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**PURPOSE**

Student publications are entitled to the protection of the constitutional right of freedom of the press. The Vermont State Colleges recognizes that student publications are entitled to be free from administrative content control, and that ethical journalism is an essential ingredient of student publications. Reasonable and nondiscriminatory rules and regulations, consistent with First Amendment rights, may be adopted regarding the operations of student publications.

**STATEMENT OF POLICY**

The Vermont State Colleges shall foster and preserve the conditions necessary for a free student press. College officials and employees shall not exercise control over the content of student publications, except as may otherwise be permitted by law.

Each college shall refrain from practices which place involuntary controls upon the content of student publications. At the same time each college is encouraged, through cooperative and voluntary means, to provide opportunities for development of high standards and skills in journalism through student publications. Such means may include making qualified staff members available as advisors to student writers and encouraging links between approved course work and publications efforts.

Each college's student publications shall contain a disclaimer stating that the institution is not responsible for the content of student publications.

