



POLICY STATEMENT 56 CAMPUS FM RADIO STATION

POLICY DIGEST

Monitoring Unit:
Initially Issued: February 6, 2006
Last Revised:

I. PURPOSE

To establish policies and operating procedures necessary to carry out the University's obligations and responsibilities as owner and licensee of educational FM Radio Station KLSU. This policy statement also emphasizes the fact that radio broadcasting is a regulated medium and that the University, as the recipient of a license to broadcast, is required by law to manage and operate KLSU in a manner consistent with all requirements established by the Federal Communications Commission.

II. DEFINITIONS

Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

The FCC is a Federal agency that has been granted the legal authority to regulate and control radio and television broadcasting in the United States. Its powers include: the granting of licenses to operate radio stations; the assignment of specific broadcast frequencies and call letters; the establishment of regulations governing the management and operation of licensed radio and television stations; the imposition of sanctions, including the suspension of a license for violations of its regulations by a licensee. It is commonly referred to as the FCC.

Licensee

The legal entity in whose name a license to broadcast is issued from the FCC. The Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University Board and Agricultural and Mechanical College is the licensee for Station KLSU.

Regulation of Broadcast Media

All electronic broadcasting media, including non-commercial FM radio stations, are regulated by the Federal Communications Commission pursuant to the Communications Act of 1934 as amended.

While the law prohibits governmental censorship of broadcast media, it does provide that such media shall be operated in the public interest, convenience and necessity. Fundamental to the law is the principle that broadcasting frequencies are owned by the public and that the broadcaster is permitted the use of a frequency in the public interest. The FCC has issued regulations for the operation of broadcasting stations covering topics as diverse as engineering standards and the broadcasting of obscenity.

KLSU

The call letters assigned by the FCC to designate the non-commercial educational FM radio station license to operate on the LSU campus.

III. GENERAL POLICY

Radio Station KLSU is owned by the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College. It is a non-commercial, educational FM station located on the LSU campus and is administered by the Office of Student Media, a department within the Division of Student Life and Academic Services.

The purposes of this educational radio station are:

- A. To provide services to the University community and others in its listening area through dissemination of news, opinion, entertainment and other appropriate broadcast materials pursuant to its license to broadcast.
- B. To play a supportive role to the instructional program primarily through the affording of students with laboratory experiences.
- C. To provide students who participate in the operation of the radio station with opportunities for meaningful, extracurricular activities.

Authority for the operation of KLSU comes solely from its license granted by the Federal Communications Commission to the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College. Conditions of that license require that the University will "...have and maintain absolute control of the station, its equipment, and operation, including complete supervision of the programs to be broadcast..."

Consistent with the above requirement, authority for the operation of the radio station is delegated from the Board of Supervisors through the President, Chancellor, Office of Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Academic Services, Office of Student Auxiliary Services to the Office of Student Media. All persons to whom authority has been delegated for the operation of the radio station are held accountable for the wise and prudent use of that authority. All students working at KLSU, both volunteer and paid, must be aware of the University's responsibility as station licensee in their conduct and accountability to station management and the Office of Student Media. It is the continuing responsibility of the station's Adviser and the student station manager, who is appointed by the Student Media Board, to see that the station is operated in a manner consistent with the University's responsibility as licensee.

The University encourages active student participation in the operation of KLSU. However, since the station must be managed and operated in compliance with FCC regulations and since the licensee is legally accountable for this compliance, reasonable limits must be placed on the degree and level of student participation. While student prerogatives are given the widest possible expression, there will be times when a line must be drawn consistent with licensee responsibility. Since that line moves with changes in regulations and circumstances, the Adviser and/or the Director of the Office of Student Media are responsible for keeping student prerogatives consistent with the licensee's responsibility to the larger community (campus and beyond) served by the station's frequency.

IV. OPERATING PROCEDURES

Operating procedures for KLSU provide for the University's active participation and involvement in all aspects of the station's management and operation. Thus, these operating procedures must by law reflect a level of involvement and control that is considerably different and greater than the University's involvement, as publisher, in the editing of *The Daily Reveille*, *Legacy* and *Gumbo*. In establishing these operating procedures, due consideration is given to the University's desire to afford students maximum educational and participatory opportunities in the day-to-day operation of an educational radio station but which are consistent with the University's obligation as licensee of KLSU.

Student Participation

The interrelationship of the University management, student management and paid and unpaid student participants at KLSU is optimally one of a team effort in providing a climate for the nurturing of ideas and innovation within the requirements of FCC regulations, laws and University policies. Student participation at KLSU is in accordance with the following:

- A. All on-air personnel must follow FCC and National Association of Broadcasters rules and guidelines concerning program content and presentation.
- B. Student managers are expected to comply with conditions attached to their appointment by the Student Media Board.
- C. Paid student workers are held accountable for their performances as are other University employees.
- D. Volunteer workers are held accountable for their performances as are paid KLSU employees.
- E. Required resource material includes: "KLSU Rules & Regulations" and the NAB's "FCC Rules and Policies for Radio for Air Staff, Programmers and Management."
- F. Staff meetings are mandatory.
- G. All air staff must be cleared by the student station manager and chief announcer before having access to the air.
- H. All student participants are covered by provisions of the "Code of Student Conduct" in their involvement with KLSU as they are in all facets of student-University relationships.
- I. All KLSU workers – paid and/or volunteer – must follow the policies laid out in the "Student Media Handbook."

Office of Student Media

Authority has been delegated to the Office of Student Media for the orderly administration of all of the student media including radio station KLSU. Overall leadership is provided by the Director. Direct management of KLSU is provided through an Adviser. This office is also the administrative unit for paid student workers and the physical facilities of the radio station.

The Student Media Board

The Student Media Board has been delegated authority for the selection of the student station manager and has the authority to take disciplinary actions including removal for cause growing out of incompetence and irresponsibility on the part of the station manager. It reports administratively to the Office of Student Auxiliary Services within the Division of Student Life and Academic Services. Basic duties, authorities and responsibilities of the Student Communications Media Board are provided in its bylaws.

The Office of Student Auxiliary Services

Authority for the establishment of policies and general administrative procedures for the successful operation of KLSU, consistent with FCC regulations and in a manner that will afford students maximum educational opportunities in radio broadcasting, is delegated by the Office of the Chancellor, through the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Academic Services to the Office of Student Auxiliary Services. The Office of the Chancellor expects that all questions and conflicts that may arise in the interpretation of policies governing, or in the operation of KLSU will be resolved at the lowest administrative level at which sufficient authority exists to make the necessary decisions. In most cases such resolutions should be accomplished by means of discussion and consultation between the student staff, student station manager and the Adviser and/or the Director of the Office of Student Media. If such discussions and consultations are not successful, the next appeal level will be the Office of Student Auxiliary Services. The Office of the Vice Chancellor of Student Life and Academic Services shall be the final level of appeal of all policy questions relating to policies and practices governing the management and operation of KLSU.

Appeals

It is the University's policy to provide students with well-established appeal procedures for questioning the validity of any regulation, rule, policy, requirement, or procedure as it applies to the individual student. Thus, any student who believes that the policies and procedures established for the operation of KLSU have not been correctly followed in their application to a particular situation shall have the right of appeal. Such formal appeals should be made in accordance with PS-48 Student Appeal Procedures, or by following procedures established by the bylaws of the Student Media Board.

V. SOURCES

The Louisiana State University Handbook of Rights and Responsibilities in the Student-University Relationship; The Code of Student Conduct; bylaws of the Student Media Board; KLSU Broadcast License; the NAB's FCC Rules and Regulations for Radio for Air Staff, Programmers and Management; Student Media Handbook; KLSU Rules and Regulations.