

5016. ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS ON FREEDOM OF THE PRESS
FOR CAMPUS NEWSPAPER

5016.1 This administrative regulation shall be administered by the Dean of Student Affairs, consulting, when appropriate, with the Instructional Dean of Language Arts.

5016.2 The Viking newspaper is published by the Associated Student Body of Long Beach City College.

5016.3 Purpose

- A. To provide students, faculty and administrators with information about the college and its activities, to inform readers about issues of importance to them, to comment on those issues and to provide a forum for reader discussion and opinion.
- B. To provide journalism students with instruction and practical experience in applying the editorial skills necessary for publishing a newspaper.

5016.4 Guidelines

- A. The Viking staff will report as accurately and fairly as possible and will comment fairly and constructively.
- B. Realizing that the Viking is a student newspaper and a vital means of communication for Long Beach City College, the staff will give the greatest emphasis to activities and issues originating within the college, although this will not preclude printing news and opinions about off-campus activities and issues that affect the students and/or the college.
- C. At no time will the Viking print matter that is libelous or offensive to community standards of taste and decency or contains ethnic, religious or racial slurs, or causes substantial disruption of education.
- D. Viking editorials are the opinions of the editorial board. All other editorial page material, such as feature columns, is the opinion of the individual writers, not the Viking.
- E. The Viking is entitled to the rights accorded the press in a free society and therefore, has the right to criticize and point out shortcomings in any phase of school life or in any situation which affects students or the college. In its commitment to be accurate and fair, the Viking shall operate within the following guidelines:

1. Controversial Viking editorials and feature columns shall be based always on the issues, not personalities. Although individuals and organizations may be named, comment will be limited to their activities, policies and stated opinions regarding the issue under discussion.
 2. Any individual or group criticized in Viking editorials or feature columns shall be afforded equal space in a position of equal prominence on the same page for a reply. Each reply is to be published in the issue following the one in which the criticism occurred. Mere difference of opinion shall not be construed as criticism. The individual or group criticized must be clearly identified in the editorial or feature column to which a reply is addressed. The rules forbidding libel, affronts to community standards of taste and decency and ethnic, racial or religious slurs shall apply with the same force to replies as they do to all other material published in the Viking.
 3. Statements made "in public" shall be defined as those made in any meeting or gathering officially sanctioned by the college and open to the student body or faculty. When such statements contain material unfavorable to any individual or group, the quoting or paraphrasing of the statements in the news columns of the Viking shall be construed as reporting the news, not as attacks emanating from the Viking. The same shall apply to statements given in interviews. However, it shall be the responsibility of the staff writer covering the story to give the criticized or accused person or group the opportunity to reply in the same story. The reply may be edited, but not deleted or its meaning changed. Failure to reply shall not be grounds for delaying publication.
 4. Viking editorials shall not endorse any political candidates or espouse political parties. However, columnists will be free to take any position on any candidate, party, or issue because columns are only the opinions of the individual writers.
 5. Letters to the editor, guest columns and guest editorials are encouraged. However, columns and editorials from nonstaff writers must meet the same standards required of student journalists. Letters to the editor need not meet journalistic standards, but they may be edited to correct gross grammatical errors or to fit available space.
 6. These regulations shall be published on the editorial page of the Viking in the first issue each semester, and shall be displayed prominently in the Viking editorial offices.
- F. The advertising policy of the Viking is determined by the Board of Communications and is reviewed yearly.