

UOIT/DC Joint Election Campaign Guidelines

Overview:

In an effort to ensure both Durham College (DC) and the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) approach election periods with a unified approach, these draft guidelines were developed. These guidelines and tactics would apply to Federal, Provincial and Municipal election periods. It is also important to note that ideally the tactics identified below would be executed by, or in conjunction with, the Student Association. It would be intended that one of the two tactics listed below would be employed for any election period in order for the institutions to highlight their efforts to facilitate political interaction between candidates and students/the broader campus community, while at the same time discouraging some on-campus activities.

Activities not allowed:

- Canvassing on campus;
- Establishing booths or any other fixed presence on campus where the purpose is to solicit votes;
- Canvassing in residences;
- Posting of candidate print materials on campus;
- Placing candidate signs on campus; and
- Free booking of any rooms or space on campus by candidates.

Activities allowed/encouraged:

- Booking of campus space through a campus organization (including the SA) and paying standard rental fees;
- Support for Elections Canada/Elections Ontario in dispensing information during a current election campaign; and
- UOIT/DC would use communication channels to:
 - Advise students of voting opportunities (times/locations);
 - Let students know about opportunities to engage candidates on campus (as outlined below in tactics); and
 - Send information to staff and faculty about how the campus may be used during an election period, including opportunities for candidate interaction, so there is clear direction on acceptable activities.

Tactics:

Depending on the situation, the institutions would partner to use one of the following two tactics to facilitate opportunities for those running for office to access interested students, and vice versa. These events will educate and inform students and the broader community, while also showcasing DC/UOIT in general, their programs, joint campus, services and how they bring the community together:

Tactic 1: Jointly hosting an all-candidates meeting (generally for provincial or federal elections, but some specific municipal races as well, such as mayoral):

- Jointly hosted by DC/UOIT;
- All efforts would be made to find a high-profile moderator from the community or from one of the institutions
- Invitations would be sent to candidates well in advance, followed by marketing of the event to students, community members as well as high schools (particularly civics classes);
- The event could be followed by a campus tour for candidates and other interested community members;
- The meeting would allow for brief opening and closing remarks from each candidate, followed by a Q&A session. The first portion of questions would be reserved for DC/UOIT students and then it would be opened up to the community, potentially with a preference to the secondary school students;
- Using this tactic effectively would depend on the number of candidates who would need to be invited; and
- Invitations would be extended to all candidates registered with the Regional Municipality of Durham, Town of Whitby, City of Oshawa, Elections Ontario or Elections Canada to run in ridings that encompass any of DC's or UOIT's campuses.

Tactic 2: Jointly hosting an all-candidates reception (generally for municipal elections, where there are large numbers of candidates across multiple positions):

- Jointly hosted by DC/UOIT;
- To be held at a location that is able to accommodate larger crowds and space for candidates to set up materials, potentially a pub or restaurant close to campus;
- Clearly marketed to candidates as an opportunity to campaign to students. This would include encouraging them to bring campaign literature to be displayed on tables provided by DC and UOIT;
- Invitations would be sent to candidates well in advance, followed by marketing of the event to students, community members as well as high schools (particularly civics classes);
- The event could be followed by a campus tour for candidates and other interested community members; and
- Optional: Opportunity for each candidate to bring short remarks to the group. This tactic is ideal, however only practical if a small number of candidates have RSVP'd to attend. It would have to remain a mix and mingle if there were too many candidates.

Additional note:

- As a general principle, any political event occurring on the shared DC/UOIT north campus would require sign-off by the senior leader responsible for external relations at both institutions. This would remain true at all times, not only during an election period.

Questions:

Anyone with questions or concerns about an election campaign, candidates on campus, or these guidelines should contact the President's office at Durham College.