THE ELOQUENT UMBRELLA: MISSION AND GOVERNANCE

Purpose of The Eloquent Umbrella

LBCC’s journal for the creative arts, The Eloquent Umbrella, is intended as an anthology of the creative works of student and community writers, designers, photographers, and other artists. Its purpose is twofold: to provide local artists with a forum for the publication of their works, and to provide the LBCC community with a literary journal that broadens and enlightens their views of the world around them.

Content considered suitable for the journal includes prose, poetry, essays, photography, design work and line art. Eligible contributors include the students and staff of LBCC and members of the district community at large.

Governance

In accordance with college policies governing student-produced publications, The Eloquent Umbrella will operate under the guidelines of the Student Publications Committee.

The committee will act as a neutral board. Its role is to assume responsibility for overall guidelines without assuming direct control of the journal’s editorial decision-making process, which will remain in the hands of the student editors.

The Committee is charged with appointing two editors during the fall term: a literary editor and a graphics editor. The Committee is also responsible for accepting editorial resignations and recommending the expulsion of editors for just cause.

The journal will be guided by a team of advisors lead by a member of the Humanities faculty, and including technical advice from members of the Fine & Applied Arts faculty.

The Committee will arbitrate disputes that may arise over content. Any member of the college community can initiate a discussion or register a complaint by following the procedures outlined here. In the case of alleged violations of guidelines, the Committee will hear testimony from all parties involved before rendering a recommendation.

In the event of a conflict regarding editorial decisions, the following procedures apply:

1. If the editors and advisors disagree prior to publication about the inclusion or exclusion of some item, either party may ask the Committee chair to call an emergency meeting of the Publications Committee, at which time both parties will present their arguments and the Committee will recommend action to the President. At any time after the publication of challenged material, the editor or advisor can also ask to initiate a meeting of the Committee to discuss the issue.

2. Any person associated with the school or community who has a complaint or wants to raise an issue regarding content of the journal, should first contact the student editors and/or faculty advisors. If either party feels the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the complaint or issue should be brought to the publications Committee for a hearing. The Committee chair has the responsibility to decide if
the request merits a convening of the Committee, if it should be made in writing, and when it should be presented to the Committee.

Standards of Content

The necessity for freedom of expression in literature and art requires that a literary review enjoy a somewhat more broad-minded and accepting attitude toward language use and art than would normally apply in a newspaper or official college publication. However, local audience tastes and sensibilities must always be weighed whenever editors face a question of potentially offensive content.

In general, editors must maintain an awareness of subject matter that could impact some readers differently than it affects the editors and their peers. Such an awareness requires a strong effort to think outside a person’s own frame of reference, and a commitment to fair-mindedness to those with other values and beliefs.

It is the policy of *The Eloquent Umbrella* that it will not knowingly publish items that are:

1. Discriminatory. Items that denigrate any race, sex, creed, group, or individual in a way that has no redemptive social or literary value will be avoided.

2. Libelous. Words or pictures which contain false defamation of any identified person or group in a manner that affects their reputation among associates will not be accepted. Note, however, that libel is false statement of fact, and does not necessarily apply to opinion and satire of public figures and works put forth for public use or approval.

3. Obscene. Words or pictures which clearly violate the perceived “community standards” of obscenity and taste will not be accepted. Although such standards are impossible to define precisely, it is understood that the Linn-Benton community is more sensitive than audiences in more secular metropolitan areas. Sexually explicit words or pictures which would affront a person of “ordinary sensibilities” will be avoided. However, it is understood that some words or pictures that could be considered “offensive” in certain social settings may be necessary and fitting to the literary value of certain articles.

It is the responsibility of the editors to resolve all issues of taste and to be accountable for their decisions. Should disagreements or indecision arise, the editors should first discuss the issues with their advisors. If the is still no resolution, the matter may be forwarded to the Publications Committee of arbitration.