

Student News Media and Journalism Publications

Reference: U. S. Constitution, Education Code Sections Title 5 §55200

Philosophy

America's founders recognized the seminal importance of free speech and a free press. Journalism is specifically protected by the Constitution of the United States of America. Freedom of expression is guaranteed under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. By law, all U.S. college media retain the same rights as those extended to professional news media.

The Southwestern College Governing Board protects freedom of expression and promotes the ideals of freedom of the press by thus establishing this policy for college news media. College news media are defined as any news/feature publications issued under the name of the District, funded by the District, and produced by students as an integral part of instruction in the Journalism program. These include, but are not limited to, student newspaper and magazine 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 curriculum, shall provide vehicles to train students for careers in mass communication. College news media shall also serve the entire Southwestern Community College District community by reporting the news, including District-sponsored events and activities, providing a forum for comment and criticism, and encouraging free expression. College news media are crucial in establishing and maintaining an atmosphere of free and responsible discussion. College news media shall be granted editorial freedom by the Southwestern Community College District in order to maintain their integrity as vehicles for free inquiry and free expression in the community. The editorial freedom of the college media is a Constitutional guarantee and must not be abridged. Because of this and as per California law, college media faculty advisers are guaranteed freedom from retaliation or harassment for content of student publications.

The editorial and advertising materials published in each news medium, including any opinions expressed, are the responsibility of the student staff. A student Editorial Board comprised of members of the newspaper staff shall be the executive body of the college newspaper. As provided by appropriate state and federal court decisions and statutes, materials created by students are free from prior restraint by virtue of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

District recognizes Southwestern College student newspaper as an integral part of the Southwestern College curriculum. Funding should ensure that all students are able to participate in a meaningful educational experience and have the opportunity to have their work published, based on merit. Students will be supported and protected from undue

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influence, retaliation or coercion in the form of fiscal constraints or attempts to for published content, or content in development.

The Southwestern College campus newspaper is a First Amendment Forum and public forum publication. This policy is hereby adopted so as to encourage a responsible exercise of such freedoms and to guarantee their protection.