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What plan does the administration of Georgia Southern University have to encourage all Georgia Southern University students to regularly check their university-provided email accounts

Submitted by Patrick Novotny

3/8/2005

Question:

What plan does the administration of Georgia Southern University have to encourage all Georgia Southern University students to regularly check their university-provided email accounts and to conduct as much of their university-related email correspondence as they can with Georgia Southern University administration, faculty, and staff members using their university-provided email accounts instead of non-university email accounts? Is there a comprehensive plan, including 1st Year Student Summer Orientation and GSU 1210 courses, for encouraging students to regularly check and use their university-provided email accounts?

Rationale:

The university-provided email accounts are there for a reason, are they not? Not to mention concerns that some Georgia Southern University colleagues have expressed that confidentiality issues are potentially a concern for any faculty email correspondence to students with non-university email accounts.

Response:

5/3/2005: Dr. Teresa Thompson's Response: The University has had a comprehensive plan in place for over three years for encouraging students to use the University provided e-mail accounts. This information and encouragement begins at the time of recruitment as we communicate with prospects and applicants mainly through e-mail. This education for use of University provided e-mails continues through SOAR and GSU 1210. All information provided to students concerning e-mail responsibility is also distributed to parents during the SOAR process. It is the policy of the University to notify students mainly through e-mail. This policy is stated in the student handbook, parent's handbook, discussed at all SOARS, and faculties of GSU 1210 are encouraged to reinforce this information. All Georgia Southern students are provided with an e-mail address within 24 hours of student registration. Georgia Southern University issued e-mail addresses are the official means of communication between the University and the student. It is the student's responsibility to check his or her e-mail each school day. There is no justifiable excuse for failure to respond to a University communication or failure to act on a University communication in a timely manner. There is also a full description and explanation of how to access your e-mail account in the student handbook and on the University web site.

Dr. Teresa E. Thompson Vice President For Student Affairs and Enrollment Management

Addendum from Patricia Humphrey: I have also checked with some colleagues who regularly teach GSU 1210. They assure me this is on the list of topics to be covered. They make a point of taking their students to a computer lab and showing them how to use Wings, e-mail, and also how to redirect Georgia Southern email to personal accounts (yahoo, hotmail, etc).

Senate Response:

Patrick Novotny submitted an RFI regarding administration's efforts to encourage students to use their GSU email accounts. That RFI was responded to by Teresa Thompson. There has been a plan in place for over three years and the use of GSU email accounts is covered thoroughly for both students and parents at SOAR and is also covered again in GSU 1210 classes. Her full response was posted on the web on May 3rd.