

**Policy 4-010: University Employee Individual Email**

Revision 0. Effective date: August 10, 2021

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**I. Purpose and Scope**

A. Purpose.

The primary purpose of this Policy is to establish an institutional business communications email policy regarding individual users of the enterprise email system.

This Policy and any associated Regulations memorialize the requirement that all University of Utah employees and officers use the University’s official Enterprise Email System(s) whenever they are conducting the University Business Email Communications (as those terms are defined in this Policy).

This Policy and any associated Regulations are intended to guide University units and administrators in managing University Business Email Communications sent

from the individual University email accounts of Employees and Trustees within the University's Enterprise Email System. The Policy will assist the University in complying with its legal responsibility to preserve and maintain Business Email Communications in the institutions Enterprise Email System according to required document retention schedules for security, auditability, records management, document preservation, personnel actions, archiving and destruction and other required purposes.

B. Scope.

This Policy applies to all University of Utah units, including all administrative, academic and health care units. It applies to all University Employees and to the Trustees of the University when conducting Official University Business (as defined here). This Policy is not intended to apply to students as such, provided however that those sections applicable to Employees or Trustees do apply to any individual student who is also an Employee or member of the Board of Trustees when conducting Official University Business in that capacity of Employee or Trustee.

This Policy applies to all University Business Email Communications to and from an Employee's or a Trustee's individual University email account. It is not intended to apply to University business unit mass email communications for marketing or similar purposes (e.g., "At the U" newsletter distribution, athletics or fine arts venues season ticket holder distributions, etc.). It is also not intended to cover other non-email methods of electronic communication such as texting, instant messaging and chatting through programs such as Skype, Instant Messenger, Zoom, Teams and Slack.

This Policy applies to all Enterprise Email Systems, whether purchased, developed, leased or rented, including both on-premise Email as well as cloud-based Email.

Neither this Policy nor its associated Regulations are intended to restrict the acquisition or use by individual members of the University community of email

systems/ services that are intended for personal use and not used for the conduct of Official University Business. Any limitations on the use of University email systems for purposes other than Official University Business (including for reasonable and limited personal use) are governed separately by Rule 4-004A—Acceptable Use [of IT Resources], and Policy 4-002—Information Resources Policy.

## II. Definitions

The following definitions apply for the limited purposes of this policy and any associated regulations.

- A. Service-Affiliate -- means a 3rdparty organization that a University Employee works with/for as part of their service obligation to the University, but which is not owned, operated or controlled by the University. Examples include agencies of the federal government, research journals, other academic institutions, non-profit community organizations, or professional associations.
- B. Service-Affiliate Email System -- means a Service-Affiliate's email system (e.g., @ars.usda.gov, @cabi.org, etc.) that Employees may use on behalf of a Service-Affiliate in connection with their service obligations to the University but which is intended for conducting the official business of the Service-Affiliate and not for Official University Business.
- C. Email / or Email Communications -- means messages sent from one individual (or business) to another individual or business via telecommunications links between computers or terminals or other electronic devices using dedicated software. For purposes of this policy, the terms email or email communications do not include communications through text, instant messaging (IM), Zoom, Teams, Slack, chat functions or system generated messages.
- D. Employees -- means all University employees, as defined in Policy 5-001 Employee Definitions (including administrative officers, faculty members, non-faculty academic employees, and staff members).

- E. Trustees -- means the members of the Board of Trustees as referenced in University Policy 2-002.
- F. University Enterprise Email Systems -- means an email system controlled by the University which is designed, implemented, and approved for use by University Employees and Trustees primarily to conduct Official University Business. The University's main enterprise email system is the "@utah.edu" system and subdomains. The term also includes other email systems approved by the University's Chief Information Officer. For a list of approved enterprise emails systems, see Guideline G4-010.
- G. Official University Business -- means any activity that is carried out by an Employee or Trustee within the course and scope of their responsibilities for the University of Utah and is undertaken for or on behalf of the University itself. Official University Business includes but is not limited to University administrative work, teaching, research and patient care. Note that although service activities are often conducted as part of an Employee's duties to the University, when such activities are conducted by an Employee primarily on behalf of or for a Service-Affiliate rather than directly for the University, those service activities are not considered to be Official University Business for the limited purposes of this Policy and so any Service Related Email Communications regarding those activities are not subject to the requirements of this Policy applicable for University Business Email Communications.
- H. Private Email System -- means an email system that is not controlled by the University and provided for use of Employees or Trustees in conducting Official University Business, but rather is operated by a third party provider which is not directly subject to University Regulations. University Employees, along with other members of the general public typically make use of such systems for conducting private email communications (not constituting Official University Business Email Communications). Examples of such systems are those with the suffix @gmail.com, @hotmail.com or @yahoo.com.

- I. Service-Related Email Communications -- means email communications that are related to an Employee's service activities that may be performed as part of a service obligation to the University, but are sent or received by the Employee while acting on behalf of a Service-Affiliate and are part of the official business of the Service-Affiliate. For purposes of this Policy such communications are not considered University Business Email Communications for conducting the Official Business of the University.
- J. University Business Email Communications -- means email communications that an Employee or Trustee sends within the course and scope of their responsibilities to the University and which relate to Official University Business.

### **III. Policy**

- A. Required Use of University Enterprise Email System.
  - 1. All University Employees and Trustees, when conducting Official University Business through email, must do so using their individual University email account in an approved University Enterprise Email System.
  - 2. No Employee or Trustee may transmit any University Business Email Communications, or otherwise conduct Official University Business by email, through use of a Private Email System or a Service-Affiliated Email System.
  - 3. The University shall provide Employees and Trustees with the appropriate technology, technical assistance, guidance, and training reasonably necessary for those individuals to comply with their obligations under this Policy and associated Regulations, including requirements for conducting Official University Business only through an approved University email system.

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*Sections IV- VII are for user information and are not subject to the approval of the Academic Senate or the Board of Trustees. The Institutional Policy Committee, the Policy Owner, or the Policy Officer may update these sections at any time.*

#### **IV. Policies/ Rules, Procedures, Guidelines, Forms and other Related Resources**

- A. Policies/ Rules. [ *reserved* ]
- B. Procedures, Guidelines, and Forms.
  - 1. Guideline G4-010A: Approved University Enterprise Email Systems
- C. Other Related Resources. [ *reserved* ]

#### **V. References**

- A. Policy 2-002: Board of Trustees
- B. Policy 4-002—Information Resources Policy.
- C. Policy 4-004: University of Utah Information Security Policy, regarding the safeguarding of all University Data
- D. Rule R4-004A: Acceptable Use
- E. Policy 5-001: Employee Definitions.
- F. Utah Code Ann. §63G-2-101 et seq.

#### **VI. Contacts**

The designated contact officials for this regulation are:

- A. Policy Owner(s) (primary contact person for questions and advice): Deputy Chief Information Technology Officer
- B. Policy Officer(s): Vice President and General Counsel

See Rule 1-001 for information about the roles and authority of policy owners and policy officers.

#### **VII. History**

Revision History.

- A. Current version. Revision 0.

1. Approved by the Academic Senate on April 26, 2021 and the Board of Trustees on August 10, 2021, with effective date of August 10, 2021.
2. Editorial Revisions
  - a. Editorially revised February 13, 2026 to remove references to a Utah Board of Higher Education policy that was repealed.
- B. Previous versions.
- C. Renumbering
  1. Not applicable