

April 2019

Student Media Policy and Code of Conduct

Background

In August 2015, NS released a Student Media Guide, in collaboration with the National Union of Journalists and Endsleigh, giving key advice to Students' Unions around issues from defamation to complaints or disputes.

This guidance suggested that unions ensure that they had procedural structures in place for dealing with issues that could arise through student media. These procedures should clarify the level of control and dependence between the students' union and student media, and should promote independence for student journalists. It should also clarify issues around funding, editorial control, conduct and behavior, complaints and disputes.

Media Society Members Code of Conduct

The Students' Union has developed this Code of Conduct to help writers and broadcasters of all media based Societies to understand what is expected of them by the Student Activities department, ARU Students' Union and Anglia Ruskin University whilst participating in their relevant activity.

The Students' Union expects all members to:

- Not publish or air any material that could be deemed as defamatory, potentially libellous and or slanderous.
- Promote the positive aspects of their activity (e.g. unique experience, teamwork etc).

- Display consistently high standards of behaviour and attitude when acting on behalf of or representing their society, Students' Union or University.
- Follow all rules, regulations and guidelines laid down by the Student Activities Department and Students' Union.
- Not abuse their position in the society to obtain personal benefit or reward.
- Communicate with the Student Activities team on a regular basis, via email, phone calls and attendance at meetings.
- Uphold the reputation of the University, Students' Union and their society.
- Allow access by members of the Student Activities department or officer team to check copies of the paper or shows to be aired before they are printed/aired as and when this is deemed necessary.

Accuracy:

- Student Media must take care not to publish inaccurate, misleading or distorted information, including pictures.
- Student Media must not fabricate stories or quotations and must not plagiarise the work of others.
- All content must distinguish clearly between comment, conjecture and fact.
- A fair opportunity for reply to inaccuracies must be given when reasonably called for.
- A significant inaccuracy, misleading statement or distortion once recognised must be corrected, promptly and with due prominence. Where appropriate an apology must be published.

The Students' Union will:

- Maintain an appropriate working relationship with all members.
- Communicate with the members on a regular basis, via email, phone calls or meetings.
- Provide training and general support for ALL committee members.
- Remove all copies of media (Radio or Paper) if it is found that an article/show is defamatory, libellous and or slanderous.
- Reserve the right to monitor all studio activities and broadcast audio.
- Reserve the right to monitor usage of the studio computer(s) and any computer(s) used by the committee relevant Societies.
- Not allow members to bring the Union or University into disrepute.
- Automatically terminate the paper or radio whilst an investigation is carried out should a member bring about a civil, criminal, Ofcom or Press Complaints Commission investigation against the radio or newspaper. The individual(s) involved in the investigation will also be automatically terminated from further involvement in the society pending the results of the investigation.

Members will become subject to the Student Activities disciplinary procedure, and or the Students' Union disciplinary procedure and depending on the severity of the incident the University's Rules, Regulations and Procedures for Students, should they contravene any part of the Code of Conduct for Students, Defamation policy, the Defamation Act 1996 or any other policies associated to the Act.