

ACTION: **First Round Approval of Board Policy 3350; Student Journalism**

Board Policy 3350 is a new policy intended to provide guidance related to the rights and responsibilities of student journalists. The provisions of the policy are similar to those in LB 88 [2021] which did not advance during the 2021 session.

The System Office recommends approval of the Board Policy 3350; Student Journalism.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Board Policy 3350 (PDF)

NEBRASKA STATE COLLEGE SYSTEM

Student Affairs

POLICY: Student Journalism

NUMBER: 3350

A. PURPOSE

To provide guidance related to student journalism and the rights and responsibilities of student journalists.

B. DEFINITIONS

1. **College-sponsored media:** any material prepared, substantially written, published, or broadcast by a student journalist at the College distributed or generally made available to members of the student body; and prepared under the direction of a student media advisor. College-sponsored media does not include any media intended for distribution or transmission solely for the class in which the media is produced.
2. **Student Journalist:** a student at the College who gathers, compiles, writes, edits, photographs, records, or prepares information of a journalistic nature for dissemination in College-sponsored media.
3. **Student Media Advisor:** an individual employed, appointed, or designated by the College to supervise or provide instruction relating to school-sponsored media.

C. POLICY

1. General

The Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges supports the free exchange of ideas and perspectives necessary for a robust educational environment and academic community and students' first amendment rights, including freedom of speech and freedom of the press. Therefore, the Board establishes the following with respect to student journalists and College-sponsored media.

- 1.1. A student journalist has a right to exercise freedom of speech and of the press in College-sponsored media and to determine the content of College-sponsored media.
- 1.2. No publication or other expression of a student journalist or included within College-sponsored media shall be deemed to be an expression of or on behalf of the Board, the College, or its employees or an expression of Board Policy.

2. Limitations

Protections under this policy do not extend to content that is libelous or slanderous; constitutes an unwarranted invasion of privacy; violates federal or state law; departs from prevailing journalistic ethical standards; or so incites students as to create a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful act(s), a violation of Board Policy, or the material and substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the College, Board of Trustees, or the System Office.

- 2.1. Nothing in this policy prevents an advisor from taking steps to ensure student journalists adhere to prevailing journalistic ethical standards and professional standards of English and journalism.
- 2.2. Nothing in this policy shall prevent the College from pursuing disciplinary action against an employee who engages in conduct in violation of Board Policy, employee handbooks, or negotiated agreements. Furthermore, nothing in this policy shall prevent the College from pursuing disciplinary action against a student and/or student organization who engages in conduct in violation of Board Policy or student handbooks.

Policy Adopted: September 2021