



# University of Toronto TORONTO ONTARIO M5S 1A1

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OFFICE OF THE VICE-PROVOST, STUDENTS

TO: Committee On Academic Policies and Programs

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DATE: February 14 for March 1, 2006

AGENDA ITEM: 7

## **ITEM IDENTIFICATION:**

### **Policy on Official Correspondence with Students**

## **JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Committee has authority for recommending to the Academic Board policy matters on academic regulations.

## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

The University wishes to bring through governance a policy which would specify students' responsibilities with respect to both postal mail and electronic communications. As we move toward implementing student portals, this policy has gained new urgency. It is essential that the University and its divisions have reliable means of communicating with students. The Policy would not impact on or change any of the methods of communication already covered by other existing University policies, for example, the Grading Practices Policy and the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is moved that the Committee on Academic Policies and Programs recommend to the Academic Board for approval:

That the Policy on Official Correspondence with Students be adopted effective September 1, 2006.



### **Policy on Official Correspondence with Students**

The University and its divisions may use the postal mail system and/or electronic message services (e.g., electronic mail and other computer-based on-line correspondence systems) as mechanisms for delivering official correspondence to students.

Official correspondence may include, but is not limited to, matters related to students' participation in their academic programs, important information concerning University and program scheduling, fees information, and other matters concerning the administration and governance of the University.

#### **Postal Addresses and Electronic Mail Accounts**

Students are responsible for maintaining and advising the University of a current and valid postal address as well as for maintaining a University-issued electronic mail account on the University's student information system (currently ROSI).

Failure to do so may result in a student missing important information and will not be considered an acceptable rationale for failing to receive official correspondence from the University.

#### **University rights and responsibilities regarding official correspondence**

The University provides centrally-supported technical services and the infrastructure to make electronic mail and/or on-line communications systems available to students. University correspondence delivered by electronic mail is subject to the same public information, privacy and records retention requirements and policies as are other university correspondence and student records. The University's expectations concerning use of information and communication technology are articulated in the guidelines on Appropriate Use of Information and Communication Technology (available on the web site of the Office of the Vice-President and Provost: <http://www.provost.utoronto.ca/English/Appropriate-Use-of-Information-and-Communication-Technology.html>.)

#### **Students' rights and responsibilities regarding retrieval of official correspondence**

Students are expected to monitor and retrieve their mail, including electronic messaging account[s] issued to them by the University, on a frequent and consistent basis. Students have the responsibility to recognize that certain communications may be time-critical. Students have the right to forward their University-issued electronic mail account to another electronic mail service provider address but remain responsible for ensuring that all University electronic message communication sent to the official University-issued account is received and read.