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What is Georgia Southern University's policy of monitoring facebook.com, myspace.com, and related World Wide Web sites

Submitted by Patrick Novotny

4/25/2005

Question:

What is Georgia Southern University's policy of monitoring the facebook.com, myspace.com, and related World Wide Web sites for information bearing upon the well-being, the safety, and the Academic and Student Code of Conduct of the university and its students? Does Georgia Southern University's administration have any plans to address recommendations and/or precautions for the safe and responsible use of the facebook.com, myspace.com, and related Websites for students and/or parents during New Student Orientation in the Summer Term, in GSU 1210 Orientation courses, or in other venues?

Response:

4-25-05: Teresa Thompson's Response: After consideration of our student conduct code, recent cases related to the facebook.com, and interaction with Mr. Lee Davis (Legal Affairs), Ms. Susan Davies (Admissions), and Dr. Edward Bayens (Judicial Affairs), I would like to give you the following information: Although we don't have the resources to police the facebook.com for all conduct code violations, the site is in no way affiliated with Georgia Southern University, and we have very little influence over what is placed on this site, our office currently has students who frequently monitor the facebook.com "conversation groups" to identify possible irregularities in on-line conversations. Dr. Ed Bayens will cover the facebook.com and other websites that may be used to violate the student conduct code during his training with SOAR Leaders. Every Georgia Southern University student is held accountable to adhere to the student conduct code on-campus and off-campus (this includes on-line activity as well). If charges are filed and a student is found in violation, he/she will be adjudicated according to sanctioning guidelines. If some of the communications are simply

offensive, we will encourage students to contact the facebook.com website Web Master. Any university student, faculty, or staff member has a right to contact the Office of Judicial Affairs for possible violations of the conduct code. Upon this contact, an assessment will be made of the potential violation. This also includes cases involving the facebook.com. The article located at this link gives a good example of how another institution has dealt with the facebook.com

<http://www.columbiaspectator.com/vnews/display.v/ART/2005/03/21/423e7a3d45cb9>

Patrick Novotny requested information regarding University policy on maintaining academic and student code of conduct in light of World Wide Web sites that potentially facilitate cheating and any plans to make recommendations to new students. Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Teresa Thompson provided the following: “Although we don’t have the resources to police the facebook.com for all conduct code violations, the site is in no way affiliated with Georgia Southern University, and we have very little influence over what is placed on this site, our office currently has students who frequently monitor the facebook.com “conversation groups” to identify possible irregularities in on-line conversations. Dr. Ed Bayens will cover the facebook.com and other websites that may be used to violate the student conduct code during his training with SOAR Leaders. Every Georgia Southern University student is held accountable to adhere to the student conduct code on-campus and off-campus (this includes on-line activity as well). If charges are filed and a student is found in violation, he/she will be adjudicated according to sanctioning guidelines. If some of the communications are simply offensive, we will encourage students to contact the facebook.com website Web Master. Any university student, faculty, or staff member has a right to contact the Office of Judicial Affairs for possible violations of the conduct code. Upon this contact, an assessment will be made of the potential violation. This also includes cases involving the facebook.com.” Dr. Thompson then provided a link that shows how other institutions have dealt with this issue and that link is available under the RFI section on the Senate Web Page.