

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

AP 4500 STUDENT NEWS MEDIA

Reference:

Education Code Section 66301

Philosophy

College news media are any news/feature publications issued under the name of the college, funded by the District, and produced by students as an integral part of instruction in Journalism and Digital Broadcast Arts. It may include, but is not limited to, student newspaper reporting, broadcast news journalism, and internet news journalism. The term "editorial" refers to all content other than advertising.

College news media, as laboratory publications of the Journalism and Digital Broadcast Arts curriculum, shall provide vehicles to train students for careers in mass communication. College news media shall 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.

College news media are valuable aids in establishing and maintaining an atmosphere of free and responsible discussion. College news media shall exercise editorial freedom 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 college news media shall entail corollary responsibilities.

Each college newspaper or other news medium is published as a learning experience, offered under the Journalism and Digital Broadcast Arts. The editorial and advertising materials published in each news medium, including any opinions expressed, are the responsibility of the student staff. An editorial board should be formed for the news media 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.

Journalism Grievance Procedures

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.

Informal Grievance Proceedings

1. The complainant will provide written documentation of the alleged violation(s) via email to student media leaders and copy the media advisor(s) and/or professor(s). This documentation shall include details of the alleged violation such as time, date and any other specifics the grievant deems germane to their allegation(s).
2. Student media adviser and/or leader will respond within 30 days with their decision as to whether the grievant's allegations were found to be substantiated and, if so, whether the violation(s) warrants written or broadcast retraction(s) and/or correction(s).
3. If the grievant is not satisfied with the outcome of the informal proceeding, he/she/they then have the right to pursue the formal grievance process

Formal Grievance Proceedings

1. The grievant shall provide written documentation of the alleged violation(s), via email, to the Media Studies Department Chair and copy the media advisor(s) and/or professor(s). The documentation shall include the original complaint and all correspondence related to the informal grievance process.
2. The Department Chair will respond within 30 days and attempt to mediate the situation.
3. If the grievant is not satisfied with the outcome, they can appeal to the Media Studies Advisory Panel.
4. If the commission of an advisory panel is deemed necessary, the Media Studies Advisory Panel will be comprised of a professional journalist and two faculty members who are subject matter experts in the area of journalistic ethics and standards.
5. The Media Studies Advisory Panel will respond within 30 days with their decision as to whether the grievant's allegations were found to be substantiated and, if so, whether the violation(s) warrants written or broadcast retraction(s) and/or correction(s).
6. The decision of the Media Studies Advisory panel is final and formally concludes the grievance process.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Instruction Office and Student Services