Government Accountability Office shall be designed to carry out purposes consistent with those set forth in section 5401(a) of title 5, United States Code, which provides—

§ 5401. Purpose
(a) It is the purpose of this chapter to provide for—
(1) A merit pay system which shall—
(A) Within available funds, recognize and reward quality performance by varying merit pay adjustments;
(B) Use performance appraisals as the basis for determining merit pay adjustments;
(C) Within available funds, provide for training to improve objectivity and fairness in the evaluation of performance; and
(D) Regulate the costs of merit pay by establishing appropriate control techniques;
and
(2) A cash award program which shall provide cash awards for superior accomplishment and special service.

§ 5.4 Pay administration.

§ 5.5 Travel, transportation, and subsistence.
The provisions of chapter 57 of title 5, U.S. Code and the implementing regulations for the Executive Branch apply to Government Accountability Office employees.

§ 5.6 Allowances.
The provisions of chapter 59 of title 5, U.S. Code and the implementing regulations for the Executive Branch apply to Government Accountability Office employees.

PART 6—ATTENDANCE AND LEAVE


§ 6.1 Applicable law and regulations.
The provision of subpart E, title 5, United States Code and the Office of Personnel Management implementing regulations regarding “Attendance and Leave” apply to Government Accountability Office employees. This includes hours of work, annual leave, sick leave, and other paid leave.

§ 7.2 Equal employment opportunity.
(a) Policy. All personnel actions affecting employees or applicants for employment in GAO shall be taken without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, political affiliation, marital status or handicapping condition.

(b) Equal opportunity recruiting program. GAO shall conduct continuing programs for the recruitment of members of minorities and women for positions in GAO in a manner designed to eliminate underrepresentation of minorities and women in the various categories of employment in GAO. Special efforts will be directed at recruiting in minority communities, in educational institutions, and from other sources from which minorities can be recruited. GAO will conduct a continuing
§ 7.3 Political activities.

(a) In this section:

(1) Contribution means any gift, subscription, loan, advance, deposit of money, allotment of money, or anything of value given or transferred by one person to another, including in cash, by check, by draft, through a payroll deduction or allotment plan, by pledge or promise, whether or not enforceable, or otherwise.

(2) Election includes a primary, special, and general election.

(b) Employee means an individual who occupies a position in the Government Accountability Office.

(c) Employer or employing authority means the Comptroller General, his principals, or an employee's supervisor.

(d) Federal workplace means any place, site, installation, building, room, or facility in which any department or agency conducts official business, including, but not limited to, office buildings, forts, arsenals, navy yards, post offices, vehicles, ships, and aircraft.

§ 7.3 Political activities.

(a) In this section:

(1) Contribution means any gift, subscription, loan, advance, deposit of money, allotment of money, or anything of value given or transferred by one person to another, including in cash, by check, by draft, through a payroll deduction or allotment plan, by pledge or promise, whether or not enforceable, or otherwise.

(2) Election includes a primary, special, and general election.

(b) Employee means an individual who occupies a position in the Government Accountability Office.

(c) Employer or employing authority means the Comptroller General, his principals, or an employee’s supervisor.

(d) Federal workplace means any place, site, installation, building, room, or facility in which any department or agency conducts official business, including, but not limited to, office buildings, forts, arsenals, navy yards, post offices, vehicles, ships, and aircraft.

(6) Nonpartisan election means—

(1) An election at which none of the candidates is to be nominated or elected as representing a political party any of whose candidates for presidential elector received votes in the last preceding election at which presidential electors were selected; and

(ii) An election involving a question or issue which is not specifically identified with a political party, such as a constitutional amendment, referendum, approval of a municipal ordinance, or any question or issue of a similar character.

(7) Partisan when used as an adjective refers to a political party.

(8) Political fund means any fund, organization, political action committee, or other entity that, for purposes of influencing in any way the outcome of any partisan election, receives or expends money or anything of value or transfers money or anything of value to any other fund, political party, candidate, organization, political action committee, or other entity.

(9) Political party means a national political party, a state political party, and an affiliated organization.

(b) All employees are free to engage in political activity to the widest extent consistent with the restrictions imposed by law and this section. Each employee retains the right to—

(1) Register and vote in any election;

(2) Express his opinion as an individual privately and publicly on political subjects and candidates;

(3) Display a political picture, sticker, badge, or button;

(4) Participate in the nonpartisan activities of a civic, community, social, labor, or professional organization, or of a similar organization;

(5) Be a member of a political party or other political organization and participate in its activities to the extent consistent with law;

(6) Attend a political convention, rally, fund-raising function, or other political gathering;

(7) Sign a political petition as an individual;