

RADFORD UNIVERSITY
STUDENT MEDIA COMMITTEE
BYLAWS
Revised April 5, 2019

I. AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE

A. The Student Media Committee (hereafter referred to as the Committee or the SMC) has been established by Radford University to formulate, implement and supervise general management of Student Media.

B. The Purposes of Student Media are

1. To provide a valuable educational experience in media production and business to students
2. To disseminate news, information, arts, literature and/or entertainment to the University community
3. To serve as designated public forums for public debate, dialogue, ideas and/or opinions
4. To record a lasting chronicle of events at Radford University
5. To review and provide recommendations for endorsements for all policy approved by the Steering Committee (i.e. student leader compensation, business polices and procedure)

II. STATEMENT OF POLICYlaw, especially by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. Accordingly, school officials are responsible for encouraging and ensuring freedom of expression and press freedom for all students. It is the policy of Radford University and the RU Student Media Committee that the official, school - sponsored student media of RU have been established as designated public forums for student expression and as voices in the uninhibited, robust, free and open discussion of issues. Each medium should provide a full opportunity for students to inquire, question and exchange ideas. Content should reflect all areas of student interest, including topics about which there may be dissent or controversy.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SMC

A. To ensure that students have the editorial freedom necessary to exercise their craft under First Amendment guarantees with no restraints beyond the limitations of ethical and legal responsibilities in matters of libel, obscenity and invasion of privacy. The responsible exercise of the editorial freedom will be the obligation of the Student Media staffs.

B. To assist in the appointment and removal of the Student Media Leaders and

due process.
C. To outline

1. The Assistant Director for Student Media reports to the Director of Student Activities under the Division of Student Affairs.
2. Role of the Assistant Director for Student Media
 - a. Advises, on a daily basis, all student staff members and oversees all operations of Student Media.
 - b. Helps the Student Media Leaders set up and maintain a coherent and consistent editorial and/or business policy that conforms to professional and ethical principles.
 - c. Makes recommendations to the Student Media Leaders to improve the quality of their medium.
 - d. Follow through on SMC approvals to initiate contracts for services required for Student Media operations.
 - e. Serves as the administrative officer for Student Media.
 - f. Helps Student Media Leaders recruit student staff.
 - g. Represents Student Media interests when needed on and off campus.
 - h. Makes arrangements for SMC-approved student compensation.
 - i. Strives to adhere to the College Media Association Code of Ethical Behavior for Media Advisers. For a copy of the complete Code of Professional Standards for media advisors, see the Assistant Director for Student Media in Tyler Hall 025.
 - j. Serves as the Student Media professional representative on SMC.

C. STUDENT MEDIA LEADERS

1. Selection of Student Media Leaders
 - a. Each medium's leader interviews with the SMC, which will select all Student Media Leaders.
 - b. Advertisement of Open Positions - Open positions for Student Media Leaders will be advertised for a minimum of two weeks.
 - c. Qualifications - All Student Media leadership candidates must have completed at least 30 credits and carry a minimum 2.25 grade point average and 2.5 grade point average in their major. The candidates must be in good standing with the university.
 - (i) The SMC reserves the right to waive the above qualifications for hiring Student Media Leaders. The candidate must pass with a 2/3 majority vote of the SMC, and have two evaluations with the Assistant Director within the first 90 days.
2. Role of Student Media Leaders

Detailed job descriptions apply to each position and will be reviewed by the SMC before each position is filled.

Generally, Student Media leaders serve to do the following:

 - a. To operate as Chief Operating Officer of the medium, assuming management of the medium's day to day operations.
 - b. To assume all responsibility for the final decision on all content

sexual acts (normal or perverted, masturbation
and lewd exhibition of the genitals; and;

religious or ethnic slurs, however distasteful, is not in and of itself disruptive under these guidelines. Threats of violence are

c. Legal Advice

(i) If, in the opinion of a student editor, student editorial staff or faculty adviser, material proposed for publication may be "obscene," "libelous" or would cause an "immediate, material and substantial disruption of school activities," the legal opinion of a practicing attorney should be sought. The services of the attorney for the local newspaper or the free legal services of the Student Press Law Center (703 -807-1904) are recommended.

(ii) The final decision of whether the material is to be published will be left to the student editor or student editorial staff.

4. Removal of Student Media Leaders - Student Media Leaders are supervised by both the assistant Director for Student Media and the SMC. Student Media Leaders' job performances may be reviewed and discussed at any time by the SMC. The SMC reserves the right to terminate employment it offers to students. Such action can take place only when adequate cause exists and only after due process. Adequate cause shall be understood to mean malfeasance, misfeasance or nonfeasance, and under no circumstances because of student, faculty, administrative or public disapproval of editorial or programming content.

VI. GRANTING AND REVOKING STUDENT MEDIA STATUS

Believing that the best interest of Radford University and its students can best be served by making certain that there are ample opportunities for free and open speech about issues of interest to students, the Student Media Committee hereby goes on record as encouraging the development and/or evolution of new outlets for such expression.

A. SMC OBLIGATIONS

The SMC stands ready to assist all such outlets with the following:

1. Technical advice
2. Editorial advice
3. Financial access to equipment as available without interference with the schedules of use by existing Student Media.
4. Possible financial support for one year, with the possibility of a one year extension based upon the approval of the board in its annual budget considerations.

B. NEW MEDIA EXPECTATION

To qualify for SMC recognition and assistance, any prospective student medium must submit the following to SMC:

1. A petition for temporary recognition
2. A prospectus including, at minimum, the following;
 - a. Statement of purpose
 - b. Schedule of release (daily, weekly, semesterly, etc.)
 - c. Detailed organization chart
 - d. Statement of future plans addressing

- (i) The envisioned continued relationship with the SMC and with Student Media.
- (ii) The actual or envisioned relationship with any other university entity
- (iii) Whether the editor or other manager will be volunteer or paid
- (iv) Where the organization will be housed

e. Business plan including

- (i) short-range and long-range budget
- (ii) detailed statement of equipment cost if such is anticipated
- (iii) any agreements about use of existing Radford University equipment
- (iv) any plans for self-generated financial support (rate cards, etc.)

f. Letter of support from the intended Faculty Advisor

3. An agreement to include in copy and/or programming a disclaimer such as:

"All content is student speech, protected under the First Amendment as such. It does not necessarily represent the opinion of the University, its officials, or its faculty. Nor does the content necessarily express the opinion of all members of the student body."

4. Evidence of fulfillment of all applicable Hurlburt Student Center, Leadership Program and COCO requirements for becoming a recognized student organization.

C. CRITERIA FOR RECOGNITION

The SMC will consider the following criteria when it examines requests for Student Media membership:

1. How does the new medium propose to serve students? What impact could it have on students?
2. How would the new medium benefit the university community in general?
3. How large is its budget in relation to this potential impact on both students and on the university community?
4. Would the medium be self-sustaining long term in terms of its staff and budget?

D. REVIEWS

The Committee shall review any newly recognized student or any reorganized medium on a regular basis. At least one such review must be held prior to the beginning of the second year of existence. Subsequent reviews shall be held prior to:

1. The implementation of any change in information provided to the SMC

2. The granting of any loans from the SMC
3. Entering into financial obligation with any other University or non-university individual, group, entity.

E. RECOGNITION

Immediately upon recognition, the new or newly reorganized student medium shall enjoy SMC representation and shall be considered an official Radford University organization under Student Media. Such initial recognition shall be probationary for no more than four years. At any such time during that period the SMC may grant permanent recognition. However at least every five years all Student Media (new and existing) shall be reviewed by the SMC. The editor in chief or other manager leading the medium will be notified of the planned review at least 10 days before the SMC begins conducting the review.

F. REVOKING RECOGNITION

The Committee may revoke a medium's status as a member of Student Media after a review has been conducted. Along with loss of Student Media Status, the medium will lose its listing, and thus all privileges, as one of RU's clubs and organizations.

It is the policy of Radford University that student journalists and media producers shall have the right to determine the content of student media. Accordingly, the following guidelines relate only to establishing grounds for disciplinary actions subsequent to publication.

VII. FINANCIAL MATTERS

A. STAFF COMPENSATION

The Student Media Committee must approve all requests to financially compensate Student Media staff. There are a variety of ways to fund financial compensation. These include, but are not limited to, leadership scholarships, per-hour wage compensation, and stipends for work performed. To initiate a request for compensation, board members should submit proposals for compensation to the SMC Chairperson.

B. MEDIA BUDGETS

Annually, in accordance with SABC scheduling, all eligible media will be required to apply for SMC financial support and submit a budget of anticipated needs.

The SMC decides on allocations by a simple majority vote after all media budgets have been presented. All requests which involve SABC funds are subject to that committee's approval.

C. EXPENDITURES

All handling of Student Media accounts will be performed in accordance with applicable SMC, Student Activities Budget Committee and University policy guidelines.

VIII. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these bylaws may be made with a two-thirds majority vote of the SMC

in accordance with university guidelines.

APPENDIX I

1. Responsibilities of the Advisor

To the student

As a supervisor, the advisor must guide rather than censor. Availability of the advisor is of utmost importance. The advisor should let it be known that he or she is willing to give guidance, provide counseling and be there when needed. This individual shares his or her knowledge of journalism with the staff. As a supervisor, the advisor helps students understand that the medium must maintain a regular schedule, that deadlines must be met and that professional standards and ethics should be followed at all times. The advisor uses this supervisory position to instruct, knowing that he or she is in a position to teach more and do a better job than when in a classroom in a formal classroom setting.

It is important that the advisor be knowledgeable in the technology of the medium advised. This role involves primary concern with the total quality of the medium rather than the day-to-day operation which is properly handled by student staff members. As a counselor, the advisor has the responsibility to guide students to an understanding of the nature, the functions and the ethics of student media. As a natural corollary, it is this individual's job to have firm, professional contacts in the community so he or she can serve as an effective liaison between the professional media and the students, both in making available the best possible models and in providing career information. As a teacher, and this is perhaps the most important job of an advisor, the advisor should provide instruction that will result in a better publication or broadcast outlet. The effective advisor tries to emphasize individualized instruction and allows for individual differences in staff members' abilities to learn. He or she points out each areas and works with students to strengthen their abilities in these areas. The advisor makes students confident of what they can do and attempts to shape their minds in the direction of a realistic career. Most important, the advisor must make sure that all staff members have

intelligent and reasonable in carrying out their individual functions.

As a production manager, the advisor should provide both technical and fiscal advice so that the product is a quality one.

To colleagues

The advisor is a member of the staff or the college or university with obligations to the profession, both as a teacher and as an advisor. He or she must function as an advisor to other faculty and staff members about the nature and functions of college student media.

The advisor should, at all times, remain a respected professional educator since in that role he or she can best provide, through example and through dialogue, an effective basis for the successful functioning of ethical student media.

APPENDIX 2

Society of Professional Journalists Code of Ethics

The Society of Professional Journalists believes the duty of journalists is to serve the truth.

We believe the agencies of mass communications are carriers of public discussion and information, acting on their Constitutional mandate and freedom to learn and report the facts.

We believe in public enlightenment as the forerunner of justice, and in our Constitutional role to seek the truth as part of the public's right to know the truth.

We believe those responsibilities carry obligations that require journalists to perform with intelligence, objectivity, accuracy and fairness.

To these ends, we declare acceptance of the standards of the practice here set forth:

Responsibility: The public's right to know of events of public importance and interest is the overriding mission of the mass media. The purpose of distributing news and enlightened opinion is to serve the general welfare. Journalists who use their professional status as representatives of the public for selfish or other unworthy motives violate a high trust.

Freedom of the Press: Freedom of the press is to be guarded as an inalienable right of people in a free society. It carries with it the freedom and the responsibility to discuss, question and challenge actions and utterances of our government and of our public and private institutions. Journalists uphold the right to speak unpopular opinions and the privilege to agree with the majority.

Ethics: Journalists must be free of obligation to any interest other than the public's right to know the truth.

1. Gifts, favors, free travel, special treatment or privileges can compromise the integrity of journalists and their employers. Nothing of value should be accepted.

2. Secondary employment, political involvement, holding public office and service in

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4. Journalists will seek news that serves the public interest, despite the obstacles. They

their employers to serve as guidelines in furthering these goals.