

Philosophy

College news media are any news/feature publications issued under the name of the college and produced by students as an integral co-curricular learning opportunity in the Student Services Division. It may include, but is not limited to, student reporting, broadcast-news journalism, and internet-news journalism. For the purposes of this procedure, the term "editorial" refers to all content other than advertising.

College news media, as laboratory publications of the Student Services Division, 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 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 college news media shall entail corollary responsibilities.

Each college newspaper or other news medium (e.g., video, audio, social media, etc.) is published as a co-curricular learning experience offered under the Student Services Division. The editorial and advertising materials published in each news medium, including any opinions expressed, are the responsibility of the students. 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 so as to encourage a responsible exercise of such freedom.

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:** To file an informal grievance, individuals should contact the Advisor / Student Services Coordinator for the student news media in writing via email. The individual should provide details of the specific grievance applying the definition above. The Advisor / Student Services Coordinator will then follow up with the individual in a timely manner to gather more information, if needed, and provide a decision about the informal grievance.

- C. **Formal Grievance Proceedings:** To appeal the decision of the informal grievance proceedings, individuals should contact the Vice President, Student Services in writing via email. The individual should provide details of the specific grievance applying the definition above, including the written informal grievance and the decision, as well as an explanation of their appeal. The Vice President, Student Services, or their designee, will then follow up with the individual in a timely manner to gather more information, if needed, and provide a decision about the formal grievance. The decision of the Vice President, Student Services, or their designee, is final.