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College-Sponsored Student Publications Policy and Procedures

I. Philosophy and Scope

Frederick Community College (“FCC” or the “College”) protects students’ exercise of free expression in accordance with Maryland State Law, the [First Amendment to The United States Constitution](#), and [Article 40 of the Maryland Constitution’s Declaration of Rights](#). Because FCC values the open and free exchange of ideas, the College sponsors student publications that serve as designated forums for student expression. This Policy and Procedures applies to all current and future College-sponsored publications.

II. Definitions for the Purpose of this Policy and Procedures

- A. **“College community”** refers to trustees, students, and all employees of the College as well as any independent contractors or other third parties to the extent articulated under contractual agreements.
- B. **“Faculty member”** refers to any person hired or retained by the College to conduct classroom instruction.
- C. **“College-sponsored media”** refers to any material that is:
 - prepared, written, published, or broadcast by a student journalist at a public institution of higher education;
 - 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 material that is intended for distribution solely within the course in which the material is produced.

- D. **“Student”** refers to an individual who is registered at the College, either full or part-time, in a credit or continuing education class or classes who has either paid or made arrangement for payment of tuition and fees.
- E. **“Student journalist”** refers to a student who gathers, compiles, writes, edits, photographs, records, or prepares information for dissemination in College-sponsored media or College-sponsored publications.
- F. **“College-sponsored student publication”** refers to a publication, printed or digital, produced and distributed by or through the collaborative work of enrolled students, under the direction of a student media advisor.
- G. **“Student publication staff”** refers to the body of students that produces a College-sponsored student publication.
- H. **“Student media advisor”** refers to an FCC employee assigned to support the publication process and provide instruction relating to College-sponsored media or College-sponsored publications.

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III. Categories of College-Sponsored Student Publications

The College supports student publications aligned with one of the following categories:

A. Literary Magazine Aligned with Curricula for Course Credit

1. Tuscarora Review is a literary magazine produced through a collection of credit-bearing courses.
2. Tuscarora Review is published by and for students of the College. The magazine provides a visible outlet for the literary and visual arts, while also emphasizing the value of arts and humanities education to the College community.

B. Journalistic Publication Aligned with Curricula for Course Credit

1. The Commuter is a journalistic publication that provides experiential learning to students through a credit-bearing course at FCC. Students produce The Commuter under the direction of a student media advisor.
2. The Commuter is published by students of the College to provide news and information, while also emphasizing the value of journalism education to the College community.

IV. Procedures

A. Opportunities for Student Expression in College Sponsored Student Publications

1. FCC students determine the content of the Tuscarora Review and The Commuter.
2. The Commuter and the Tuscarora Review are open to submissions from members of the College community during the academic year.
3. Submissions are subject to a rigorous editorial review process that does not infringe upon the free speech and press rights of student journalists.
4. The Tuscarora Review selects submissions for publication and awards based on creative, artistic, and compositional merit.
5. The Tuscarora Review includes updated submission guidelines and processes in each annual issue.
6. The Commuter selects submissions for publication based on journalistic, graphic, photographic, and compositional merit.
7. The Commuter includes updated submission guidelines and processes in each digital and print issue.

B. Unprotected Expression

The following types of content or expression are not protected in College-Sponsored Student Publications:

1. Content that is libelous or slanderous.
2. Content that unlawfully invades a person's right to privacy.
3. Content that intends to harass, threaten, or intimidate an individual.

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4. Content that incites students to create a clear and present danger through the commission of an unlawful act.
 5. Content that incites students to create a clear and present danger of the violation of College policies and procedures.
 6. Content that incites students to create a clear and present danger of a material and substantial disruption of College activities and learning environment.
 7. Content that violates federal or state law.
- C. Circulation
1. The Commuter and the Tuscarora Review circulate on the main campus and the Monroe Center.
 2. The Tuscarora Review publishes a print and digital edition in May.
 3. The Commuter publishes multiple digital editions each semester and one print edition each semester.
 4. The Commuter circulates digital editions through its website and social media channels.
 5. The FCC Learning Commons maintains archives of The Commuter and the Tuscarora Review.
- D. Freedom from Reprisal
1. A student journalist may not be disciplined for exercising rights protected under this Policy and Procedures or as set forth in Section 15-119 of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.
 2. A student media advisor may not use the media advisor's position to influence a student journalist to promote an official position of the College.
 3. A student media advisor may not be disciplined for acting to protect a student journalist for exercising rights protected under this Policy and Procedures or as set forth in Section 15-119 of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.