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Pantzer endorses student participation in fall elections

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PANTZER ENDORSES STUDENT
PARTICIPATION IN FALL ELECTIONS

MISSOULA--

University of Montana President Robert T. Pantzer has endorsed student participation in campaigns and other political activities for the general elections in November, but emphasized the institution cannot alter academic schedule for these purposes.

"It is important that students show an active interest in political issues in this democracy," Pantzer said in a memorandum sent to the Administrative Council, composed of UM deans and some department heads; and to the UM Budget and Policy Committee; Jack L. Green, Missoula, president of the Associated Students of UM, and T.J. Gilles, Mossmain, editor of the student paper, the Montana Kaimin.

In the memorandum Pantzer urged UM faculty members to accommodate students involved in political activities "to an extent deemed appropriate and to assure that the integrity of the student's academic program is not seriously damaged."

Pantzer said there would be no formal alteration of class schedules to enable student participation in campaigns.

"For many reasons the University of Montana cannot alter its academic schedule," Pantzer said. "The University itself cannot become involved in these political issues and individuals participating personally have no authority to indicate by word or action that they represent the University.

"In prior years students have often involved themselves in activities taking them away from the classroom for brief periods of time," Pantzer said. "In past years individual faculty members have attempted to assist students in reasonable ways in instances of this type, to allow for a student's continuing his academic program toward successful conclusion.

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"This should apply," Pantzer said, "to student involvement on all sides of a political issue without emphasis on any particular persuasion or student interest.

"Students are urged," Pantzer continued, "to recognize their obligation as students and the professional responsibilities of their teachers as well as the University itself. In all cases where a student expects to divert his attention in any way from his normal class work, he should bring this to the attention of his instructors so that proper arrangements can be formulated to insure academic responsibility for both. The faculty member and the student must recognize that the prime academic function of both involves the teaching-learning process as the prime purpose of this University."

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