

## **Charitable and Political Donations**

### **1. Responsibility**

- 1.1 The Board of Governors, acting as Trustees of the University, has ultimate responsibility for the University's donating activities.
- 1.2 This policy applies to staff and governors of the University and to staff and Directors of the University's subsidiary companies.

### **2. Political Donations**

#### **(a) Making Political Donations**

**2.1 Policy Statement:** The University cannot give financial support or resources to political parties.

2.2 As an exempt charity, the University is unable to support political parties. The University must be, and must be seen to be, independent from party politics. The University cannot promote the interest of a political party. This restriction extends to the University's subsidiary companies who also cannot make donations, give other financial support or resources to political parties.

2.3 The University also cannot become involved in political party activity including financing or endorsing in any way a particular political candidate. Furthermore, the University cannot enter into joint fundraising events with political parties.

2.4 The University may have involvement with political parties but there are restrictions upon this involvement. The University may, in limited circumstances, undertake political activity which supports its charitable purposes. Advice must be sought from the University Secretary<sup>1</sup> before engaging in any activity with a political party.

#### **(b) Receiving Political Donations**

**2.5 Policy statement:** The University cannot accept financial support or resources from political parties.

2.6 As stated above, the University must be, and must be seen to be, independent from party politics and therefore cannot accept donations of financial support, resources or gifts from political parties.

### **3. Charitable Donations**

#### **(a) Making donations to other charities**

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<sup>1</sup> [governance@wlv.ac.uk](mailto:governance@wlv.ac.uk) or ext 2392

3.1 Ordinarily, the University, which is in receipt of public funds, will not make a donation to another charity. In limited circumstances the University may make a donation to a charity provided that recipient charity's objects are consistent with those of the University. Staff who wish for the University to make such a donation are instructed to contact the University Secretary<sup>2</sup> in the first instance for advice. The matter will be presented to the Board of Governors for discussion and their approval. Under no circumstances should any staff member bind the University to a donation to another charitable body without approval from the Board of Governors via the University Secretary<sup>3</sup>.

3.2 Should a matter be presented to the Board of Governors, when considering the donation the Board of Governors must be satisfied that the donation:

- (i) is in the best interests of the University;
- (ii) will be an effective way of using the University's resources to further its charitable purposes; and,
- (iii) is not prevented by the University's Instrument and Articles of Government.

Furthermore, the Board of Governors must have identified any risks that the proposal presents and how this will be managed.

3.3 To fulfil the requirements of charity law, there must be a formal record of the decision made.

#### **(b) Receiving donations from other charities**

3.4 The University is able to receive donations from other charities. The University has a Corporate Fundraising Policy which details the University's policy on receiving donations.

3.5 Due diligence on such donations will be undertaken in accordance with the Corporate Fundraising Policy.

#### **4. Donating to individuals/companies**

4.1 The University is in receipt of public funds and therefore does not donate to individuals or companies.

#### **5. Complaints**

5.1 Complaints about political and charitable donations are dealt with under the Corporate Fundraising Policy.

**Associated Policies:** Corporate Fundraising Policy<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> As above

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.wlv.ac.uk/about-us/governance/legal-information/policies-and-regulations/>

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