

Student Publications

Reference: Education Code Section 76120

Student publications are a valuable aid in establishing and maintaining an atmosphere of free and responsible discussion and in intellectual exploration. They serve as a means of bringing student concerns to the attention of the college community and the public and of formulating student opinion on various issues.

Whenever possible, student publications should be an independent corporation financially and legally separate from the college. When financial and legal autonomy is not possible, the college, as publisher of student publications, may have to bear the legal responsibility for the contents of the publications. In the delegation of editorial responsibility to students, the college must provide sufficient editorial freedom and financial autonomy for the student publications to maintain their integrity of purpose as vehicles for free inquiry and free expression in an academic community.

The editorial freedom of student editors and managers entails corresponding responsibilities to be governed by the rules of responsible journalism such as the avoidance of libel, indecency, undocumented allegations, attacks on personal integrity, and techniques of harassment and innuendo. As safeguards for the editorial freedom of student publications, the following provisions shall apply:

- Editors and managers of student publications shall be protected from arbitrary suspension and shall be removed only for proper cause through orderly procedures.
- All college published and financed student publications shall state explicitly on the editorial page that the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the college or the student body.

See also BP/AP 5550 - Speech: Time, Place and Manner

(Formerly PVC Board Policy 6450)

11/5/08 College Council Approval
11/18/08 Board First Read
12/9/08 Board Second Read and Approval