

# Rancho Santiago Community College District ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION

## Chapter 4 Academic Affairs

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### **AR 4500 Student News Media**

#### **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 Communications and Media Studies and the Television and Video Communications Departments. 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 Communications and Media Studies and the Television and Video Communications curriculum, shall provide forums to train students for careers in mass communication. College student 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 student 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 is published as a learning experience, offered under the Communications and Media Studies and the Television and Video Communications Departments. The editorial and advertising materials published in each news medium, including any opinions expressed, are the responsibility of the student staff. 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.

#### **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.

#### **Journalism Grievance Procedures**

Individuals may submit a written complaint to the 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. Individuals not satisfied with the medium's 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 by the Dean, with the complainant, the student Editor-in-Chief or Producer and/or the Faculty Advisor.

### **Grievances**

A student may file a grievance following provisions of the RSCCD Administrative Procedures 5551, provided that the procedures followed and/or resolutions sought do not violate the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America or other applicable laws and regulations.

### **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 he/she wrote the letter. Letters or portions of letters that are obscene or libelous will not be published.

**Adopted: September 17, 2018**