



Policy

University Policy SA-03.02-10/14

Policy Title: Authorized Student Publications

Originator: Dr. Jim Hurd, Senior Associate Vice President

Responsible Office: Division of Student Affairs

Reason for Policy/Purpose:

The University considers university student publications a valuable aid in establishing and maintaining an atmosphere of free and responsible discussion and of intellectual exploration on the campus. This policy recognizes the value of robust and open public discussion of issues and ideas at the University. It also recognizes freedom of the press protected by the First Amendment for students and student journalists.

Policy Statement:

I. "Authorized Student Publications." Authorized Student Publications are campus-wide publications published by students and authorized by the University President. These publications comprise printed, electronic, and/or online media. The only currently authorized student publication is *The Voyager*. Publications produced by University faculty or staff or entirely within a course are not considered "Authorized Student Publications" for the purpose of this policy even if the publication features student work (for example, *The Troubadour* published by the English and Foreign Languages Department).

II. The function of university student publications comprises three major objectives:

A. Provide information to the university community.

B. Provide a forum for the expression of opinion by various constituencies of the university including topics about which there may be dissent or controversy.

C. Provide a laboratory for practical educational experiences in journalistic skills.

III. The Chair of the Department of Communications Arts is responsible for the general administration of university student publications. The Chair shall recommend to the President the appointment of an advisor for University Student Publications. The Student Publications Advisor shall be delegated the authority and responsibility for the supervision of all authorized university student publications.

IV. The student editors and journalists shall determine the content of official student publications. The University will not restrict, engage in prior restraint of, or assume responsibility for, the content of authorized student publications.

V. With the right to determine the content of authorized student publications, student editors and journalists shall strive to:

A. Perform their duties and responsibilities in an ethical and professional manner and produce media based on professional standards of accuracy, objectivity, and fairness.

B. Review material to improve sentence structure, grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

C. Reasonably review all facts and quotations for accuracy.

D. In the case of editorials or letters to the editor, determine the need for rebuttal comments and opposing views.

E. Adhere to libel, copyright, and other laws and regulations governing the press.

VI. Acceptance or rejection of advertising is within the purview of the student editorial staff in accordance with University regulations and policies.

VII. Off-campus student publications are regarded as unauthorized publications. Students engaging in any off campus publication are expected to observe the law and refrain from identification of the publication with the University of West Florida.

Procedures:

Specific operating guidelines and procedures governing university student publications are established annually by the Student Publications Advisor.

Change Justification:

This policy has been updated to reflect current best practice.

Authority and Related Documents:

UWF Policy SA-07.02-05/14 Tobacco Promotion and Sales Policy; UWF Policy SA-33.02-08/13 Alcohol Marketing Guidelines.

APPROVED: Dr. Judith A. Bense, President

Date: 10/14/14

History:

SA-03.00-06/01 Student Publications Policy, adopted June 2001; revised hereby.

SA-03.02-10.14 Student Publications Policy 10.9.2014