

Middle Georgia State University Student Media Bylaws

[approved by Student Media Advisory Board, April 2013]

Preamble

Student Media at Middle Georgia State University consist of *The Fall Line Review*, KnightTVision, a television lab that supports the newspaper site, and *The Statement*, the student newspaper. *The Fall Line Review*

As open forums are valuable aids in establishing and maintaining an atmosphere of free and responsible discussion as well as intellectual exploration on the campus. They are a means of bringing student concerns to the attention of the faculty and the institutional authorities, and of formulating opinions on various issues on the campus and in the world at large. In response to the editorial responsibility of student media, the University must provide sufficient editorial freedom and sufficient financial resources for the student media to maintain their integrity of purpose as vehicles for free inquiry and free expression in an academic community.

Institutional authorities have a responsibility to provide written clarification of the role of student media

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Mission Statements and College Expectations

The purpose of the Student Media Program at Middle Georgia State University is to provide interested students with opportunities to learn about the art and craft of creative endeavors, journalism, and new media via three primary outlets – an annual literary/art journal, a campus television lab, and a newspaper.

The Fall Line Review is literary/arts journal featuring the creative and collective consciousness of Middle Georgia State University students. *The Fall Line Review* is a Recognized Student Organization of the Office of Student Life. It is the expectation of the University that the journal will be staffed with well-qualified and responsible leaders and staff. It is also an expectation of the University that items published in the journal are selected by the Editorial Board based on literary and/or artistic merit.

Students must be currently enrolled or have been enrolled during the previous two semesters in order to be eligible to have work published in the journal. As a student publication produced by students and its faculty advisers, *The Fall Line Review* should explicitly state that opinions expressed are not necessarily those of Middle Georgia State University or the student body, and that the publication is funded with Student Activities fees.

KnighTVision provides the student body with timely and pertinent information concerning the campus community and the events thereof via content imbedded in the newspaper site. KnighTVision additionally provides students with the opportunity to develop skills in the television medium and experience firsthand the technological advances being made in the medium, as they relate to new media.

KnighTVision is a Recognized Student Organization of the Office of Student Life. It is the expectation of the University that the campus television lab will be staffed with well-qualified and responsible leaders and staff. It is also an expectation of the University that items displayed on the college newspaper site have been reviewed by the editorial staff of the newspaper. As a University and student enterprise published by students under the advisement of qualified faculty, KnighTVision should explicitly state that the programming is funded with Student Activities fees.

The Statement, the student newspaper, provides the students of Middle Georgia State University with timely and accurate campus news. It is a Recognized Student Organization of the Office of Student Life. It is the expectation of the University that the student newspaper will be staffed with well-qualified and responsible leaders and staff. As a news source published and financed by the University, *The Statement* should explicitly state on the editorial page that opinions expressed are not necessarily those of Middle Georgia State University or the student body, and that the publication is funded with Student Activities fees.

Student Media Policy

1. As safeguards for the editorial freedom of student publications, the following provisions are necessary:
 - A. The student press should be free of censorship and advance approval of copy. This editorial freedom entails corollary responsibilities upon student editors to be governed by the canons of responsible journalism such as the avoidance of libel, indecency, undocumented allegations, attacks on personal integrity, and the techniques of harassment and/or innuendo.
 - B. Leaders and staff members should be free to develop their own editorial policies and news coverage. Leaders of student publications should be protected from arbitrary sanction because of student, faculty, administrative, or public disapproval of editorial policy or content. Only for proper and stated causes (individual student media guidelines, Student Code of Conduct and this document) should leaders and staff members be sanctioned, including removal, and then by orderly and prescribed procedures. The agency responsible for the appointment of editors/managers should be the agency responsible for their removal. (See Student Media Advisory Board.)
 - C. All University-financed student publications should explicitly state on the editorial page that opinions expressed are not necessarily those of Middle Georgia State University or the student body and that the publication is funded with Student Activities fees. Leaders and staff members are not official spokespersons for the students or Middle Georgia State University.
2. Leaders and staff members are expected to have read and acknowledged understanding of the laws of libel, right of privacy, obscenity, and similar existing laws and interpretations. All news 1 479.95 377.93 Tm[(Mp3821 381.33 Tm[(e)] TETBT1

Student Media Coordinator.

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At-large student (voting member), appointed by Chair, one-year term

At-large student (voting member), appointed by Director of Student Life, one-year term

Journalism Professional (non-voting), appointed by President, replaced as necessary

Editor-in-Chief newspaper (ex officio, non-voting), one-year term

Editor, *The Fall Line Review* (ex officio, non-voting), one-year term

Student Coordinator, KnighTVision (ex officio, non-voting), one-year term

The Student Media Coordinator, the current student editors, the journalism professional, and any other ex officio member may make recommendations and participate in the discussions related to the selection of the editors, but they may not vote.

Student Media Coordinator Responsibilities

The Student Media Coordinator receives his/her authority from the Georgia Board of Regents through the President of the University. The Student Media Coordinator is designated for the operating and non-editorial policy-making responsibilities for student media and promotes professionalism in the practice of journalism. The Student Media Coordinator is familiar with all student media programs and their activities, provides consistency from year to year, assists the organizations, and provides an educational experience for the organizations members.

The Student Media Coordinator, as primary adviser, is available to provide guidance and learning resources to the students of each organization and for assisting the leaders and staff in creating and maintaining high standards for responsible publication.

The student staffs of the student media may select faculty advisers approved by the department chair/school dean and the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate. The student leaders, Student Media Coordinator, and advisers (if any) will work together to develop and implement individual policies for each media outlet that are consistent with these policies, Middle Georgia State media policies, and the policies of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

The responsibilities of the Student Media Coordinator include but are not limited to:

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6. Attending training sessions as required.
7. Being aware of University policies and regulations as presented in The Middle Georgia State University Student Handbook
8. Complying with all guidelines for Registered Student Organizations with the following exceptions the Student Media budget is a line item in the general Student Activities budget; the Student Media Coordinator is responsible for approving all student media expenditures.
9. Being aware of the scope of personal authority as related to professional responsibility

