

Academic Affairs

1 **AP 4500 STUDENT MEDIA**

2 **References:**

3 Education Code Sections 66301

4 **Philosophy**

5 Student print, broadcast, and Internet media are any news/feature publications/productions
6 issued under the name of the college, funded by the District, and produced by students as an
7 integral part of instruction in an instructional program. It may include, but is not limited to, student
8 newspaper reporting, broadcast programs, and webcast programs. The term "editorial" refers to
9 all content other than advertising.

10 Student print, broadcast, and Internet media shall provide vehicles to train students for careers in
11 mass communication. Student media shall also serve the entire college community by reporting
12 the news, including college events and activities, providing a forum for comment and criticism,
13 and encouraging free expression as guaranteed in the First Amendment to the Constitution of the
14 United States of America.

15 Student print, broadcast, and Internet media are valuable aids in establishing and maintaining an
16 atmosphere of free and responsible discussion. Student media shall exercise editorial freedom
17 in order to maintain their integrity as vehicles for free inquiry and free expression in the college
18 community. At the same time, the editorial freedom of student media shall entail corollary
19 responsibilities to uphold professional ethics and use professional practices.

20 Student newspapers or other media are published/produced as a learning experience offered
21 under an instructional program. The editorial and advertising materials published in each
22 medium, including any opinions expressed, are the responsibility of the student staff. An editorial
23 board shall be formed for the media involved. Under appropriate state and federal court decisions,
24 these materials are free from prior restraint by virtue of the First Amendment to the United States
25 Constitution.

26 Cerritos College shall establish the following complaint procedures to provide an avenue for
27 complaints about the content in student media.

28 **Definition of a Complaint:** A complaint is a statement that alleges facts which, if true, would
29 demonstrate a violation of the complainant's right to free inquiry, free speech, or fair treatment;
30 contains allegations that appear to be substantially credible; and is not frivolous.

31 **Complaint Proceedings:** Individuals may submit a written complaint to the Editor-in-Chief or
32 Producer of the student medium. Each complaint should be responded to in writing and in a
33 timely manner, no later than four weeks after receiving the complaint. Individuals not satisfied
34 with the medium's response may submit a copy of the original complaint to the appropriate Dean.
35 A meeting will be called by the Dean, with the complainant, the student Editor-in-Chief or Producer
36 or the Faculty Advisor in the instructional program in attendance. The Dean will conduct the
37 meeting and the group will attempt to reach a resolution.

38 **Grievances:** A student may file a grievance following provisions of BP 5530 and AP 5530,
39 provided that the procedures followed and/or resolutions sought do not violate the First
40 Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America or other applicable laws and
41 regulations.

42 **Letters to the Editor:** All letters must be accompanied by the author's name and must contain
43 the author's address, telephone number, and/or e-mail address. The author should be contacted
44 to confirm he/she/they wrote the letter. Letters or portions of letters that are obscene or libelous
45 will not be published.

46 Office of Primary Responsibility: Vice President, Academic Affairs

Date Approved: August 20, 2007

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