

Approved by Faculty Senate May 16, 2007

BP 4500 College Instructional News Media

Ohlone College instructional news media are any news, feature, or entertainment publications or productions issued under the name of and funded by Ohlone College, and produced by students, faculty, or broadcast directors in connection with an instructional program. Ohlone College instructional news media are governed by the legal requirements of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and of Title V (the education code) of the California Code. Determinations about specific content are primarily based on instructional needs as assessed by directors and faculty. Secondary considerations for media content or programming involve input from students enrolled in classes connected with The Monitor, KOHL, or Ohlone TV, audience acquisition and retention, Ohlone College publicity and events, and local public affairs. Broadcasting faculty and directors may determine that certain entertainment programming best fits not only the needs of broadcasting students, but also serves an important target market. Standards of academic freedom apply.

Ohlone College instructional news media serve the entire college community by presenting programming or news publications with selected coverage that includes but is not limited to college events and activities; by providing a forum for comment and criticism, and encouraging free expression. The editorial and advertising materials published in each college medium, including any opinions expressed, are the responsibility of the student staff or of the general public who may comment as part of a public affairs program or letter to the editor; or of those whose opinions may be voiced in a board meeting or other college gathering and subsequently broadcast or published; not the faculty, staff, or administration of Ohlone College; nor of its Board of Trustees as a whole. Under appropriate state and federal court decisions, these materials are free from prior restraint by virtue of the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

The president/superintendent shall develop procedures for college instructional news media to follow that protect academic freedom, encourage free expression as guaranteed in the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States, and that generally describe the role and scope of college instructional news media and grievance procedures to respond to complaints that may be received regarding news media content.

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The instructional news media programs for Ohlone College are Journalism, Radio, and Television, which operate The Monitor student newspaper, KOHL radio, and Ohlone TV Channel 28, respectively, and also include internet websites and internet news journalism. These procedures are adopted so as to encourage a responsible exercise of First and Fourteenth Amendments and Academic Freedoms.

Ohlone College instructional media, as laboratories for journalism and broadcasting, provide vehicles to train students for careers in mass communication. Media programs at Ohlone College are part of the curriculum, with approved degrees and certificates. The Ohlone College Curriculum Committee approves courses and programs, which are reviewed formally once every three years. Following adoption by the local faculty and Board of Trustees, the California Community College Chancellor's Office approves all degrees and certificates of achievement. Oversight is exercised by faculty, administration, and academic program advisory committees. Suggestions from the public are welcome. Faculty coordinators and directors are obligated to respond to suggestions or concerns from these sources in a timely manner. A Media Review Board meets once a semester. Media board members include the Vice President of Academic Affairs, the Dean assigned to mass communications programs, the Faculty Coordinator of Journalism, the Director of Radio Operations, and the Director of Television Operations.

Procedures for Complaints and Grievances:

Complaints may be submitted in writing to the appropriate Journalism Faculty Coordinator, Director of Radio Operations, or Director of Television Operations, who will respond in a timely manner. If the complainant is not satisfied with the written response, the complaint will be taken up at the semester meeting of the Media Review Board.

A grievance is a complaint that alleges facts which, if true, would demonstrate a violation of the grievant's right to free inquiry, free speech, or fair treatment; contains allegations that appear to be substantially credible; and is not a frivolous complaint.

Informal Grievance Proceedings: Grievances will be reviewed and responded to informally by the respective faculty coordinator or director as described above.

Formal Grievance Proceedings: Grievants may appeal first to the Media Review Board and finally to the President of the College or designee in a timely manner, in writing. Authorities shall likewise respond to grievances in a timely manner.