

PROTECTION OF STUDENT PRESS IN JOURNALISM: STUDENT PRESS JURNIS.ID-UNIS, TANGERANG POST-COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE PRESS COUNCIL AND THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Ratna Komala¹⁾, Widayat S. Noeswa²⁾

1) Faculty of Communication Studies/Pamulang University, South Tangerang / Email: dosen02853@unpam.ac.id

2) Faculty of Communication Studies/Pamulang University, South Tangerang, Email: dosen02857@unpam.ac.id

ARTICLE INFORMATION	ABSTRACT
Submitted: August, 20.2025 Review: August, 28. 2025 Accepted: December, 12. 2025 Published: December, 28. 2025 Keywords: <i>Digital Emotion, Emotional Expression, Relationship Quotes, Sense-giving , TikTok</i>	<i>The student press is part of the national press ecosystem, serving as a training ground for students to become journalists. The problems faced by the student press are not much different from those faced by the general press. The challenges faced by the student press include physical attacks, verbal intimidation, doxing, censorship, and even banning. The student press is more vulnerable because Law No. 40 of 1999 concerning the Press does not specifically mention campus press but only regulates legally incorporated press institutions. As a result, the position of the student press is weak; if their journalistic products are questioned, they cannot be mediated by the Press Council. It was not until 2024 that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by the Press Council and the Directorate General of Higher Education (DIKTI), which was opening the way for student press protection and consultation or mediation assistance with the Press Council, and training and education for campus presses as well. The research paradigm is constructivism, where truth is social reality as a social construction, and the truth of social reality is relative. In this qualitative research, we conducted in-depth observations of student press informants.</i>
CORRESPONDENCE	
Phone: +62 81299329991 E-mail: dosen02853@unpam.ac.id	

1. INTRODUCTION

The birth of the student press in Indonesia was marked by the publication of IDEA magazine in 1948. It was only after 1950 that the Indonesian student press experienced rapid growth (Achmad, 2021: 77). To understand the student press, it is necessary to examine two elements of the word: press and student (lexical meaning). Press refers to the medium of communication. Meanwhile, the student figure is imbued with a dynamic nuance and a scholarly attitude based on objective, systematic, and rational reality. Furthermore, students are a group of highly educated young people, possessing youthful values and academic disciplines. These values also contribute to radical, critical, and emotional attitudes, gradually leading to a significant new civilization/culture (Achmad, 2021: 76-77).

To distinguish the student press from the general press, institutionally, the general press is a legally incorporated press company, meaning that under the law, it enjoys legal protection in carrying out its journalistic duties and is accountable for its journalistic work as an organization. Meanwhile, the student press was established as a Student Press Institution, both editorially and institutionally. Historically, this student press institution was established at the initiative of Gama Magazine, through

the First Indonesian Student Press Conference (Achmad, 2021: 78). In carrying out its duties, the student press, like the general press, also adheres to journalistic principles and a gatekeeper function within its editorial organization. As the press is defined in the Press Law No. 40 of 1999 (Journalist's Pocket Book, 2023), the student press, in addition to carrying out journalistic functions such as those carried out by the Student Press Institute (LPM) at UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya, is also a democratic arena for students, with the same assignment system as professional press institutions, starting with news planning (theme determination), news gathering (collecting news materials), news writing (news writing), news editing (editing news scripts), and news publishing (publication in the mass media). (Emeraldien et al., 2022: 161).

The problems faced by student press are not much different from those faced by the general press. The challenges faced by student press are often vulnerable to physical attacks, verbal intimidation, doxing, censorship, and even banning. Based on data from the Press Legal Aid Institute (LBH Pers) between 2019 and 2022, there were 22 cases handled by campus press institutions, and a collaborative report from Tirto and Deduktid found at least 25 cases of violence from 2015 to 2022. Similar findings were also reported by the Indonesian Student Press Association (PPMI), which found 185 cases of repression against student press in 2020-2021, with 48 cases being perpetrated by university officials. Although the challenges faced are not significantly different from those faced by established press institutions, student press institutions are far more vulnerable because they are not explicitly recognized by law. Law No. 40 of 1999 concerning the Press does not specifically mention campus press, only referring to established institutions. (Prawira, 2023: 42).

The exclusion of the student press from the legal framework presents a dilemma. When a student press report is challenged, the complaint cannot be resolved through mediation with the Press Council. Furthermore, press protections against bans, censorship, and other forms of interference, as stipulated in Press Law No. 40/1999, are also not applicable to the student press. This weakens the legal standing of the student press, both in terms of its rights and obligations.

As part of the Indonesian press ecosystem, in 2024 the student press can consult with the Press Council, since the Press Council and the Directorate General of Higher Education (Ditjen Dikti), Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology of the Republic of Indonesia have signed a collaboration, namely in the field of Strengthening and Protecting Student Journalistic Activities in the Higher Education Environment, on March 18, 2024. In article (1) of the agreement document, it is stated that the agreement is intended as a legal basis for carrying out activities to strengthen and protect student journalistic activities under the coordination of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology (Press Council, 2024).

The collaboration stipulates the scope of the agreement between the Press Council and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology, covering four points : (1) Improving student competency in journalistic activities within universities, (2) Resolving disputes arising from student journalistic activities within universities, (3) Implementing the Independent Learning (Merdeka Belajar Kampus Merdeka) program for students, which will be implemented independently by the Press Council within the Press Council, (4) Exchange of data and information relevant to the objectives of this agreement. (Press Council, 2024).

Under this agreement, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology, as a facilitator, is required to actively encourage universities to resolve press disputes brought to the Press Council's jurisdiction. The Press Council and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology also have the duty and responsibility to improve Student Press competency through seminars, training, workshops, and other means. In this regard, the Press Council now has the authority to organize work experience activities within the Press Council, which can be implemented under the Merdeka Belajar Kampus Merdeka program of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology.

Several previous studies on student press include "Hayamwuruk Student Press: Media for the Ideological Student Resistance Movement 1985-1998" by Albertus Arga Yuda Prasetya, Dewi Yulianti, the results describe that the student media of the Faculty of Letters UNDIP can be categorized as general press, to convey the ideas and criticisms of students, which are difficult to channel in general

media (Prasetya & Yuliati, 2020: 131). In addition, the study "The Urgency of Recognition and Legal Protection of the Student Press in Indonesia" by M. Rizki Yudha Prawira, the results show that the position of the Student Press is vulnerable because there is no recognition of Law No. 40 of 1999 for the Student Press, so it cannot reach legal protection. This study underscores the recognition of the Chairman of the Press Council 2016-2019, Yosep Adi Prasetyo, who grouped the performance of the Press into four quadrants (Figures 1 and 2). Student Press is a media group that is not verified by the Press Council, but the content of its news is considered to meet the standards of the journalistic code of ethics according to Press Law No. 40/1999 (Prawira, 2023: 52).

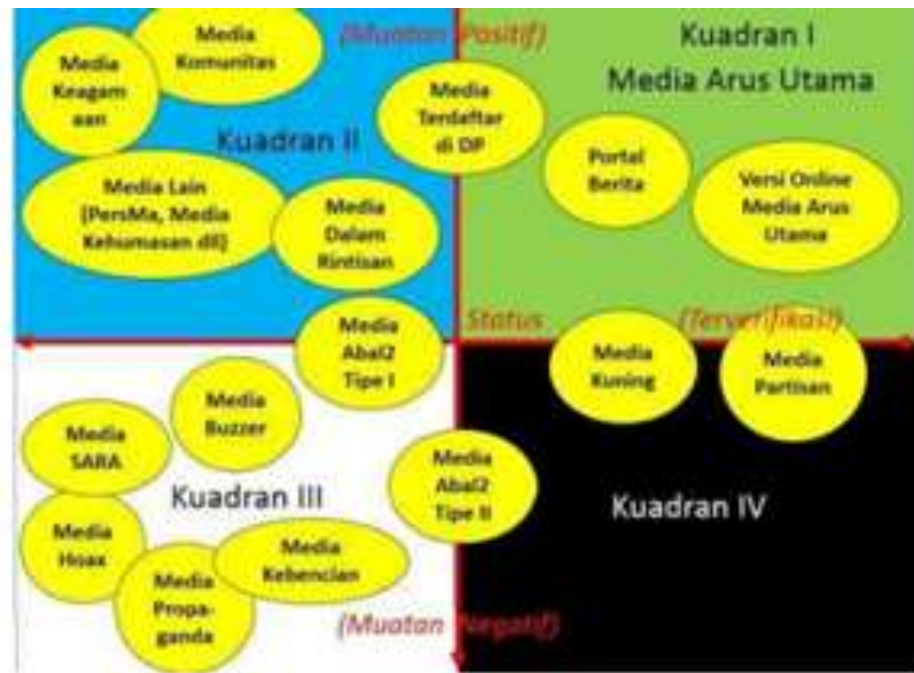


Figure 1. Media Variety in Each Quadrant
(Source : Yosep Adi Prasetyo; Prawira, 2023:51-52)

Another study, "The Role of Organizational Communication in Increasing the Work Motivation of Student Press Members of the Acta Diurna Communication Science Faculty of Political Sciences, Unsrat Manado," was conducted by Keizia Jeina Polii et al. The study found that the credibility of student press administrators has quite good communication skills, because most of them are students majoring in communication science with concentrations in journalism or public relations. (Polii et al., 2020: 12). Meanwhile, the study "Digital Literacy Skills of Hayamwuruk Student Press Members of the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Diponegoro University in Responding to Hoaxes" showed that informants were already "digitally literate," familiar with and utilizing digital information sources since elementary school. They use Google to search for information related to their college assignments, in addition to for references, by referring to news portals Tirto.id and Kompas. (Sahilanda & Jumino, 2021: 89)

Another study, entitled "Campus Journalism - Assignment System and Communication Patterns of the UINSA Surabaya Student Press," was conducted by Fikry Zahria Emeraldien et al. Their findings indicate that the student press institution serves as a learning tool for students to understand journalism, as well as a venue for democracy and a medium for honing critical thinking skills. It also has the same assignment system as professional press institutions (Emeraldien et al., 2022: 161).

Drawing on previous research on the student press, the researchers are interested in addressing the topic, which is also a novelty in this research: Protection of the Student Press in Carrying Out Journalistic Work: The Jurnis.id-UNIS Student Press, Tangerang, Post-Collaboration between the Press Council and the Directorate General of Higher Education.

2. METHOD

The paradigm used in this research is constructivism, a paradigm in which the truth of a social reality is seen as a social construction, and the truth of a social reality is relative. This type of research is qualitative, which goes beyond merely examining surface behavior. Qualitative research is narrative-descriptive and cannot be generalized because it involves each individual with diverse thoughts and unique characteristics. Qualitative research is conducted through open-ended interviews to examine and understand the attitudes, views, and behaviors of individuals and groups.

The object of this research is Syekh Yusuf Islamic University (UNIS) Tangerang, a university in Tangerang and a pioneer of higher education in the region. One of the Student Activity Units at Syekh Yusuf Islamic University is the Journalism program, *Jurnis.id*. The selection of key informants in this study used purposive sampling, which involves selecting key informants based on the individuals deemed most knowledgeable about the topic. In this case, the informants were members of the student press at Syekh Yusuf Islamic University, namely the Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor of the *Jurnis.id* Student Press Editorial Team. To obtain opinions from several different perspectives (triangulation), these included student readers of *Jurnis.id*, the opinions of the Student Activity Unit Supervisor, and the opinions of members of the Press Council.

Data collection techniques included in-depth interviews with informants and participant observation of the *Jurnis.id* Student Press Editorial Team, which included observing editorial meetings, discussions, decision-making, and news selection. Secondary data was supplemented by supporting interviews and observations in the form of documentation such as photos, videos, audio recordings, and other supporting documentation.

Data processing involved coding, which is the process of sorting and categorizing data, selecting only what is needed. You can choose direct sentences from interviews (open coding) or take indirect sentences or paraphrases (axial coding). Data validity (trustworthiness of data) is a triangulation technique or a technique for checking research data by comparing sources, theories, and research methods/techniques.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Jurnis.id Student Press in Journalism

One of the Student Activity Units (UKM) at Syekh Yusuf Islamic University is the Journalism activity, with its media outlet, *Jurnis.id*. Press activities at universities foster the development of professional journalists from an early age, through learning to uphold the truth and practicing independence. While they may not be professional journalists, they instill ethical values. The student press also instills democratic values, as the press is the fourth pillar of democracy. A country is considered democratic if its press or mass media can operate freely without pressure. The mass media or press must be given the space to operate independently and carry out their duties and functions in accordance with applicable regulations. The student press also serves as a medium that must articulate democratic values within the university.

The student press serves as a training ground for instilling professional press values in the practice of journalistic work. Student press editors understand the concept of news values, news judgment, or news judgment, or the decision-making process for selecting news items that are most needed by the public on campus. Disciplined, independent attitudes, or freedom of opinion and expression, as well as realizing press freedom must be practiced in the student press.

During the 2024-2025 editorial term, *Jurnis.id*, the student press at Syekh Yusuf Islamic University, is led by Rifshia Rahmi as Editor-in-Chief and by Fenny Apriyanti as Managing Editor, along with several journalists. *Jurnis.id* serves as the platform for its news releases, specifically as a digital platform similar to social media platforms:

- 1) Blogspot: to broadcast hard news, soft news (human activities), and opinion pieces.
- 2) Instagram: to broadcast news feeds uploaded to blogs, media partners, activity reels, and educational content.
- 3) TikTok: to broadcast educational content, Daily Recaps, and Fun.
- 4) YouTube: to broadcast Live Reports, Travel Hunting, and Activity Recaps.

All four platforms share the same name: Jurnis.id. The editorial team typically uploads news three times a week. This means that in one week, the Jurnis.id team covers three news stories, including writing and editing. This process is coordinated by the Managing Editor.

Topics for news stories are hard news, such as incidents that occur on campus. For example, lost helmets, inaugurations, or based on invitations from the campus. Unfortunately, coverage of campus policies, such as the Single Tuition Fee (UKT), has never been covered because the Editor-in-Chief and the Editor-in-Chief admitted that they have psychological obstacles and do not yet have the courage to confront the Rectorate, especially the Journalism Student Activity Unit (UKM) under the Vice Rector III. The Jurnis.id editorial team admitted that Jurnis.id is a forum for learning student press, especially journalism. "Actually, we realize that there are many topics that are actually important for students, such as the Single Tuition Fee (UKT) increase. But again, the Editor-in-Chief, Editors, and friends are still considering, what if a problem arises," explained the Editor-in-Chief. The Managing Editor added, "We are considering it, because it happened once when our seniors were summoned by the Rectorate, because they were worried that it would disrupt, tarnish, and damage the campus's reputation. Indeed, they were only warned, not disrupting education.

Another example of hard news is coverage of Community Service (KKN) fees, where students demanded transparency and clarity regarding the KKN payments. At the time, all students were gathered and invited to a meeting with the Rectorate. The student press also attended to cover Jurnis.id, and during the reporting process, debates ensued. The rectorate's explanation was that paying for the helmets was quite expensive. Ultimately, the editorial team decided not to report on the matter. Furthermore, the rector had no statement from the rector about the actual amount of the KKN fees.

Once again, the student press was hesitant to report on meetings between the rector and students, in the case of the Journalism Student Activity Unit (UKM). This was because the organization falls under the authority of the Rectorate. Consequently, Jurnis.id did not report. The editorial team was asked to attend, allegedly to prevent demonstrations, explained the Editor-in-Chief. Jurnis.id had attempted to report on incidents of sexual violence, but found it difficult to obtain evidence or relied on rumors due to a lack of complete data. Therefore, the topic of sexual violence was not covered due to the difficulty of uncovering it.

According to the Editor-in-Chief, the issue of courage in covering the Rectorate's policies is related to psychological pressure, as *Jurnis.id* is organizationally under the Rectorate, so it never covers sensitive topics. "I don't know what topics were covered in previous years, ma'am. Maybe there were some before, ma'am. Previously, *Jurnis.id*'s management was quite male. So they were also more courageous, participating in demonstrations and protests. But I don't think there were any threats of expulsion or suspension from their studies."

One hard news story, involving an external topic that was covered, involved demonstrations against the Broadcasting Bill. At the time, large demonstrations took place in several cities across Indonesia, including Tangerang. The problem was that the Broadcasting Bill prohibited journalists from producing investigative reports. The Jurnis.id team ultimately produced a report, which was published on Jurnis.id. The Broadcasting Bill itself was postponed and never officially passed. "At that time, the person we interviewed was a journalist, namely the Head of the Media Center, RedPel added."

Soft news topics covered included tourist attractions in Tangerang and tips and tricks on children's kidney health, based on a doctor's release. Kidney disease among children was quite trending and garnered considerable interest. Other lighter topics included the historic Thousand Doors Mosque and the campus-organized Film Festival. "For example, my class held a film festival, and we produced the news. Interviews were conducted with the filmmakers, producers, and actors."

In summary, Jurnis.id's topics generally focused on internal campus topics and rarely addressed external topics. The only hard news story ever published was coverage of the demonstrations rejecting the Broadcasting Bill. Approximately 70 percent of the topics were internal, and 30 percent external.

96

perspective must also consider the readership. In line with the style of Generation Z, they are more attracted to concise information presented visually, such as on Instagram. "In terms of packaging, Instagram is more appealing because it's presented in a much more concise and visual format. Blogs are intended for reading, and they're much more comprehensive."

Devi finds Jurnis.id's YouTube content less readable. "It's light news uploaded when young people are disappointed with the state of Indonesia. Devi reads articles about Indonesia Gelap (Dark Indonesia) and tips on education. In this regard, Devi believes the Jurnis.id management has carried out journalistic work appropriately. Jurnis.id should maintain its selection of Indonesia Gelap news. "The interaction from followers of news readers is still lacking." "Readers are less responsive, and the topics are not interestingly packaged, and they don't fit the target audience. Yes, if I look at the followers, the majority are UNIS students." In this case, readers from the Generation Z group considered Jurnis.id's editorial team to be less engaging.

Given the low engagement, Devi suggested an evaluation by the student press management to improve Jurnis.id. "In my opinion, it seems like students are not interested in the topics, so promotion is needed. For example, if there's a student organization event, many students don't know about it. That means there's a lack of promotion."

Regarding whether the news stories covered by Jurnis.id meet the Journalistic Code of Ethics, Devi assessed that those that have been published have generally passed quality control (QC), and have been assessed as being free of sensitive content, using polite language, or containing violence or pornography. Furthermore, Devi assessed the sources as being representative and able to provide explanations as needed.

For Devi, Jurnis.id's presence on campus can be considered beneficial, not only for accommodating students' writing but also for providing information on job opportunities. "Informationally, jurnis.id provides us with valuable information. For example, it provides job opportunities this year and discusses how to increase our self-worth to meet the market's current needs. In addition to job openings, jurnis.id also provides information on scholarships, which is certainly attractive to students."

Triangulation or data validity is also required from the perspective of key informant Faisal Tomi Saputra, the Supervisor of the Journalism Student Activity Unit. During the two terms of the student press leadership, the Supervisory Lecturer stated that it remains unclear whether they position themselves as student activists or as Student Press Management. "Their performance hasn't been clear during their two terms of leadership. They tend to be unaware of their duties as campus activists. They have actually chosen to be activists or non-activists, but they don't yet have rules, including rewards and punishments within the organization, so they're still feeling their way."

They haven't yet determined that if they act as a Student Press, their legal protection remains under the Rectorate. On the other hand, the Student Press maintains the discipline to be independent and prioritize the public interest. In establishing a model, the student press still frequently contacts its seniors, but they remain uncertain about scaling up, for example, engaging in activities outside or within their organization. "For internal evaluation, they have rewards and punishments, but the lecturers don't focus too much on internal issues, because they feel uncomfortable being constantly monitored. "I once gave them a weekly incentive for discussions because there weren't any. It turned out they could only fulfill it once a month. They were simply demonstrating and maintaining critical thinking about the reality around them," Tomi explained.

In assessing the journalistic work of the Jurnis.id editorial team, the supervising lecturer also provided notes, particularly regarding journalistic standards and the Journalistic Code of Ethics. "I try to improve how journalistic values are met. Although sometimes choosing an angle is still less than compelling, now we also need reader participation. When news is merely ceremonial, who reads it, and how many of our colleagues don't see an interesting angle?"

Regarding news narrative writing, the supervising lecturer emphasized the importance of accountability and not carelessness. For example, the identity of people in sensitive cases must adhere to a code of ethics, such as disguised names. News sources must be clear and provide fair opportunities for interviews or cover both sides, avoiding harming either party. As a supervisor, I also reminded the

Jurnis.id editorial team that they must uphold the principle of independence so they can practice upholding democracy. Of course, we must consider the campus culture.

Furthermore, the advisor also looks for patterns while assessing their capacity and sensitivity to journalistic work. "My role as an advisor is to recommend participating in competitions or participating in journalism, for example, photography activities, because it relates to student activities that impact accreditation and can be recognized. The lecturers' desire is actually more to address topics related to education or, more generally, social, and political issues."

As an advisor, the hope is to prepare students to be competitive, so they will have skills upon graduation. This is a university indicator of the output of graduates. Whether they will be absorbed by industry and not limited to internal or educational work. There are indeed boundaries that sometimes make them technically confused. "Our hope is that when students graduate, they won't have to apply for jobs, but will be sought after by industry because they are truly competent. Like my experience when I interned at a newspaper in Banten and was asked to continue."

Students working in journalism on campus, particularly at Jurnis.id, don't necessarily need a journalism background. From my experience, many journalists in the industry have educational backgrounds in law, economics, and other fields. As a Supervisor, I always motivate students studying journalism, explaining that becoming a journalist can start a career as a generalist. In education, they don't need to go far; they can focus on the Tri Dharma of Higher Education. I hope they can educate the public, for example, on the importance of professional certification. It's crucial to possess and demonstrate competency.

When practicing reporting on news stories, such as sexual violence, they aren't sure about the protection they receive. When required to cover both sides after witnesses emerge, the journalists remain hesitant and reluctant to clarify. Even if they are indeed wrong and legally guilty, they are also treated with the presumption of innocence, with the case being disguised. At the very least, the truth needs to be upheld and there are parties protected. There is an Anti-Violence Committee on campus. However, because they were afraid to raise this topic, it was ultimately dropped and taken down.

The supervisor's criticism and input to students, particularly the Editor-in-Chief and Editor-in-Chief, emphasized the need for consistency. "It would be good to monitor them daily. If they have 40 members, one news item per day, and one person uploads it, that means one person writes one news item once a month, and that's the 30-day requirement. If there's news every day, that's consistent. That's what I criticized the Editorial Team for."

Regarding the standards for student press journalism, data validation or triangulation is needed from the Press Council. Arif Zulkifli, a key informant from the Press Council for the 2019-2022 and 2022-2025 periods, is a key informant. The Press Council emphasized that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Press Council and the Directorate General of Higher Education (DIKTI) can train students and also provide an understanding of the campus. "If students investigate misconduct on campus, don't prevent the press from doing so. Instead, use the principle of covering both sides. So, don't treat them like other student organizations on campus and dismiss them or cut off their funding, because this student organization is special. That's what the Press Council conveyed to the Directorate General of Higher Education," explained Arif Zulkifli.

"We face a dilemma. First, the fact that student presses are the largest supplier of professional journalists. They probably account for 70-80 percent of journalists in national media outlets. That's true... I, and most of us, were once part of the student press. So they were formed, at least in spirit, by the student press."

On the other hand, there's a desire to encourage student presses to become professional. This means they no longer need to rely on student presses on campus, but instead gather outside of campus and form press organizations. The problem is, they can't be called student presses, even if their members are students. "We can protect them, but their status isn't student presses; I don't know what they're called... Another problem is that they'll face the complexities of being a non-student press. Among other things, they have to find advertising. Yet, on campus, they only receive training in journalism and writing techniques."

The Democratic Function of the Student Press and Legal Protection

As the Student Press practices upholding the democratic function of the press, specifically regarding the editorial board of Jurnis.id, the Editor-in-Chief and Editor-in-Chief acknowledged that one way to enforce this oversight function is to question transparency or question the rectorate's policies regarding financial support for small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Both the Editor-in-Chief and Editor-in-Chief stated that efforts have been made to obtain a report from Jurnis.id, specifically regarding the Ormawa (Student Organization) budget, regarding how student press funding is distributed. "We received an explanation of how to obtain financial support. We must first go through the Student Press President, and obtain approval and signatures from the President, as well as from the Rectorate. So, regarding the process, the use of funds for the Student Press falls administratively under the Vice Rector III. This has been beneficial for us, and the Jurnis.id editorial team believes this hearing process is a good tradition, albeit still limited.

Regarding the Introduction to Campus Life for New Students (PKKMB), which in the past has often been marked by sensitive activities on various campuses, the Editor-in-Chief and Editor-in-Chief of Jurnis.id explained that such sensitive activities never occurred during their time in the Student Press. They also claimed to have never encountered obstacles or intimidation while reporting.

When triangulated with Jurnis.id's student readers regarding the enforcement of oversight functions as part of democracy, Devi argued that Jurnis.id lacks courage. For example, several articles about the dean were not published. "The dean said there needed to be clarification and verification. Since I was there, I witnessed the mediation. There was more or less clarification from the dean, but ultimately, it wasn't published at all for Jurnis.id."

Regarding the oversight function in socio-political life, specifically the topic of "Indonesia Gelap" (Dark Indonesia), the topic of "Kabur Aja Dulu" (Dark Indonesia) has not been addressed by Jurnis.id's student press. "What I've read is more of a casual report, that such a phenomenon exists. That there is currently a situation of "Indonesia Gelap" (Dark Indonesia), with several demands being expressed by activists and students. For example, regarding Danantara, the Job Creation Law, and education budget efficiency."

Meanwhile, regarding the enforcement of democracy, triangulation was conducted from the perspective of the Supervising Lecturer. It is hoped that young journalists can grow on campus, possessing idealism and education, both in writing and in upholding campus democracy. Given the trend in campus organizational culture since the Student Executive Board (BEM) lost its president at UNIS, students lack the courage to express and assert their rights. "That's why I'm now pushing for openness in democratic rights, and it must be socialized first. What is the vision? If you want to lead the Student Executive Board with a GPA of only 2.0, you should be higher, superior to others. The Student Executive Board has a role in oversight."

Regarding the oversight function, students have actually asked about how the rectorate's funds for the student press are disbursed. They asked about the extent to which this has been done, the direction of its development, and how they should act, as students are still under the coordination of the foundation. "When people want to protest, they end up running into structural issues on campus. But I always encourage them. There's no problem if it's the truth or clarification, that's fine. But then again, students are afraid. Especially when they meet with the Vice Rector for Student Affairs, they're afraid, and I understand that. Let alone you, we get scolded. Maybe there needs to be a new tradition..."

"If there's a UKT increase, what are the elements, and why is it being increased?" Matters related to students should be bridged so there's no resistance and the Chancellor can explain them. Sometimes, for example, for journalism education and training, students have to go to Puncak, West Java, and spend money. If we follow procedures, it takes a long time. Ultimately, we all have to raise funds independently or pool our resources.

Regarding the collaboration between the Press Council and the Directorate General of Higher Education on student press, which means there's an effort to help protect and improve journalism education, the Editor-in-Chief and Editor-in-Chief of Jurnis.id explained that they weren't yet fully aware of the signing of the collaboration between the Press Council and the Directorate General of

Higher Education, in the form of an MoU (Memorandum of Understanding). When checking the Press Council's website, they stated that they had only just learned that the MoU was signed between the Press Council and the Directorate General of Higher Education on March 28, 2024. This MoU opens the door for PersMa to consult with the Press Council and even request training from the Press Council regarding student press issues.

How big is the impact on student life on campus after the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Press Council and the Directorate General of Higher Education (DITJEN DIKTI). "Actually, anyone, not just the Journalism Student Activity Unit, especially since this is a legal activity on campus. So, the campus does have rights, for example, to protect protesters; we also protect them. For example, during the Omnibus Law demonstrations, many of us participated, including the Student Executive Board (BEM), and it was a national movement, a social movement, and some were arrested. As a form of protection, we secured the funds with the Regional Police, but with Jurnis.id students, there were rarely any problems. But our commitment is to protect our students. So, it shouldn't hinder the work of the press, and now, with the MoU, this student press has become a part of the press ecosystem. It's not a press, but it produces journalistic work.

In my view as a supervising lecturer, the student press needs to network so they can help each other, share experiences, and develop the student press organization. They need to network not only with student press members on campus, but also with student press members from outside. "I used to have a student press association throughout Banten. We gathered from various campuses, and the latest issue was the UKT (Student Tuition Fee) comparative study. I even motivate students by inviting those who excel to do comparative studies, so that they will have the spirit of independence."

The student press in Tangerang differs from the student press in Banten because Tangerang is both a transit city and a service city, so it has a large population. Access to Jakarta is also convenient, making national networking easy. Furthermore, the Press Council already has a collaborative umbrella with the Directorate General of Higher Education. "In the future, God willing, we will launch competency certificates, similar to courses or internships, before obtaining formal certification. We must meet the challenge of obtaining a certificate for the student press, as a supplement to our diploma."

According to Press Council member Arif Zulkifli, the condition of the student press before the collaboration or Memorandum of Understanding between the Press Council and the Directorate General of Higher Education often fell outside the Press Council's jurisdiction, yet it frequently received attention. Essentially, the student press is a press run by students within the campus environment. In practice, they work within student activity units (UKM), student activity units (UKM), or any other organization, but they are certainly within the campus environment and within the campus structure.

Therefore, the Student Press Student Activity Unit (UKM Persma) is on par with karate, tennis, or nature lovers, and similar activities. The organization is located on campus, funded by the campus, and reports to the Rectorate or Dean if it's within a faculty. "Under these conditions, the Student Press is certainly not independent, because it's a type of UKM. But these students have a free press spirit, and the interaction between the campus press and the mainstream press is also very good, perhaps due to the democratic atmosphere, acting as true journalists, including upholding the principles of monitoring the community, in this case the campus environment," explained Arif Zulkifli.

In several places, the Student Press has boldly written about corruption involving professors, rectors, extortion, and so on. While accuracy isn't yet a concern, they have implemented these practices with the mindset that we are the press, we are the student press. This includes carrying out oversight functions in accordance with the law. "I think it's good. I chose to hold training sessions; that's the spirit," Zulkifli added.

When there's a clash between organizational lack of independence and the spirit of social function or social control, that's where cases arise. For example, the most common is violence against student press officers. Some are bullied, others beaten, and the perpetrators can be various, not always perpetrated by members of the campus. In cases of violence against new students by their seniors, the anger isn't the new students or the campus, but rather the parents of the seniors conducting orientation.

In several of these incidents, punishment was imposed on student press officers who were deemed to have defamed the university.

An article about defamation occurred in Halmahera. Press Council member Imam Wahyudi went to court at the time because student press activists were dismissed or fired, others had their theses rejected, were suspended, and so on. "Now, when it went to court, the Press Council naturally became confused. Legally, under Law No. 40/1999, the press is defined as a professional press, meaning a press with a legal entity. Meanwhile, this student press is not a legal entity; they are part of the campus. "So it doesn't fall within the Press Council's protection." This is indeed a problem. Therefore, the Press Council took the initiative, for example, when in court, it was stated that the student press was carrying out journalistic duties.

So the Press Council spoke again with the ministry, in this case the Ministry of Education and Culture, and the Directorate General of Higher Education. While the student press isn't within the Press Council's purview, if a dispute arises, the Press Council can be consulted, and that's roughly the spirit of the matter. "There's no need to discuss criminal matters; they're also learning. We at the Press Council have experience in mediation. One of the Press Council's duties is to mediate when disputes arise between the public and the press. During the discussion, the Press Council will issue recommendations. There are ethical issues, but we can still address them; we shouldn't fire them. That's roughly the principle."

The Directorate General of Higher Education finally agreed, asking the Press Council to provide education for the student press. The Press Council was very supportive. Two articles were then added to the student press regulations. The agreement was then signed. Of course, this wasn't the end of the matter, as the MoU between the Press Council and the Ministry of Education doesn't automatically obligate the ministry to comply. "The MoU is the agreement. Our friends in the student press want stricter regulations. But the choice is either an MoU or nothing else."

Another question: the legal subject is the Ministry, and then the campuses, which fall under the Ministry, are under its jurisdiction. Are these campuses legally obligated to comply with an MoU not signed directly by the campus, since it was signed by a higher-level institution? "There is indeed a problem. The campus has independence, so it can also refuse. Although there hasn't been any rejection so far."

Legally, we must take mitigation measures. Our colleagues at the Press Council's Legal Commission are currently working on a meeting with the Rectors' Forum. If the Rectors' Forum is successful, we will create a similar MoU. "Perhaps there will be additional strings to tie it together, increasing its strength. Although it's not final, this Rectors' Forum is essentially a gathering of Rectors, not something formal, but we're trying."

Another problem is that there are campuses outside the Directorate General of Higher Education, Ministry of Research, Technology, and Higher Education. Among them, under the Ministry of Finance, there's the State College of Accountancy (STAN), under the Ministry of Home Affairs, there's the College of Public Administration (STPDN), under the Ministry of Transportation, there's the Indonesian Land Transportation Polytechnic (PTDI), and so on. These, too, require similar MoUs, even though the "head" is the Ministry of Education, as there are many within the Ministry. But other initiatives can be implemented, including outreach to students and campuses.

Following the signing of the MoU between the Press Council and the Directorate General of Higher Education (DGDikti), there is one benefit the student press can take advantage of. Although, in terms of the law, it cannot be implemented immediately, as the umbrella is only the MoU. Meanwhile, the Press Council protects the general press, which is protected by the law, making it stronger. If we want to maximize its effectiveness, it depends heavily on the political will of the government and ministries. The regulation could be elevated to a Ministerial Regulation, thus increasing the effectiveness of compliance.

For example, if there is a dispute, please speak with the Press Council or invite the Press Council to intervene in a dispute between the student press and other stakeholders. At the very least, if they file a complaint, the Press Council will accept it. So, the procedure is the same as for professional

journalists. "So, if they file a complaint with the Press Council, it's more of a consultative approach. We also send a letter to the campus based on the MoU."

Furthermore, the Press Council consistently mediates. "Besides being 'allowed' and not having the 'right' to consult with the Press Council, the basis is the MoU. If we measure it rigidly using the law, it's certainly weak. "I must admit it's certainly weak; this is an MoU. But hopefully, we hope, it's about building understanding, so we build trust in each other. That's how the Student Press should be treated."

At the very least, if a dispute arises, especially if it leads to dismissal or something else—hopefully, it won't escalate into a case—we will write to the campus, reminding them that we have the MoU and requesting the Press Council's involvement. So, don't treat it as an internal matter. We're starting with good intentions to discuss and discuss. "The issue is how to correct our mistakes without criminalizing them, or having them dismissed, or having your rights as students revoked—that's not allowed."

Zulkifli reminded us that the most important thing here is education for student press, as conducted by the Press Council. The Press Council is responsible for "Sambang Kampus" (campus visits). This activity has been ongoing intensively. Over the past three years, it has been held at seven or eight campuses in various regions. The model includes a one-day workshop and seminar, involving various stakeholders, including campuses—not just students, but also campus leaders and the Regional Leadership Council (Muspida). In the afternoon, we meet with students for a journalism and ethics training forum.

The press council realizes that the campus press is not a professional press that is clearly regulated by various regulations, both from the Press Law No. 40 of 1999 and the journalistic code of ethics (KEJ). However, the most important thing from the MOU between the Press Council and the Directorate General of Higher Education is the effort to create a free and responsible press as a press system adopted in Indonesia, in accordance with the spirit of the 1998 reforms. Because the press as a mass media is the 4th pillar of democracy must be given space to carry out its duties and functions, especially in carrying out the function of social control, or watchdog, at least within the campus environment, the student press as a student activity unit on campus must also understand the concepts and basic principles of mass media in carrying out its duties and functions.

Admittedly, the implementation of the MOU between the Press Council and the Directorate General of Higher Education on the protection and strengthening of the student press is not easy. Not all universities understand the essence of the MOU and treat the student press as a professional press, which has the freedom to convey information to the public. This is because there are still cases of criminalization of the campus press in several regions after the MOU. For example, in the case that occurred in Makassar, South Sulawesi, five students, members of the Student Press Unit (UKPM Catatan Kaki), Hassanudin University, were arrested by the police due to articles in the campus media. The arrests of the student press members were allegedly due to their articles deemed detrimental to the rectorate. For example, regarding the alleged rape case committed by a lecturer, student demonstrations against the increase in tuition fees (UKT), and the case of student dropouts (DO). The five students were reported under Article 45 paragraph 4 in conjunction with Article 27 letter A of the ITE Law regarding alleged defamation of the Rector of Unhas.

Another case occurred at Andalas University, Padang, West Sumatra. On September 4, 2025, a rectorate official allegedly intimidated a member of the Genta Andalas campus press unit (UKPM) for reporting on an alleged corruption case on campus. In addition to the intimidation, the official demanded that the news report on the alleged corruption case be taken down. The Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI) and the Padang Legal Aid Institute (LBH) strongly condemned the intimidation of the student press, considering it a form of press suppression.

However, since the signing of the MoU on strengthening and protecting the campus press, the number of cases of violence and criminalization against the campus press has decreased.

So far, since the MoU was signed, no campus has had any cases. I hope this is an effect of the MoU, as there were quite a few cases in 2022 or 2023. I hope that campuses will foster their student press, with the hope of producing skilled journalists from various disciplines. Journalism is

multidisciplinary, and it's a source of pride if the best journalists come from that campus. For this reason, freedom of expression must be given, even though the press is still asked to comply with guidelines and codes of ethics, and not to adopt negative aspects from foreign press, such as clickbait and so on.

This Press Council member learned from the experience of the Student Press in Germany, which faced a tug-of-war between dependence on operational funds and independence. To solve the problem, a university press in Berlin transformed into a professional one. They recruited their best senior journalists from the university, and then created a new media outlet. Meanwhile, their juniors, still in their 30s, from their alma mater, remained progressive.

On the one hand, they grew up among student activists, anti-military groups in Germany. When their media outlet experienced a financial crisis, the only thing that could keep them afloat was its involvement in accepting recruitment advertisements for military recruitment, similar to those for the Indonesian Military Academy (AKABRI). The situation was a dilemma. If they didn't accept the advertisements, the media would be in critical condition. So all stakeholders gathered, including their juniors from the university, fellow retailers, advertisers, and everyone came together. "We'll die tomorrow if we don't accept the advertisements from the military institution." Finally, we accepted the advertisement, a full page of the newspaper, which was still a newspaper at the time. But on the next page, they ran another advertisement: "Don't Join the Army." The idea was brilliant. So the advertisement was placed. This ad was accepted, but they also placed an ad, rejecting the ad on the left.

In this case, no code of ethics was violated; no rules were violated. They weren't criticizing anyone. They simply emphasized the need for civil supremacy, and that's all. This might not come from more established media outlets; they would have already considered it. For example, in Indonesia, Tempo wasn't late in transforming, or had already found its business model. If it continued to use the old business model, relying on advertising, it would have been left behind. Now, advertisers no longer look to conventional media. It's better to pay for social media, Instagram with one million followers, or TikTok. That's the law of nature: we must seek innovation and compromise.

4. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Conclusion

The press is the fourth pillar of democracy. Therefore, a country is considered democratic if the press or mass media can operate freely without pressure and can exercise a check on power within the state. In a country that adheres to a democratic system, the mass media or press must be given space to operate independently and carry out its duties and functions in accordance with applicable regulations. The student press is also a medium that must voice democratic values within the walls of higher education. The campus press activists of Jurnis.id, at Syekh Yusuf Islamic University (UNIS) are already aware of this function.

In general, the student press at Syekh Yusuf Islamic University, or Jurnis.id, already understands the concept of news from a journalistic perspective. The student press editors are quite familiar with the concept of news value, or standards of news value, and news judgment, or the decision-making process for selecting news stories that are most needed by the public on campus. This serves as the primary reference for news selection. In carrying out its journalistic function, the Jurnis.id Student Press has performed a gatekeeping function, starting from finding news ideas, selecting among many news issues that have the most impact, editing, and providing benefits for the public interest, especially on campus.

The Jurnis.id campus press has a well-established editorial organizational structure, under the guidance of its supervising lecturers, in carrying out its routine news production. In addition, as a Student Activity Unit practicing journalistic activities, it also conducts networking activities, especially with fellow Student Press in Tangerang and Banten, even Jakarta. The Jurnis.id Student Press is developing with digital technology and various channels to publish and broadcast news and journalistic works. With a multi-platform media platform for broadcasting its news, Jurnis.id has platforms for broadcasting, both Blogspot, to broadcast hard news, soft news (light news), and opinion. Instagram (IG): news feeds uploaded on blogs, media partners, activity reels and education. Tiktok,

educational or educational content, daily recaps and fun and Youtube, broadcasting Live Reports, hunting tours and activity recaps, which are shorter with a combination of visuals, as well as blogs with longer and more complete news presentations.

As a campus press that serves as a training ground for students to become real journalists, it certainly faces many challenges. These range from selecting topics and finding sources to developing investigative topics while practicing in the field. Finding sources and providing balanced, comprehensive coverage that must cover both sides of the story remains a challenge. Therefore, the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Press Council and the Directorate General of Higher Education (Ditjen DIKTI) provides protection for the student press, at least allowing them to consult with the Press Council in the event of press disputes. Furthermore, to enhance and optimize its journalistic function, the Press Council offers training and education for the campus press.

Suggestions

1. In addition to carrying out the functions of the student press professionally, they must also demonstrate their professionalism through competency certification.
2. As part of the national press ecosystem in Indonesia, the student press should participate in maintaining press freedom, the dignity of the Indonesian press.
3. The Student Press must participate in upholding democracy and carry out its function as a social control, or what is known as a watchdog, carrying out its supervisory function to ensure that the Jurnis.id campus press is able to carry out this function for the campus environment.

REFERENCES

Achmad, Zainal abidin. (2021). *Perbandingan Sistem Pers Dan Sistem Pers Di Indonesia*. Cetakan I, Februari 2021 xiii + 103 hlm; 19 x 25 cm ISBN: 978-623-6677-25-4 Penerbit Sahaja Keputih Sukolilo Surabaya Nomor HP : +62 813-3375-4212 Surel: penerbitsahaja@gmail.com

Ardi, Yaya La, Abdullah, Muh. Zei., Fachruddin, Sutiyana. (2021). *Fungsi Gatekeeper dalam Menentukan Penerbitan Berita LKBN Antara*. Jurnal Online Jurnalistik Volume 3. No.2, Oktober 2021 <http://ojs.uho.ac.id/index.php/Jurnalistik/index> 14

Baxter, Leslie A., and Babbie, Earl. (2004). *The Basic Of Communication Research*. Wadsworth, a division of Thomson Learning, Inc.

Buku Saku Wartawan. (2023). Edisi 18. Dewan Pers: Gedung Dewan Pers lantai 7-8, Jl.Kebon Sirih no 32-34 Jakarta Pusat.

Bungin, Burhan. (2008). *Analisa Data Penelitian Kualitatif*. Jakarta: Prenada Media Group

Dainton, Marrianne., Zelley, Elaine D. (2019). *Applying Communication Theory for Professional Life*. 4th Edition. California: SAGE Publication, Inc.

Dewan Pers. (2024). Perjanjian Kerja Sama Antara Dewan Pers Dengan Dirjen Dikti Tentang Penguatan Dan Perlindungan Aktivitas Jurnalistik Mahasiswa Di Lingkungan Perguruan Tinggi

Emeraldien, Fikry Zahria., Nurhayati, Alfina Nurhayati., Rotuzzakia, Choe.,Rofi', M. Ianur.(2022). *Jurnalisme Kampus: Sistem Penugasan Dan Pola Komunikasi Pers Mahasiswa Uinsa Surabaya*.

Jurnal Ilmu Komunikasi Vol. 12, No. 2, Oktober 2022 Print ISSN 2088-981X, Online ISSN: 2723-2557 Journal homepage <http://jurnalfdk.uinsby.ac.id/index.php/JIK>

Hadi, Ido Prijana., Wahjudianata, Megawati., Indrayani Inri Inggrit. (2021). *Komunikasi Massa*. Cetakan pertama. CV. PENERBIT QIARA MEDIA 245 hlm: 15,5 x 23 cm Copyright @2020 ISBN: 978-623-680-746-0 Penerbit IKAPI No. 237/JTI/2019

Herlina, Dyna. (2019). *Literasi Media. Teori dan Fasilitasi*. Bandung: PT. Remaja Rosdakarya

Kuswandi, Wawan.(1996). *Komunikasi Massa. Sebuah Analisis Media Televisi*. Jakarta: Rineka Cipta.

Moleong. (2010). *Metodologi Penelitian Kualitatif*. Bandung: Remaja Rosdakarya.

Muannas. (2018). *Proses Gatekeeping Terkait Redistribusi Konten Media Sosial: Perspektif Generasi Z*. Jurnalisa Vol 04 Nomor 2/ November 2018 .

Mulyana, Deddy. (2003). *Metodologi Penelitian Kualitatif*. PT Remaja Rosdakarya.Bandung.

Neuman, William Lawrence. (2003). *Social Research Methods: Qualitative and quantitative Approaches*. Pearson Education

Perreault, Gregory (2022). *GATEKEEPING*. Gatekeeping. Encyclopedia of Journalism. Borchard, G. (Ed.) Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE

Prasetya, Albertus Arga Yuda., Yuliati,Dewi.(2020). *Pers Mahasiswa Hayamwuruk: Media Gerakan Perlawanan Ideologis Mahasiswa 1985-1998* .Historiografi, Vol. 1, No. 2, 2020, hlm. 127-134. 127

Prawira, M. Rizki Yudha. (2023). Urgensi Pengakuan Dan Perlindungan Hukum Pers Mahasiswa Di Indonesia. VERITAS: Jurnal Program Pascasarjana Ilmu Hukum Vol. 9 No. 2 Tahun 2023 p-issn: 2407-2494 e-issn: 2655-979X (<https://uia.e-journal.id/veritas/>)

Polii, Keizia Jeina., Warouw, Desie M.D., Kalesaran, Edmon Royan. (2019). *Komunikasi Organisasi Dalam Meningkatkan Motivasi Kerja Anggota Pers Mahasiswa “Acta Diurna” Ilmu Komunikasi Fispol Unsrat Manado*. Acta Diurna Komunikasi [Vol. 1 No. 3 \(2019\)](#).

Sahilanada , Zhara Nicken, Jumino. (2021). *Kemampuan Literasi Digital Anggota Pers Mahasiswa Hayamwuruk Fakultas Ilmu Budaya Universitas Diponegoro dalam Merespon Hoax*. ANUVA Volume 5 (1): 89-99, 2021 Copyright ©2021, ISSN: 2598-3040 online Available Online at: <http://ejournal.undip.ac.id/index.php/anuva>