

CAMPUS STUDENT PUBLICATIONS BOARDS

Constitution

I. Mission

The Campus Student Publications Boards, hereafter referred to as the “Publications Boards,” shall be the governing bodies which directly oversee the student publications on each campus, including the student newspapers, the literary magazines and any other publications approved by the Board of Directors of the Suffolk Community College Association, Inc. The role of the Publications Boards are to (1) promote excellence in student publications, (2) assist the publications in their efforts to meet the needs of the campus community, (3) provide opportunities for personal and professional growth and development for students, (4) serve as a grievance/appeals board, (5) approve editors-in-chief, and (6) recommend policies and procedures to the College Student Publications Board.

This document defines the scope and duties of the Publications Boards and has been developed to assist the student publications staff and advisors in effectively conducting business and overall operations.

II. Authority

The Publications Boards are established by the Board of Directors of the Suffolk Community College Association, Inc. Responsibility for the operation of the student newspapers and the literary magazines is delegated to the College Student Publications Board and the Campus Student Publications Boards from the Board of Directors. The Campus Student Publications Boards are charged with the general supervision and operation of the student publications. The College Student Publications Board is charged with the policy making authority for student publications, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

III. Purpose of Student Publications

Collectively, student publications provide students with learning opportunities through the exploration and expression of issues and ideas. The publications provide the campus community with a student perspective of events, issues and activities at the campus, the college, the local community and the nation. In addition, the publications provide students with unique opportunities for personal and professional growth and development. Students are encouraged to practice and apply skills learned in the classroom while taking responsibility for the management of the publication program. Students learn to work cooperatively toward a common goal in service to the campus community.

IV. Statement of Policy: Freedom of Speech and Corollary Responsibilities

It is undeniable that students are protected in their exercise of freedom of expression by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. Accordingly, college officials are responsible for ensuring freedom of expression for all students.

It is the policy of the Board of Directors of the Suffolk Community College Association, Inc. that the student newspapers and the literary magazines, the official Association-sponsored student publications of the College, have been established as forums for student expression and as voices in the uninhibited, robust, free and open discussion of issues. Each publication 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.

It is the policy of the Board of Directors of the Suffolk Community College Association, Inc. that student journalists, as editors, shall have the right to determine the content of official student publications. The student publications are free of censorship and advance approval of copy. Editors and managers are free to develop their own editorial policies and news coverage or content, within the bounds of approved codes of ethics. Accordingly, these guidelines and policies relate only to establishing grounds for disciplinary actions subsequent to publication.

Along with the above freedoms come responsibilities. All publications are expected to adhere to journalistic standards, to exercise good judgment and to be accurate, fair, truthful, and impartial in their reporting. Student publications are expected to conform to journalistic and literary standards and all approved codes of ethics.

V. Board Composition and Terms of Membership

The Publications Boards shall be chaired by the Director of Student Activities of each campus, who shall serve as a non-voting member of the Board.

The voting membership shall be:

one representative appointed by the Executive Dean of the campus (two-year term);

one faculty member appointed by the faculty governance body (one-year term);

one faculty member appointed by the Dean of Faculty (two-year term);

one academic administrator appointed by the Dean of Faculty (one-year term);

one Student Affairs representative appointed by the Dean/Associate Dean of Student Services (two-year term);

one student appointed by the Student Government, or the Office of Campus Activities if no student government is functioning (one-year term);

the current faculty/staff advisor from each member publication; and the current editor-in chief from each member publication.

VIII. Vacancies and Removal of Board Members

The Publications Boards may recommend that a member be removed for just cause by a majority vote. Recommendations for removal shall be forwarded to the appropriate individual or organization responsible for the initial appointment. Should a vacancy occur due to resignation or other circumstances, the chair shall notify the appropriate individual and/or organization to request a replacement.

IX. Meetings

The Publications Boards shall meet as often as necessary, with a minimum of one meeting each semester (i.e., fall and spring). Meetings shall be called by the Director of Student Activities as deemed necessary. Board members can make a request to the Director of Student Activities that a meeting be called to address specific issues and concerns. A quorum shall consist of more than 50% of the voting membership. Motions need a simple majority of those present to pass.

X. Relationship of Advisor to Board and Publication

Advisors to member publications shall be appointed by the Dean/651j12 0 0 12 349.226 516.54024Tm9992j12 0

XII. Removal of Advisor

The Dean/Associate Dean of Student Services shall have the authority to remove an advisor for just cause. This includes, but is not limited to, failure to fulfill the duties of the position, violation of approved codes of ethics, professional standards, or college policies, misuse of funds, or gross negligence in the performance of his/her responsibilities as advisor. Appeals of removal from office shall be made to the College Student Publications Board, which shall make a recommendation to the campus Executive Dean. The decision of the Executive Dean shall be final.

XIII. Funding of Student Publications

Student publications are funded by the College Fee, which is allocated by the Association Advisory Council on each campus and approved by the Association's Board of Directors.

XIV. Amendments

Campus Student Publications Boards may propose revisions to this document to the College Student Publications Board. Provisions of this document may be amended by two-thirds vote of the membership of the College Student Publications Board. Such amendments shall be effective upon approval of the Board of Directors of the Suffolk Community College Association, Inc.