

# The University of British Columbia Board of Governors

**Policy No.:** 

Approval Date: November 2000

104

Last Revision: June 2005

## **Responsible Executive:**

Vice-President, Academic and Provost Vice-President, Learning & Research (UBC Okanagan)

#### Title:

# Responsible Use of Information Technology Facilities and Services

# **Background & Purposes:**

This policy applies to faculty, staff and students and is intended for the general support of and to provide a foundation for responsible use of UBC's information technology facilities. The Responsible Executive may adopt guidelines and procedures consistent with this policy. In addition, faculties and departments may adopt implementation procedures that reflect local circumstances, provided they too are consistent with this Policy.

## 1. General

- 1.1. The University of British Columbia (the "University") encourages research and scholarship to increase knowledge and understanding. It upholds the academic freedom of all members of the University to engage in open inquiry and public discourse in an atmosphere of mutual respect.
- 1.2. Computing and communications facilities (including any University owned or University leased computing, telephone and communications services, equipment and facilities) shall be used in a manner which is consistent with the requirements of the University.
- 1.3. Computer IDs, accounts, and other communications facilities are to be used for authorized purposes. Incidental personal use is acceptable as long as it does not interfere with use of the facility for its intended purpose and, in the case of employees, as long as it does not interfere with his or her job performance.
- 1.4. Users are prohibited from accessing other users' computer IDs or accounts and communications, without specific prior authorization from the appropriate administrative head of unit.
- 1.5. Users are responsible for the uses to which their computing accounts are put. Users must not share the passwords to any accounts to which they have access.
- 1.6. Users must not misrepresent their identity as senders of messages nor the content of such messages.
- 1.7. Breaches of this Policy may be subject to the full range of disciplinary and other formal actions. In addition to any other sanctions that the University may levy in the event of a violation, UBC may withdraw computing privileges and network access.

1.8. All users must adhere to University policies and all laws that govern the use of the University's computing and communication facilities. Applicable legislation includes, but is not limited to, the Criminal Code of Canada, the B.C. Civil Rights Protection Act, the B.C. Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, and the B.C. Human Rights Code.

## 2. Privacy and Security

- 2.1. Users must
  - 2.1.1. preserve the privacy of data to which they have access;
  - 2.1.2. respect the privacy of others by not tampering with e-mail, files, or accounts they use; and
  - 2.1.3. respect the integrity of computing systems and data.
- 2.2. For example, users must not: intentionally develop programs or make use of already existing programs to harass other users, infiltrate a computer or computing system, damage or alter the components of a computer or computing system, gain unauthorized access to other facilities accessible via the network, or inappropriately use the telephone system.
- 2.3. The University reserves the right to limit, restrict or extend computing privileges and access to its computing and communications resources, including all information stored therein.
- 2.4. No guarantees can be given for the privacy of files but the user community can be assured that system administrators will not examine personal files without the individual's knowledge, except in emergencies or under unusual circumstances.
- 2.5. The University will comply with all applicable legislation including the B.C. Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act especially with respect to the sale of personal information (such as names and addresses) to third parties.

#### 3. <u>Intellectual Property</u>

- 3.1. Users must respect the legal protection provided by copyright laws for computer programs and data compilations and for all other works (literary, dramatic, artistic or musical). Also, users must respect the legal protection provided by trademark law and the common law for names, marks, logos, and other representations that serve to distinguish the goods or services of one person from another.
- 3.2. Users must respect the rights of others by complying with all University policies regarding intellectual property regardless of medium (i.e. paper or electronic).

## 4. Freedom of Expression

4.1. The University does not and will not act as a censor of information available on our campus network but will comply with applicable legislation. To the extent that the latter requires specifically identified information to be banned pursuant to a court order, the University will comply.

## 5. <u>Discrimination and Harassment</u>

5.1. Users must recognize that the University, as a community sharing a commitment to study and learning, upholds the principles of academic freedom, mutual respect and equality of opportunity for all. The University's Policy on Discrimination and Harassment specifically prohibits discrimination and harassment on any of the protected grounds as identified under the B.C. Human Rights Code, including but not limited to, age, ancestry, colour, family status, marital status, physical or mental disability, political belief, place of

origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, and unrelated criminal conviction. With respect to penalties and sanctions, related documents include, but are not limited to, the student discipline policy, collective agreements with faculty and staff, and the terms of employment applicable to non-unionized staff.

#### 6. Examples of Illegal Uses

- 6.1. The following are representative examples only and do not comprise a comprehensive list of illegal uses:
  - 6.1.1. uttering threats (by computer or telephone);
  - 6.1.2. distribution of pornographic materials to minors;
  - 6.1.3. child pornography;
  - 6.1.4. pyramid schemes; and
  - 6.1.5. copyright infringement.

## 7. Examples of Unacceptable Uses

- 7.1. The following are representative examples only and do not comprise a comprehensive list of unacceptable uses:
  - 7.1.1. seeking information on passwords or data belonging to another user;
  - 7.1.2. making unauthorized copies of proprietary software, or offering unauthorized copies of proprietary software to others;
  - 7.1.3. copying someone else's files, or programs, or examining such information unless authorized;
  - 7.1.4. attempting to circumvent computer security methods or operating systems (e.g. subverting or obstructing a computer or network by introducing a worm or virus);
  - 7.1.5. using University-provided computer accounts for commercial purposes such as promoting by broadcast non-educational profit-driven products or services;
  - 7.1.6. intercepting or examining the content of messages, files, or communications in transit on a voice or data network;
  - 7.1.7. interfering with the work of other users of a network or with their host systems, seriously disrupting the network (e.g. chain letters or spamming), or engaging in any uses that result in the loss of another user's files or system; and
  - 7.1.8. harassing or discriminatory telephone messages.

#### 8. System Administrators

8.1. This policy shall not be construed as preventing or restricting duly authorized system administrators or other technical personnel from carrying out their duties. Complaints under this policy may be directed to the administrative head of a unit or to the Associate Vice President, Information Technology.

#### 9. Note

9.1. This Policy is not intended to set forth an exhaustive list relating to the use of University computing resources. All users continue to be subject to all applicable laws and university policies (see UBC Policy Website http://www.universitycounsel.ubc.ca/policies/index.html).



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## **Responsible Executive:**

Vice President, Finance, Resources and Operations

Provost and Vice President, Academic (UBC Vancouver)

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (UBC Okanagan)

Title:

# Access to and Security of Administrative Information

## **Background & Purposes:**

The intent of this Policy is to:

- ensure the availability and integrity of Administrative Systems and Administrative Data and to reduce the risk of loss whether by accidental or intentional modification or destruction
- ensure the confidentiality of Administrative Systems and Administrative Data
- prevent unauthorized use of Administrative Systems and Administrative Data

## 1. Scope

1.1. This Policy applies to the use and access of Administrative Systems and Administrative Data (see Definitions below) by faculty, staff, and students.

#### 2. General

- 2.1. All Administrative Data is owned by the University. Administrative Systems and Administrative Data shall be used to support the University's mission.
- 2.2. UBC promotes an open computing environment that allows for access by all individuals to computing resources. The University's reliance on proper-functioning Administrative Systems and Administrative Data requires the resources to be operated and maintained in a secure, licensed environment, protected from misuse.
- 2.3. Access to, sharing and security of Administrative Systems and Administrative Data requires that each user accept responsibility for protecting the rights of the University and members of the University community. Users shall
  - 2.3.1. only access and use Administrative Systems and Administrative Data to which they have been authorized
  - 2.3.2. not distribute, access, use, destroy, alter, dismantle, disfigure or disable Administrative Systems or Administrative Data in a manner that threatens the security of its environment

- 2.3.3. employ appropriate security controls such as passwords
- 2.3.4. take reasonable steps to protect from unauthorized access and disclosure and to maintain the confidentiality of those portions of Administrative Data that are confidential and/or sensitive
- 2.4. In the event that an individual suspects or becomes aware of a violation of this Policy, the person shall report such violation to the appropriate administrative head of unit or to the Manager, Information Security Office (Information Technology). A user who is involved in unauthorized actions may be subject to penalties imposed by the University and/or liable to prosecution under the Criminal Code of Canada.
- 2.5. The University reserves the right to deny any request or to restrict or remove access to Administrative Systems and Administrative Data for reasons of security or for failure to comply with the policies and procedures of the University.
- 2.6. With respect to penalties and sanctions, related documents include, but are not limited to, Student Discipline, collective agreements with faculty and staff, and the terms of employment applicable to non-unionized staff.

### 3. Administration

- 3.1. Administrative heads of unit are responsible for establishing and maintaining Administrative Systems and Administrative Data within their areas of responsibility. These responsibilities include:
  - 3.1.1. ensuring that adequate controls to secure Administrative Systems, with particular care concerning user identification and validation measures;
  - 3.1.2. ensuring, as appropriate or required, that Administrative Data within their responsibility is maintained, transmitted and stored in a secure, consistent and persistent manner that adheres to all relevant University policies and guidelines;
  - 3.1.3. authorizing access for individuals to Administrative Systems and Administrative Data within their responsibility;
  - 3.1.4. renewing, retiring, and revoking user authorizations within their responsibility;
  - 3.1.5. ensuring that a contingency plan, including appropriate data back-up systems and recovery systems, is being used within their unit;
  - 3.1.6. ensuring that breaches of this Policy occurring within their unit are resolved and/or referred to the Manager, Information Security Office (Information Technology), as appropriate, and that where they are so referred, continuing to assist in the investigation;
  - 3.1.7. ensuring that technical staff within their unit are aware of and adhere to this Policy, and that they support University standards in the design, installation, maintenance, training, and use of Administrative Systems and Administrative Data;
  - 3.1.8. taking immediate and appropriate action when they become aware of violations of this Policy or its procedures.

- 3.2. The Information Security Office shall perform a coordinating role in the implementation, administration, and support of this Policy by:
  - 3.2.1. assisting in the investigation of breaches of this Policy when requested; and
  - 3.2.2. providing an ongoing security awareness program.

#### 4. Limits of University Liability

- 4.1. The University does not warrant that any information stored, processed, transmitted, or maintained on Administrative Systems will be free from errors or will remain confidential. Users should be aware that, during the performance of their normal duties with respect to Administrative Systems (including but not limited to system monitoring, trouble-shooting, back-up and other security operations), the University's technical staff may, from time to time, access and view information and data other than Administrative Data.
- 4.2. The University encourages all users to employ good security practices, including passwords and encryption where appropriate. However, users shall ensure that the University has proper and timely access to Administrative Data stored on Administrative Systems for which they are responsible.

## 5. **Definitions**

- 5.1. Administrative Systems are all administrative and academic computer facilities, electronic media, communications networks, software programs, systems, and hardware of all types that are owned by the University and/or used, wholly or in part, for administrative functions. This includes, but is not limited to, application software, operating system software, operating support software, security software, and computer communications equipment and associated equipment, transmission media of all types, gateways, and networks.
- 5.2. Administrative Data are the information and data used by the University to fulfill administrative functions.

### **PROCEDURES**

**Approved: January 2001** 

Revised: Effective July 30, 2010

Pursuant to Policy #1: Administration of Policies, "Procedures may be amended by the President, provided the new procedures conform to the approved policy. Such amendments are reported at the next meeting of the Board of Governors". Note: the most recent procedures may be reviewed at <a href="http://www.universitycounsel.ubc.ca/policies/policies.html">http://www.universitycounsel.ubc.ca/policies/policies.html</a>.

## 1. Issuance of Guidelines

- 1.1. The Chief Information Officer of UBC (the "CIO") is responsible for developing and issuing guidelines (the "Guidelines") regarding the use of and access to Administrative Systems and Administrative Data.
- 1.2. All users (the "**Users**") of the Administrative Systems and Administrative Data are required to comply with the Guidelines.

#### 2. Creation of Guidelines

- 2.1. The Guidelines must not be inconsistent with the Policy.
- 2.2. A committee (the "Advisory Committee") will be established by the CIO and will consist of representatives from the units responsible for maintaining and operating major Administrative Systems and major Administrative Data collections at UBC. The Advisory Committee will provide advice to the CIO on the development of and ongoing updates to the Guidelines and will also provide advice to the Vice-President, Finance, Resources and Operations with respect to any disagreements referred to him or her pursuant to paragraph 3.3 of these Procedures.
- 2.3. The CIO will publish the Guidelines on the UBC Information Technology web site for access by all Users.

#### 3. Deviation from the Guidelines

- 3.1. Academic and administrative units that wish to deviate from the Guidelines are required to consult with the CIO.
- 3.2. Where the Guidelines do not address the reasonable requirements of a unit's use of and access to the Administrative Systems or Administrative Data, the CIO may allow a deviation or update the Guidelines as appropriate.
- 3.3. If a disagreement arises and cannot be resolved informally between the head of an academic or administrative unit in respect of the requested deviation then either party may refer the disagreement to the Vice-President, Finance, Resources and Operations who will decide the matter. The Vice-President, Finance, Resources and Operations may consult with the other Responsible Executives if he or she determines it would be appropriate to do so.

## 4. Transitional

4.1. As at the date of approval of these Procedures, the Guidelines in effect are deemed to consist of the "UBC Information Security Manual", the "Information Security Guidelines for Securing and Preserving Electronic Evidence" and the "UBC Incident Response Plan".



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## **Responsible Executive:**

Vice-President, Academic and Provost Deputy Vice-Chancellor (UBC Okanagan)

#### Title:

# Acceptable Use and Security of UBC Electronic Information and Systems

## **Background & Purposes:**

This policy is intended to outline the responsibilities of members of the University community with respect to the acceptable use and security of University electronic information and the services, devices and facilities that store or transmit this information.

The Responsible Executive may adopt standards and procedures consistent with this policy. In addition, faculties and departments may adopt implementation procedures that reflect local circumstances, provided they too are consistent with this policy.

#### 1. General

- 1.1. Faculty, staff and students rely on UBC Electronic Information and Systems for academic, research and administrative purposes. Users of these resources are responsible for using them appropriately and maintaining their security.
- 1.2. The Chief Information Officer or delegate (the "CIO") shall perform a coordinating role in the implementation, administration, and support of this policy by:
  - 1.2.1. providing guidance on compliance with the policy;
  - 1.2.2. providing an ongoing security awareness program; and
  - 1.2.3. assisting in the investigation of breaches of the policy.
- 1.3. If a User becomes aware that UBC Electronic Information and Systems are not being used appropriately, the User should bring this to the attention of the relevant administrative head of unit or to the CIO so that appropriate action can be taken to address the situation.
- 1.4. Users who breach this policy may be subject to the full range of disciplinary actions. In addition to any other sanctions that the University may impose in the event of a violation, the University may restrict or withdraw access to UBC Electronic Information and Systems, including computing privileges and network access.
- 1.5 The CIO may designate UBC Systems to which this policy does not apply. Where the CIO determines that such a designation is appropriate, the CIO must, in consultation with the Office of the University Counsel, approve separate terms of use that govern the use of the designated UBC Systems.

## 2. Acceptable Use of UBC Electronic Information and Systems

- 2.1. The University does not and will not attempt to limit the Academic Freedom of those who use UBC Electronic Information and Systems, provided that Users utilize these resources in a manner that is consistent with:
  - 2.1.1. applicable laws, including but not limited to the Canadian *Criminal Code*, the Canadian *Copyright Act*, the B.C. *Civil Rights Protection Act*, the B.C. *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, and the B.C. *Human Rights Code*;
  - 2.1.2. this policy and other applicable University policies, including but not limited to the Discrimination and Harassment Policy and the Records Management Policy;
  - 2.1.3. collective agreements with faculty and staff; and
  - 2.1.4. the terms of employment applicable to non-unionized staff.
- 2.2. UBC Electronic Information and Systems may only be used for their intended purposes. Incidental personal use of these resources is acceptable provided that such use:
  - 2.2.1. does not interfere with the User's job performance; and
  - 2.2.2. is not an unacceptable use as per paragraph 2.3 of this policy.
- 2.3. Unacceptable uses of UBC Electronic Information and Systems are any uses that disrupt or interfere with the use of the resources for their intended purpose. The following are representative examples of unacceptable uses:
  - 2.3.1. engaging in illegal activities;
  - 2.3.2. sending threatening, harassing or discriminatory messages;
  - 2.3.3. misrepresenting the User's identity as sender of messages;
  - 2.3.4. intercepting or examining the content of messages, files, or communications in transit;
  - 2.3.5. infringing upon the copyright of computer programs, data compilations and all other works (literary, dramatic, artistic or musical);
  - 2.3.6. infringing upon the legal protection provided by trademark law and the common law for names, marks, logos, and other representations that serve to distinguish the goods or services of one person from another:
  - 2.3.7. making unauthorized copies of proprietary software, or offering unauthorized copies of proprietary software to others:
  - 2.3.8. failing to maintain the confidentiality of passwords, access codes or identification numbers used to access UBC Electronic Information and Systems;
  - 2.3.9. seeking information on passwords or information belonging to another User;
  - 2.3.10. accessing or examining other Users' accounts, files, programs, communications or information;
  - 2.3.11. destroying, altering, dismantling, disfiguring or disabling UBC Electronic Information and Systems;
  - 2.3.12. damaging or altering the hardware or physical components of UBC Systems;
  - 2.3.13. attempting to circumvent security controls on UBC Electronic Information and Systems;
  - 2.3.14. knowingly introducing a worm or virus; and
  - 2.3.15. engaging in any uses that result in the loss of another User's information.
- 2.4. Nothing in paragraph 2.3 shall be construed as preventing or restricting duly authorized system administrators or other technical personnel from carrying out their duties.

## 3. Security of UBC Electronic Information and Systems

- 3.1. All Users must comply with the Information Security Standards established under this policy regarding the acceptable use and security of UBC Electronic Information and Systems.
- 3.2. The CIO is responsible for:
  - 3.2.1. developing and issuing the Information Security Standards, which must be consistent with this policy;
  - 3.2.2. publishing the Information Security Standards on the UBC Information Technology web site for access by all Users; and
  - 3.2.3. reviewing the Information Security Standards on a bi-annual basis or at such other interval as the CIO determines.
- 3.3. A committee (the "Advisory Committee") will be established by the CIO and will consist of representatives from the units responsible for maintaining and/or operating significant UBC Electronic Information and Systems, as well as a representative of the Office of the University Counsel. The Advisory Committee will provide advice to the CIO on the development of and ongoing updates to the Information Security Standards and will also provide advice to the relevant Responsible Executive with respect to any disagreements referred to him or her pursuant to paragraph 3.6 of this policy.
- 3.4. Academic and administrative units that wish to deviate from the Information Security Standards are required to request the authorization of the CIO before proceeding.
- 3.5. Where the Information Security Standards do not address the reasonable requirements of a unit's use of and access to UBC Electronic Information or Systems, the CIO may authorize a deviation or update the Information Security Standards as appropriate.
- 3.6. If a disagreement arises and cannot be resolved informally between the CIO and the head of an academic or administrative unit in respect of the requested deviation then either party may refer the disagreement to the relevant Responsible Executive, who will decide the matter. This Responsible Executive may consult with the Advisory Committee and/or the other Responsible Executive if he or she determines it would be appropriate to do so.

#### 4. Use of Non-University Systems for University Business

4.1 To maintain the security of UBC Electronic Information, University business must only be conducted using UBC Systems, except as otherwise permitted by the Information Security Standards.

## 5. Privacy of Users

- 5.1. Since paragraph 2.2 of this policy authorizes the incidental personal use of UBC Electronic Information and Systems, the University recognizes that these resources may contain records relating to this personal use, e.g. personal emails, documents, internet use logs and voicemails (the "Personal Use Records").
- 5.2. While the University takes reasonable measures to back up information and protect it from loss, the University does not warrant that Personal Use Records will be retained in the UBC Systems or remain confidential. To protect their Personal Use Records from inadvertent destruction or disclosure, Users are encouraged to clearly mark them as personal, store them separately from UBC Electronic Information, and back them up on a regular basis.

- 5.3. While the University does not, as a routine matter, review Personal Use Records generated, stored, or maintained on UBC Systems, the University retains the right to inspect, review, or retain the Personal Use Records for legitimate University purposes. These purposes include, but are not limited to:
  - 5.3.1. responding to lawful subpoenas or court orders;
  - 5.3.2. investigating misconduct and determining compliance with University policies; and
  - 5.3.3. searching for electronic messages, data, files, or other records that are required for University business continuity purposes.
- 5.4. Users should understand that electronic information does not necessarily disappear after it has been deleted. The University may, in accordance with paragraph 5.3 of this policy, retrieve or reconstruct records from UBC Systems, which may include Personal Use Records, even after they have been deleted.
- 5.5. Users should also be aware that the University routinely monitors network transmission patterns such as source/destination, address/port, flags, packet size, packet rate, and other indicia of traffic on its networks and systems. This routine monitoring may inadvertently reveal information about the personal use of the UBC Electronic Information and Systems.
- 5.6. Except in emergencies or other unusual situations, the University will seek the consent of a User before intentionally accessing his or her Personal Use Records. If the University is required to gain access without the individual's consent, such access must be authorized by the head of the relevant unit and the CIO, in accordance with the procedure set out in the Information Security Standards.

## 6. Administrative Responsibilities

- 6.1. Administrative heads of unit are responsible for establishing and maintaining UBC Electronic Information and Systems within their areas of responsibility. These responsibilities include:
  - 6.1.1. ensuring that UBC Electronic Information and Systems are secured with adequate controls, with particular care concerning User identification and validation measures;
  - 6.1.2. ensuring, as appropriate or required, that UBC Electronic Information within their area of responsibility is maintained, transmitted and stored in a secure and consistent manner that adheres to all relevant University policies and standards;
  - 6.1.3. authorizing access for individuals to UBC Electronic Information and Systems within their area of responsibility;
  - 6.1.4. renewing, retiring, and revoking User authorizations within their area of responsibility;
  - 6.1.5. ensuring that a contingency plan, including appropriate data back-up systems and recovery systems, is being used within their unit;
  - 6.1.6. ensuring that breaches of this policy occurring within their unit are resolved and/or referred to the CIO, as appropriate, and that where they are so referred, continuing to assist in the investigation;
  - 6.1.7. ensuring that technical staff within their unit are aware of and adhere to this policy, and that they support University standards in the design, installation, maintenance, training, and use of UBC Electronic Information and Systems; and
  - 6.1.8. taking immediate and appropriate action when they become aware of violations of this policy or its procedures.

#### 7. Definitions

7.1. Academic Freedom is defined in the UBC Vancouver and UBC Okanagan calendars.

- 7.2. *Confidential* UBC Electronic Information is information that is highly sensitive. This includes, but is not limited to:
  - 7.2.1. personal information (not including the name and business contact information of faculty and staff members);
  - 7.2.2. financial information; and
  - 7.2.3. information the release of which could reasonably be expected to harm the security of individuals, systems or facilities.
- 7.3. *Information Security Standards* means the standards established under this policy regarding the acceptable use and security of UBC Electronic Information and Systems. The Information Security Standards are published on the UBC Information Technology Office website at: http://www.it.ubc.ca/sites/it.ubc.ca/files/uploads/\_\_shared/assets/UBC\_Information\_Security\_Manual.pdf.
- 7.4. *Sensitive* UBC Electronic Information is information that is not Confidential, but cannot be released to the general public. This includes, but is not limited to:
  - 7.4.1. information supplied in confidence;
  - 7.4.2. research data that does not contain Confidential information;
  - 7.4.3. information relating to plans, projects or proposals that have not been made public; and
  - 7.4.4. contractually protected information, such as electronic library resources.
- 7.5. *UBC Electronic Information* is electronic information needed to conduct University business (administrative, academic or research).
- 7.6. UBC Electronic Information and Systems includes UBC Electronic Information and UBC Systems.
- 7.7. *UBC Systems* are services, devices and facilities that are owned or leased by the University, that are used for a University purpose, and that store or transmit UBC Electronic Information. These include, but are not limited to:
  - 7.7.1. computers and computer facilities;
  - 7.7.2. computing hardware and equipment;
  - 7.7.3. mobile computing devices such as laptop computers, smartphones and tablet computers;
  - 7.7.4. electronic storage media such as CDs, USB memory sticks and portable hard drives;
  - 7.7.5. communications gateways and networks;
  - 7.7.6. email systems;
  - 7.7.7. telephone and other voice systems; and
  - 7.7.8. software.
- 7.8. *Users* are faculty, staff, students and any other individuals who have access to UBC Electronic Information and Systems.