

Academic Affairs

1 **AP 4500 STUDENT MEDIA**

2 **References:**

3 No references

4 **Philosophy**

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

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

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

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

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

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

33 **Complaint Proceedings:** Individuals may submit a written complaint to the Editor-in-

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

41 **Grievances:** A student may file a grievance following provisions of BP 5530 and AP
42 5530, provided that the procedures followed and/or resolutions sought do not violate the
43 First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America or other applicable
44 laws and regulations.

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

49 Office of Primary Responsibility: Vice President, Academic Affairs

Date Approved: August 20, 2007

Date Reviewed: January 16, 2019