

The Martlet Publishing Society

Conflict of Interest Policy

For the Martlet's purposes, conflict of interest happens when an individual (or their cause) benefits from their official action or influence. The Martlet has a relatively wide range of influence and we value maintaining and increasing our credibility. Any actions by staff and volunteers that can be seen as a conflict of interest should be mitigated. No volunteer or staff member will write news stories about a topic, issue or group while they are part of a club or special interest group that is investing in that topic, issue or group. However, that person may write an opinion or feature article at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief (EIC).

- Student politicians shall not write news stories, but may write opinion pieces at the discretion of the EIC.
- Volunteers and staff must not be active members of an organization they are covering.
- Volunteers and staff must not write opinion pieces on stories they also cover as reporters.
- Volunteers and staff of the Martlet will not accept free gifts from people or groups they are writing about, unless they are using the item to write a review (i.e. tickets to concerts, movies or performances; book reviews; CD reviews). Volunteers and staff will not let free promo items or PR agents influence impartial coverage.
- Volunteers and staff will take steps necessary to mitigate any real or apparent conflict of interest.
- If any volunteer or staff member suspects there is a conflict of interest happening, they will inform the EIC as soon as possible.

The EIC or section editor will aim to avoid apparent conflict of interest by having some degree of separation between a writer or videographer and their subject. If a volunteer or staff member is a friend or family member of their subject, the EIC or section editor will assign a different person to the story where possible. This is at the discretion of the EIC.