



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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CHANCELLORS

Re: Electronic Communications Policy Update – Review Requested

We are writing to request campus comment on the proposed update to the Electronic Communications Policy (ECP). Issued November 17, 2000, the ECP clarifies the applicability of law and University policy to all forms of electronic communications and upholds the principles of academic freedom, shared governance, freedom of speech, and privacy that originally were articulated in the 1998 University Electronic Mail Policy.

In the years since it was issued, members of the University community have noted the need to clarify some provisions of the ECP. They have raised concerns that campus network management practices instituted recently to protect communications systems against malicious network-based threats (i.e., viruses, worms, and Trojan horses) appear in some instances to conflict with ECP provisions. Campus personnel have also continually asked for clarification of policy and procedures for accessing the electronic communications of absent or separated staff. In addition, references to some recently revised University policies, such as the Whistleblower Policy and Records Management and Privacy Bulletins, need updating within the text of the ECP.

Jacqueline Craig, Policy Director for Information Resources and Communications at UCOP, has worked closely with campus groups this past year to develop a proposed update to the ECP. The revisions do not alter the critical principles articulated in the original policy but address the concerns mentioned above. Additional clarifying information is offered in the User Advisories, and more comprehensive procedures are recommended in the Implementation Guidelines. The proposed update has thus far been reviewed by campus ECP coordinators, campus and UCOP IT and policy personnel, IT auditors, human resources and records managers, campus and medical center CIOs, and representatives of the Academic Council.

- A marked-up copy of the policy reflecting changes is available online at <http://www.ucop.edu/irc/policy/ecpupdate>
- For reference, the current policy is available at <http://www.ucop.edu/ucophome/policies/ec/>

Comments are requested by April 30, 2005, and may be sent to itpolicy@ucop.edu, or directed to Kristine Hafner, Associate Vice President – Information Resources & Communications, 300 Lakeside Drive, 7th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612-3550.

If you have any questions about the proposed update, please contact IR&C Policy Director Jacqueline Craig at (510) 987-0409 or Jacqueline.Craig@ucop.edu.

Sincerely,



M.R.C. Greenwood
Provost and Senior Vice President
Academic Affairs



Joseph P. Mullinix
Senior Vice President
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cc: President Dynes
Members, President's Cabinet
Laboratory Directors
Academic Council Chair Blumenthal
Professor Cardenas, Chair, Senate Information Technology & Telecommunications Policy
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Associate Vice President Hafner
President, UC Students Association