recognized candidates for a particular public office (or for the nomination of a particular party) must be invited. Candidates for the same public office will be given equal access and opportunity to speak.

- Questions for the candidates should be prepared and presented by an independent nonpartisan moderator or panel.

- Topics discussed by the candidates should cover a broad range of issues that the candidates would address if elected to the office sought and are of interest to the public.

- Each candidate should be given an equal opportunity to present the candidate’s respective views on the issues discussed.

- A moderator’s comments on the questions should not imply approval or disapproval of the candidates.

- Candidates may not be asked to agree or disagree with positions, agendas, platforms, or statements of Barry University.

- A general election forum or debate or a non-partisan candidate debate is permissible provided that at least two candidates participate, and the forum or debate does not promote or advance one candidate over another.

- Political forums or debates need not include every group or party, or individual seeking election. Forums or debates limited to mainstream parties are permissible.

- Only candidates for national, statewide and local office who have officially filed in the state of Florida or their campaign surrogates will be eligible for an invitation. Where possible a similar invitation should be extended to an opposing candidate
where a debate format is not possible.

- Participants should be allotted equal time in which to present their views and ideas. Selection criteria for participation must be non-partisan.

- Intra-party debates for a primary election, all candidates for nomination within the party should be invited to participate. In such debates, however, sponsors are not required to involve candidates not belonging to the represented party.

IV. Marketing of Programs

- Regardless of the type of program, all event or program marketing material must include the following statement: *Barry University does not endorse or oppose any particular candidate for office, and no political fundraising is permitted at the event.*