

<b>ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION</b> STAF Student Affairs and Academic Services		<b>POLICY NUMBER</b> STAF 3.15
<b>POLICY TITLE</b> Student Media Policy		
<b>SCOPE OF POLICY</b> USC Columbia		<b>DATE OF REVISION</b> May 15, 2025
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b> Vice President for Student Affairs and Academic Success		<b>ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE</b> Office of Student Affairs and Academic Success

#### **PURPOSE**

This policy will define the process whereby editors and managers of student communications media may be legally removed for just cause.

#### **DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS**

As Applicable

#### **POLICY STATEMENT**

This policy will define the process whereby editors and managers of student communications media may be legally removed for just cause.

- A. All editors and managers are responsible to the Board of Student Publications and Communications, hereinafter referred to as “the Board,” which derives its authority from the Board of Trustees of the university and, therefore, is ultimately responsible to the Board of Trustees through its designated university officials.
- B. Those publications and communication media that receive funds by allocation from student fees come under the cognizance of the Board. These are:
  1. The Daily Gamecock (newspaper);
  2. Garnet and Black (magazine);
  3. WUSC-FM (radio station);
  4. SGTV (cable TV station); and
  5. Such other publications and communications media as otherwise may be authorized
- C. The purpose of the Board shall be to act as publisher for the media under its cognizance and to maintain the highest standards in the operation of student publication and communication media, commensurate with the Board's Statement of Principles, and the purposes of the University of South Carolina.
- D. Editors and managers of student media should be protected from arbitrary suspension and removal because of student, faculty, administrative or public disapproval of editorial policy

or content. Only for proper and stated causes should editors and managers be subject to removal, and then by orderly and prescribed procedure.

- E. The Board, which is responsible for the appointment of editors and managers, should be the agency normally responsible for their removal.
- F. Editors are expected to exhibit good taste and balance in the contents of their publications. Good taste excludes material which is salacious, obscene or vulgar, and which ridicules religious and minority groups, human infirmities and the like.
- G. The Board believes that the widest degree of latitude should be given to editors and managers of student communications media for the free discussion of current issues and problems.
- H. Editors and managers of student communications media have the right to criticize, without malice, public officials on the performance of their official duties.

#### **PROCEDURES**

- A. The Board shall obtain a signed Statement of Understanding and Acceptance of the Statement of Principles from candidates for positions.
- B. The Board will ensure compliance with the Statement of Principles, and shall have the power to take necessary disciplinary steps for violation of the principles.
- C. Those members of the student communications media who desire to have an editor or manager removed, for just cause, must file a written grievance to the ex-officio secretary to the Board. The secretary will then call a meeting of the Board to review the grievance, and if warranted, the Board will take necessary action through due process.

#### **RELATED UNIVERSITY, STATE AND FEDERAL POLICIES** As Applicable

#### **HISTORY OF REVISIONS**

<b>DATE OF REVISION</b>	<b>REASON FOR REVISION</b>
June 1, 1992	New policy approval.
April 19, 2016	Policy organization, content and accuracy reviewed in March 2016; no substantive revisions required.
May 15, 2025	Updated to standard template. Combining STAF 3.15/3.08.  Student Media Policy reviewed for updates and removal of specific procedures and guidelines of editor and manager removal which are subject to change.