Title	ANONYMITY POLICY
Policy Area	Editorial
Policy Number	UPS_POL_012
See also	

Effective Date: June 14, 2022
Approval Date: June 14, 2022
Applies to: Employees of Ubyssey Publication Society
Authority: Editorial Board
Supersedes/New: New

The following are responsible for the administration of this policy,

Primary Office	**Contact**
Editorial Office	Coordinating Editor

Upon a request for anonymity, the section editor who received the request will consult with the coordinating editor regarding its validity. If the coordinating editor receives the request first, they will consult with the section editor in whose section the story containing the potentially anonymous source would be published.

If both the section editor and the coordinating editor are in agreement that the request is valid and that it is in the best interest of *The Ubyssey* to grant it, they will present the situation to the entire editorial. If four fifths of elected editors and the coordinating editor are in agreement that it is in the best interests of *The Ubyssey* to move forward with the anonymous source, the request will be granted.

Examples of acceptable scenarios in which to grant anonymity would be:

- If revealing the source's identity would cause physical, personal or significant professional harm to that individual or others.
- If the source is detailing their own involvement in illicit activities.
- If the information relates to an extremely personal event, such as a sexual assault or medical diagnosis.

If a request for anonymity is almost exactly the same as a request that has been granted in the past, the section editor will still clear it with the coordinating editor, but after this happens, a vote from the entire editorial board is not necessary. The section editor may still wish to let the rest of the board know that the request has been granted, to keep everyone on the same page.

Examples of scenarios in which anonymity has been granted in the past would be:

- An AMS exec leaking private documents
- A UBC official speaking on something their contract prevents them from speaking on
- A worker speaking on their union drive

All decisions regarding the granting of anonymity are, of course, dependent upon the quality and importance of information received from the source. For example, if revealing a potential source's identity would end their career, but the information they provide is not necessary to the article in question, it is almost always in the paper's best interest to forgo using the source altogether.

In the event that an editor is absent or cannot be reached, the request will not be granted. In the event that one section editor explicitly disagrees with the anonymity request, the request will not be granted.

Editorial conversations regarding anonymity, like all editorial conversations, are private and should not be shared with the writer aside from a yes/no answer and a brief explanation at the opinion editor's discretion, after a final conclusion has been reached by the board.

The identity of the person requesting anonymity should stay between the writer and editorial.

If someone wants to request anonymity for an article already published, refer to our Unpublishing Policy.