

AP 4500 Student News Media

1.0 Philosophy

- 1.1 Student news media are any news/feature publications or broadcasts funded by the District, and 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, television/radio broadcast, and Internet site.
- 1.2 Student news media, shall provide vehicles to train students for careers in mass communication. 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.
- 1.3 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 to learn and use professional ethics and practices.
- 1.4 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 medium involved. Under appropriate state and federal court decisions, these materials are free from prior restraint by virtue of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. These procedures are adopted to encourage a responsible exercise of such freedom.

2.0 Student News Media Complaint Procedures

- 2.1 The colleges and the School of Continuing Education have established the following complaint procedures to provide an avenue for complaints about the content in student news media.
 - 2.1.1 Definition of a Complaint: A complaint is a statement that alleges facts which, if true, would demonstrate a violation of the complainant's right to free inquiry, free speech, or fair treatment; contains allegations that appear to be substantially credible; and is not frivolous.
 - 2.1.2 Complaint Proceedings:
 - 2.1.2.1 Individuals may submit a written complaint to the Editor-in-Chief or Producer of the student medium. Each complaint should be

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responded to in writing and in a timely manner, no later than four weeks after receiving the complaint.

2.1.2.2 Individuals not satisfied with the medium's response may submit a copy of the original complaint to the appropriate Dean. A meeting will be called by the Dean, with the complainant, the student Editor-in-Chief or Producer or the Faculty Advisor in the instructional program in attendance. The Dean will mediate the complaint and issue a written response after the meeting, outlining steps to be taken to resolve the issue(s). The decision made by the Dean may be appealed to the College President/Provost.

3.0 **Letters to the Editor:** All letters must be accompanied by the author's name and should contain the author's address, telephone number, and/or e-mail address. The author should be contacted to confirm he/she wrote the letter. Letters deemed obscene, libelous, and/or racially, sexually, or religiously offensive will not be published.

Date of Adoption: September 12, 2005