Electronic Mail (Email)
Policy and Procedures
Version 1.4 Dated November 27, 2002

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that students, faculty, administrators and staff properly use Pace University’s Email system and electronic communications to promote legitimate educational, research and administrative efforts consistent with the University’s mission and goals, as well as Pace University Appropriate Use of Information Technology Policy and Guiding Principles of Conduct.

Electronic Mail or Email is defined in this document as all technologies used to transfer messages, including electronic messaging, instant messaging, and peer-to-peer file exchange. Email is a tool for business communications. Users have a responsibility to use this resource in an efficient, effective, ethical, and lawful manner. Email communications should follow the same standards expected in written business communications and public meetings. Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action, including possible termination or legal action.

All network and Email accounts maintained on Pace University computing systems are the sole property of Pace University. Pace University has the right to monitor any student, faculty, administrator or staff Email account for legitimate business reasons, including monitoring employee performance, compliance with this policy, compliance with any applicable laws and industry regulations, and where there is reasonable suspicion of activities that may violate this or other University policies.

Guidelines

Users of the Email system should follow the guidelines and conventions below:

- Read and abide by the terms of the Pace University Appropriate Use Policy for Information Technology and the Guiding Principles of Conduct.
- Ensure that messages are addressed to the appropriate recipients, and ONLY to the appropriate recipients.
- Not use Pace Email for confidential messages. The rule of thumb here is: what would happen to the reputation of Pace University, your School/Department, or you as an individual if this email appeared on the front page of the New York Times (embarrassment, liability, etc.). If in doubt, contact your supervisor.
• Not subscribe to Listservers and distribution lists that are not directly related to your job or academic studies. Such lists tend to overload and affect the performance of the Pace Email system.
• Not compromise the privacy of your password by giving it to others or exposing it to public view. Passwords should be changed on a regular basis.
• Retain messages only if relevant to your work or an anticipated litigation. The Pace Email system will not retain messages for more than one year or any messages in excess of established and enforced Email Server Disk Quotas. Messages having a legitimate business life greater than a year should be filed on your individual PC.
• Address messages to recipients who “need to know,” rather than to “everyone you know.” Messages sent unnecessarily degrade system and user performance. Pay particular attention to “reply” versus “reply all”, especially if replying to a Listserver.
• Construct messages professionally (spelling, grammar) and efficiently (subject field, attachments).
• Use Email for incidental personal reasons on a limited and occasional basis.

Strictly Prohibited Uses

The following uses of the Email system are strictly prohibited. Users receiving such material should immediately report the incident through their supervisors to the Chief Information Officer/VP, Information Technology, Pace University, cio@pace.edu. Alternatively, the collective address abuse@pace.edu may be used to report any incidents involving Pace I.T. resources.

• Creation and exchange of messages that are offensive, harassing, obscene, or threatening. This includes religious or other quotations in “signature” blocks. The rule here is: would you put the words on a formal paper memorandum with your signature on a piece of Pace stationary?
• Exchange of proprietary information; trade secrets; or any other privileged, confidential, or sensitive information outside the enterprise, or outside the defined privileged group.
• Creation and exchange of advertisements, solicitations, chain letters, and other unsolicited Email.
• Creation, storage, or exchange of information in violation of copyright laws.
• Read or send messages from another user’s account, except under properly delegated arrangements.
• Alter or copy a message or attachment belonging to another user without the permission of the originator. Use common sense here if forwarding emails to a third party to <snip> portions of forwarded emails to avoid embarrassment or further repercussions.

Productivity and Efficiency

Email Overload
Email messages should be sent only to recipients who need the information. Email overload has become a serious issue, resulting in important messages going unread and users spending too much time reading and searching for messages.
Do not send messages with large or many attachments to recipients who may not need the information. The University provides space on an Internet Web Folder (http://storage.pace.edu) and personal web page (http://webpage.pace.edu) where shared information can be made available without having to attach to email messages. Recipients can then be notified through a short Email message with a hyperlink to the content.

**Distribution Lists and Attachments**

Refer to the policy on *Bulk Electronic Mail Distribution List Policy for Information Technology* located on the DoIT homepage in IT Policies & Projects/IT Policies. The content posted on Listservers is subject to the guidelines described in the *Pace University Appropriate Use Policy for Information Technology*.

Messages should be retained on the electronic mail server only if absolutely necessary for University business. Saving all messages can take up valuable space. Be sure to delete nonessential email and folders and move others to your local hard drive. Pace monitors the size of individual email boxes and enforces an Email Server Disk quotas (currently 10MB for students, 30MB for faculty and staff, and 50MB for faculty teaching on-line courses). Messages received in an over quota account will be returned to sender.

**Precise Subjects**

Adhering to these guidelines reduces some of the overload to the user’s desktop. Message handling can also be improved by keeping messages succinct and by use of the Subject field efficiently. For example, instead of a subject “FYI: Staff Meeting,” type “Staff Meeting Minutes—comments due 9 June.” Users are more likely to read and reply to messages they can easily identify and prioritize.

**Security and Privacy**

Email sent over the Internet is similar to sending it on a postcard—anyone with the right motivation can gain access to the information. Do not use the Pace Email system to transmit Confidential Information. Remember, email users are responsible for protecting account passwords.

Questions concerning this or any other Information Technology Policy can be directed to doit@pace.edu.