

## **Policy XVI**

### **Freedom of Expression**

**16.1** Student expression is constitutionally protected and may not be censored. Student expression may not be censored simply because it is controversial, because Student Union officials dislike its content or because it offers harsh criticism of them and/or their policies. Publications, which are otherwise lawful (i.e., they contain no libel, obscenity or other legally unprotected speech) cannot be punished or censored for content-based reasons.

**16.2** The Publications editor and any other student editors, along with the Newspaper Editorial Board have the right to make all decisions related to the content of their student publications. Student Union officials may not exercise the power of a private publisher over student publications simply because they provide financial support. It is clear that:

**16.3 Regarding the student publication, Student Union officials are limited in that they cannot:**

- a) Censor or confiscate a publication.
- b) Withdraw or reduce its funding.
- c) Fire the Publications Editor for reasons relating to content that is legally protected by the Canadian Constitution.
- d) Prohibit lawful advertising.
- e) Stack a student media board.
- f) Discipline staff members or take any other action that is motivated by an attempt to control, manipulate or punish past or future content.
- g) Demand the right to review publications before distribution.

**16.4 However, in dealing with the student publication, Union officials can:**

- a) Regulate non-content based aspects of the publication, particularly various administrative aspects of the student publication. For example, the Executive Vice President must review the financial records of the student media, and decide on the various forms of policies of the publication.

**16.5** In the event the Student's Union receives a complaint regarding the content in the student publication, a reconciliation panel will be convened by the General Manager no earlier than 2 weeks after an official complaint is made to the Executive Vice President of the Student's Union. The reconciliation panel will include, but is not limited to the President of the Student's Union, the Executive Vice President, the General Manager, the Publications Editor and the contributor of the article in question. The objector can bring anyone who they see fit; should they choose to bring

legal representation, they must inform the General Manager, so that the Union can be properly prepared. The goal of the reconciliation panel is to ensure a satisfactory resolution to the situation for all parties.