

Student Publications Policy

In compliance with SBHE Policy 507, Mayville State University has established the following guidelines to manage the publication, distribution and use of any media that operates in the name of the institution or that is funded, in whole or in part, by student fees or other institutional funds. These guidelines will:

1. Foster and preserve the conditions necessary for a free student press. Student publications and student media are valuable aids in establishing and maintaining an atmosphere of free and responsible discussion and of intellectual exploration on the campus. They are a means of bringing student concerns to the attention of the faculty and the institutional authorities and of formulating student opinion on various issues on the campus and in the world at large.
2. Protect the rights of student journalists. All student publications and student media at Mayville State University will be governed by a Student Publications Board whose responsibility will be to manage all student media. The institution will provide sufficient editorial freedom and financial autonomy for the student publications and media to maintain their integrity of purpose as vehicles for free inquiry and free expression in an academic community.
3. Require compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and policies, including those prohibiting discrimination in hiring or employment. Institutional authorities, in consultation with students and faculty, have a responsibility to provide written clarification of the role of the student publications and media, the standards to be used in their evaluation, and the limitations on external control of their operation.
4. To the extent permitted by law, prohibit publication or dissemination of libelous or obscene materials or materials meant to incite imminent lawless action. The editorial freedom of student editors and managers entails corollary responsibilities to be governed by the canons of responsible journalism, such as the avoidance of libel, indecency, undocumented allegations, attacks on personal integrity, and the techniques of harassment and innuendo.
5. To the extent permitted by law, restrict advertising that is false, misleading or that promotes illegal activities.
6. Limit the use of alcohol advertisements.
7. Require appropriate disclaimers stating the institution is not responsible for the content of student publications or broadcasts.
8. Prohibit institution employees and student government officers, except those acting as members of the Student Publications Board in a manner consistent with applicable laws, regulations, or policies from attempting to censure or exercise control, directly or indirectly, over content of student publications and other student media.

A Student Publications Board will be established as an administrative committee to manage the operations of all media. All members shall be voting members in regard to any official actions taken and shall include:

1. Two students, including editors or managers of student publications or media. If there are no student publications, Student Senate shall appoint student members.
2. A faculty or staff member appointed by the President who is involved directly with student publications and other student media.
3. At least one member of the local media, including journalists or other persons with relevant experience or expertise.

4. The Vice President for Student Affairs, who will act as a liaison from the Publications Board to the university's administration.

The purpose of the Student Publication Board shall be to establish policy for all media sources, including editorial prerogatives and obligations and to determine management and publication guidelines. Specific guidelines include, but are not limited to:

1. Editors and managers are free to develop their own editorial policies and news coverage, providing they are within the limits of good journalism.
2. Editors and managers of student publications/media are protected from arbitrary suspension and removal due to student, faculty, administrative, or public disapproval of editorial policy or content. The Board may suspend or remove editors or staff from a position for cause, including for actions that violate good journalistic practices or are clearly in violation of state, federal or local laws or applicable policies. Such action must be based upon a vote of a majority of the Board members and the Board must provide written notice of such action with a statement of reasons and supporting evidence. An editor or other staff who is suspended or removed may request a hearing by the Board by filing a written request for a hearing within 48 hours of notice of the Board's action. Upon filing of a written request for a hearing, the Board shall conduct a hearing within ten days, giving the person suspended or removed an opportunity to respond to the action and present evidence against that action. The Board shall then decide whether to affirm, reverse or modify its action, including imposition of other sanctions.
3. Student publications/media staff will be appointed in compliance with all university, state, and federal employment guidelines that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, sex, age, or sexual orientation.

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Sponsored by: Vice President for Student Affairs