

## **Sample Questions about Lobbying and Political Influence**

### **A. Can students list their EWC affiliation when signing a petition or if they are a speaker at a “protest-style” event?**

No, students cannot list their EWC affiliation, as this may imply that the student is acting on behalf of the East-West Center. Signing a petition (but not listing their EWC affiliation) as an EWC student will likely not be considered a “Prohibited Activity” because it does not suggest that the student is acting as an agent of EWC. However, if the student is speaking at an event, it can be a “Prohibited Activity” if the content of the speech implies that the student is acting on behalf of EWC. For example, if the student is speaking with authority, for example, as the President of the Student Body/Participant Association, introduced as a Fellow with funding/backing by the EWC (or a specific federally funded scholarship), etc.

### **B. Can students use their EWC affiliation when giving interviews to the media or writing op-eds that are not pre-authorized by EWC?**

So long as students do not imply that they are acting on behalf of the EWC, they can give an interview or write an op-ed to the media. Students can also give an interview or write an op-ed as long as it is clear that they are expressing their personal views. For example, an unplanned interview on campus with a news reporter on their personal views will not be a Prohibited Activity. An Op-Ed that takes a clear political stance, urges the public to take action, and identifies the author as an EWC student leader, indicating that they are expressing EWC’s views, will be prohibited. However, the Op-Ed can have a disclaimer that the views expressed in the piece are the student’s personal views, and do not reflect those of the EWC, which would not be prohibited.

### **C. Can students collectively list themselves as supporters of a certain cause as “International Students of EWC” or “Students at EWC”?**

So long as the students do not imply that they are acting on behalf of the EWC, they can organize as a group.

### **D. Can students use EWCPA listserv (official email list of EWCPA members as provided by EWC) or Facebook page to promote and organize for political causes?**

Students cannot use the listserv or official EWC social media sites if doing so suggests that they are acting on behalf of the EWC or expressing EWC’s views. Students may share information about an issue but without encouraging students to act in a certain way about it. If the Student is expressing their own personal views, they may use the listserv or social media sites. For example, sharing a post from their personal Facebook account to the EWC Facebook page alone will likely not be prohibited.

### **E. Can students at EWC organize into an informal group, like Students Against Immigration Discrimination, as long as they didn’t use EWC’s name anywhere and do not receive any funding support from EWCPA or EWC in any way?**

Yes, students may organize and be politically active to express their personal views. The Policy does not prohibit students from exercising their First Amendment Rights.

**F. Would it be OK to use the listserv to advertise an event with a certain perspective on a politician or legislation and encourage students to participate or attend (like a speaker or protest on campus)?**

Yes, assuming that the student is not acting in a way that implies that they are acting on behalf of the EWC. In addition, the Policy does not prohibit students from sharing neutral information (such as information about the event) as long as they are not advocating for a specific action or perspective

If a student is unsure of what is allowed when posting on the listserv, they can include a disclaimer such as this: “The views and opinions included in this email belong to the author and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of EWCPA or East-West Center.”

**G. Can students use their EWC affiliation when expressing political views in creative/literary pieces that will then be published for a wide audience? What about for publications directly associated with the EWC?**

So long as students do not imply that they are acting on behalf of the EWC, they can express political views in creative or literary pieces. A literary piece that takes a clear political stance, urges the public to take action, and identifies the author as an EWC student leader, indicating that they are expressing EWC’s views, will be prohibited. However, the publication can have a disclaimer that the views expressed in the piece are the student’s personal views, and do not reflect those of the EWC, such as this, “the views and opinions included in this work belong to the author/artist and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the East-West Center.

Similarly, a publication being put together by the EWC can have a disclaimer for the entire collection or for a specific author or creative contributor, for example: “the views and opinions included in this collection belong to the contributing author or artist and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the East-West Center.” However, each publication may have different standards or criteria as determined by the editors and the EWC.

**H. What happens if someone interprets my actions as being made on behalf of EWC even though that wasn’t my intent?**

We understand that these regulations can be confusing. In most cases, students won’t be seen as speaking on behalf of EWC, but when in doubt, students are encouraged to talk with their Program Coordinator in advance of taking action. If something happens and students are concerned afterward, they can proactively reach out to their Program Coordinator to let them know. The Education Program is here to work with students to help ensure the EWC abides by these required statues while meeting its mission as a place for open dialogue and analysis on critical issues of common concern, bringing people together to exchange views, build expertise, and develop policy options.