

Resolution of the SGO

I. Short Title

This act may be referred to as “The Website Policy Act of 2002.”

II. Acceptable Use

Sec. 1 The SGO does not believe in and will not practice censorship of any kind, except for the circumstances listed below. The SGO welcomes any comment or opinion as long as it has reasonable justification.

Sec. 2 The SGO and the Webmaster reserve the right to delete posts and/or ban users from the system if such posts violate this Acceptable Use Policy. The Webmaster shall keep a public record of all deleted posts with such posts being visible only to SGO Officers.

Sec. 3 Posts containing illegal content, or that advocate or facilitate illegal acts, or contain links to such material, are prohibited.

Sec. 4 Posts containing obscene or vulgar content are prohibited.

Sec. 5 As this is a public message board and standards of decency are necessary to its credibility, use of swear words is prohibited, including partially obscured ones.

Sec. 6 Falsehood refers to making a statement that is false, and is prohibited.

Sec. 7 Impersonation refers to making posts under a name that is understood to be attributed to another poster, and is prohibited.

Sec. 8 Scrolling refers to posting material that is meaningless, and is prohibited.

Sec. 9 Flaming refers to posting material that is meant solely to offend, without justification, and is prohibited. The SGO realizes that almost any opinion might be found offensive to somebody; this category **only** covers statements that do not contain reasonable supporting evidence.

Always back up your opinion with justification and it will not be censored.

Sec. 10 If a poster wishes to appeal a decision of the Webmaster pertaining to deletion of posts or banning of users, they may seek a motion for that purpose to be introduced by an SGO Officer, and the issue will be considered in a general session of the SGO Council.

III. Other Policy

Sec. 1 Pertaining to *Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier* (1988), the SGO contends that its website is a “public forum for student expression,” as its content is not controlled or regulated by the Administration.

Sec. 2 In accordance with the Federal Communications Decency Act, the SGO claims immunity from prosecution stemming from defamatory comments posted to unmoderated message boards.

Sec. 3 All users will be informed before entering the message board that all posts are visible to the public and may be viewed by persons outside of the North Shore Community. Posters are advised not to post any personal information on this site, and may post under a pseudonym. Neither the SGO nor its subsidiaries, affiliates, parents, or representatives shall be held liable for any damages stemming from the content of posts by users to the message board.

Sec. 4 Though copyright of material used in or posted to the website (including the message board) is retained by the author thereof, the SGO receives a non-exclusive right to publish the work in any form in perpetuity, unless another arrangement has been made with the author.

Sec. 5 The act of posting to the message board indicates agreement to all stipulations of this act.

IV. Appropriations

Sec. 1 The SGO hereby appropriates \$35 per year, beginning with the fiscal year 2002, for basic domain name and web hosting service.

Sec. 2 Should the domain name and hosting company change the price of services subscribed to by the SGO, the amounts of appropriation in Section 1 of this Article shall be automatically altered accordingly upon notification of the SGO Council by the Webmaster.

Sec. 3 Should the domain name and hosting company incur any special charges or fees to the SGO, including but not limited to setup fees or overage charges, the amounts of appropriation in Section 1 of this Article shall be automatically altered accordingly upon notification of the SGO Council by the Webmaster.

Sec. 4 Should the Webmaster deem it appropriate to purchase additional services, Section 1 of this Article may be revised by simple motion of the SGO Council.

Sec. 5 Any funds appropriated but not used in any fiscal year may not be used for another purpose by the Webmaster.

Sec. 6 The SGO Council may by motion override any decision of the Webmaster pertaining to disbursement of monies, and may by motion temporarily withhold appropriations to the Webmaster.

Sec. 7 The Webmaster must come to all decisions through consultation with the SGO Advisor and President.

Passed by motion of the SGO Council on March 19, 2002