

STUDENT NEWS MEDIA

I. Philosophy

Student news media are any news/feature publications or broadcasts produced by students as a learning experience that is an integral part of an instructional program. These media include, but are not limited to, a student newspaper, broadcast news journalism, and Internet news journalism.

Student news media, as laboratory publications of the journalism and the communication arts curricula, shall provide vehicles to train students for careers in mass communications. Student news media should also serve the entire college community by reporting the news, including college events and activities, providing a forum for comment and criticism, and encouraging free expression as guaranteed in the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

Student news media are valuable aids in establishing and maintaining an atmosphere of free and responsible discussion. Student news media exercise editorial freedom in order to maintain their integrity as vehicles for free inquiry and free expression in the college community. At the same time, the editorial freedom of the student news media shall entail corollary responsibilities.

The editorial and advertising materials published in each medium, including any opinions expressed, are the responsibility of the student staff. An editorial board, comprised of members of the student staff, shall be formed for each news medium involved. Under appropriate state and federal court decisions, these materials are free from prior restraint by virtue of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

II. Journalism Grievance Procedures

- A. Definition of a Grievance – A grievance is a complaint that alleges facts which, if true, would demonstrate a violation of the grievant's right to free inquiry, free speech, or fair treatment; contains allegations that appear to be substantially credible; and is not frivolous.
- B. Informal Grievance Proceedings – Individuals may submit a written complaint to the Student Editor in Chief or Producer of the student medium. Each complaint should be responded to in writing and in a timely manner, no later than four weeks after receiving the complaint excluding winter break and spring break when the school is not in session.
- C. Formal Grievance Proceedings – Individuals not satisfied with the informal grievance response may submit a copy of the original complaint to the appropriate Dean. In an attempt to reach a resolution, a meeting will be called within four weeks, excluding winter break

and spring break when the school is not in session, of the receipt of the formal complaint by the Dean, with the complainant, the student Editor in Chief or Producer, and/or the Faculty Advisor.

- D. Appeals of Formal Grievance Resolution - Any appeal of the formal grievance may be made to the President or designee within four weeks of the formal resolution notice mailing date. The President or designee will review the formal grievance and make a final decision. Once the President or designee makes the final decision, information about the decision will be sent to the grievant within 6 weeks of the appeals of formal grievance submission, excluding winter break and spring break when the school is not in session.
- E. Letters to the Editor - All letters to the Editor must be accompanied by the author's name and must contain the author's address, telephone number, and/or email address. The author should be contacted to confirm they wrote the letter. Letters or portions of letters that are obscene or libelous will not be published.