H – Political Participation

HCU will continue to participate in political events, help elect pro-worker candidates, support political causes, and help pass legislation that improve the educational environment.

Article I – Organized Action Limitations

Section 1  **Goals** – Political action may be taken when it supports the goals and objectives of HCU. Causes and candidates that improve the educational climate, protect workers, or improve the lives of members may be considered to receive support.

Section 2  **Coalition Building** – Causes and candidates that have the support of other unions or union friendly community groups will receive preferential consideration.

Section 3  **Geographical Limitations** – Only causes and candidates in districts that are home to HCU union members will be considered.

Article II – Organizational Roles

Section 1  **Executive Board** – The power to endorse and contribute money to a campaign is held by the HCU Executive Board. Actions to provide financial or other in-kind donations must be limited in scope and dollar amount.

Section 2  **Committees** – Groups of members may be designated by the Executive Board to review requests and provide recommendations for action. The committee may establish vetting procedures as needed.

Section 3  **Members** – Requests to consider causes or candidates for support must come from a union member in the form of a letter to the Executive Board.

Article III – Candidates

Section 1  **Impact Review** – When a candidate is considered for support, the office they are running for will be researched. A statement will be drafted, explaining how the position has the power to impact the goals of HCU or the lives of Union Members.

Section 2  **Candidate Vetting** – The history of a candidate and their views on HCU’s goals will be reviewed and considered before an endorsement can be made. A combination of candidate questioners, candidate interviews, and one-on-one meetings may be used where appropriate. The Political Action Officer is responsible for organizing and managing the vetting process.

Section 3  **Endorsements** – Recommendations for endorsements will be considered at regularly scheduled Executive Board Meetings. When an endorsement is made, the Board may designate a combination of the following candidate supports:

a. Official statement of support that can be used by the candidate.

b. Commitment to recruit volunteers to participate in campaign events.

c. Communication to union members to encourage that they support the candidate.

d. Financial or other in-kind donations to the campaign.
Section 3  **Additional Support** – When a candidate is endorsed by HCU, the Political Action Officer is responsible for sending a Local Campaign Contribution request to AFT-Oregon. Whenever possible, the Political Action Officer will coordinate with the Teacher’s Union to pursue joint endorsements.

Section 4  **HCU Events** – The President may invite candidates to attend union events as appropriate.

**Article IV – Causes**

Section 1  **Limitation** – HCU may only support organized campaigns for the following types of causes:

- A. Ballot Measures that directly impact educational climate or worker’s rights.
- B. Labor Strikes
- C. Causes endorsed by AFT-Oregon
- D. Community Groups that are based in areas that house HCU union members.

Section 2  **Impact Review** – When a cause is considered for support, the Political Action Officer is responsible for generating a report that explains the impact of the cause on union members.

Section 3  **Endorsements** – Recommendations for endorsements of causes will be considered at regularly scheduled Executive Board Meetings. When an endorsement is made, HCU may provide the same types of support that a candidate would receive.

**END POLICY**

APPROVED 8/28/2018