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Important New Information on Lobbying Compliance

Office of the President

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Important New Information on Lobbying Compliance

On July 1, 2014, the University of Tennessee will adopt a new [HR policy](#) aimed at ensuring compliance with federal lobbying disclosure laws and regulations. As this policy was being finalized, the legislature passed a state law aimed at strengthening existing processes and procedures in determining higher education funding and program priorities.

As employees of a public university, we are obligated to comply with state and federal laws and regulations as they relate to lobbying and contact with government officials.

Employee interaction with government officials can take many forms. Because of the potentially significant consequences of actual or perceived official representation of the University in an employee's contact with government officials, I want to make you aware of the new HR policy, state law and recommended best practices.

Detailed information is available on a [website](#) created especially to help employees distinguish their actions between lobbying and advocacy. This [website](#) provides guidance and examples of activities that constitute lobbying or advocacy, and it features a mechanism for employees to report their lobbying activity.

If you currently are a UT Advocate or are thinking of becoming one, we appreciate your support. The University's [official Advocacy program](#) has developed a set of best practices to enhance your effectiveness in advocating for UT.

If you have any questions about these laws or their application, please call our Office of Government Relations and Advocacy at 615-741-8220. They will be happy to help you.

Thank you for your valued attention to these important matters and for all you do for the University of Tennessee.

All the best,
Joe

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