



ROCKY
MOUNTAIN
COLLEGE

Student Publications Policy
Updated 2/14

Purpose

To clearly define the relationship between Rocky Mountain College, “*The Summit*,” a publication by and for the students of RMC, and the Associated Students of Rocky Mountain College (ASRMC).

Policy/Procedure

It is the policy of Rocky Mountain College that student journalists shall have the right to determine the content of official student publications. Student publications shall remain free of censorship and advance approval of copy. *The Summit* aspires to serve as a forum for student expression and as voices in the uninhibited, robust, free, and open discussion of issues. Each publication should provide a full opportunity for students to inquire, question, and exchange ideas. Content should reflect all areas of student interest, including topics about which there may be dissent or controversy.

Guidelines

1. The College provides office facilities, budgetary assistance, technical help, and staff/faculty who advise the publications. ASRMC provides all funding in support of student publications.
2. The Publications Advisory Committee (PAC) is composed of students and College personnel. It is charged with reviewing the operation of student publications and recommending broad policy for management of *The Summit*. In addition, the PAC hears grievances against student publications and is authorized to take disciplinary action as outlined in “*The Summit – Staff Manual*,” appendix A.
3. The College provides faculty/staff advisors to student publications. Compensation for all staff associated with the publication is provided by ASRMC. The advisors are not censors. No person who advises a student publication will be fired, transferred, or removed from the advisorship by reason of his or her refusal to exercise editorial control over student media or to otherwise suppress the protected free expression of student journalists.
4. *The Summit* will not be subject to review by school administrators prior to distribution or withheld from distribution. Faculty/staff advisors are not school administrators and may read and/or view portions of or all of publications during production in order to consult with students prior to publication as well as after publication. Advisors are not required to read, view, or approve materials to be published and cannot withhold items from publication for content; however, it is the advisor’s responsibility to ensure journalistic standards, the quality of writing,

and layout and therefore, may withhold individual articles for failing to meet those standards.

5. The College and the advisors assume no liability for the content of *The Summit*, but do encourage all student journalists to recognize that with editorial control comes responsibility, including the responsibility to follow professional journalism standards such as those set forth in codes of ethics for organizations such as, the Society of Professional Journalists, the Associated Press Managing Editors, and the American Society of Newspaper Editors.
6. The responsibilities of the student media are as follows:
 - A. With freedom of the press and the resulting ability to determine all content of student publications, student editors and staff have a corollary obligation to operate student publications under the canons of responsible journalism.
 - B. Student publication staff members should:
 1. Perform their duties and responsibilities in an ethical and professional manner and strive to produce media based upon professional standards of accuracy, objectivity, and fairness;
 2. Abide by federal, state, and local laws; College regulations and policies; and the standards of appropriate professional associations;
 3. Represent the College with dignity and fairness;
 4. Review material to ensure exemplary writing including sentence structure, grammar, spelling, and punctuation;
 5. Check and verify all facts and verify accuracy of quotations; and
 6. In the case of editorials or letters to the editor concerning controversial issues, determine the need for rebuttal comments and opinions and provide space if appropriate.

Approved

This policy adopted and approved by the RMC Board of Trustees, February 7, 2014.

Reviewed February 2014