(A) Policy statement

The principles of academic freedom and freedom of expression apply to the use of university computing resources. So, too, however, do the responsibilities and limitations associated with those principles.

Like the use of any other university-provided resource and like any other university-related activity, the use of computing resources is subject to the requirements of legal and ethical behavior within the university community. The legitimate use of a computer, computer system or network does not extend to whatever is technically possible. Although some limitations are built into computer operating systems and networks, those limitations are not the sole restrictions on what is permissible.

Users of university computing resources shall comply with the “Responsible Use Standards” identified in this policy.

(B) Purpose

This policy establishes standards for the responsible use of university computing resources, identifies security enforcement measures, and potential consequences for violations.

(C) Scope

This policy applies to all users of university computing resources, whether affiliated with the university or not, and to all uses of those resources, whether on campus or from remote locations. Additional policies may apply to specific computers, computer systems or networks provided or operated by specific units of the university. Consult the operators or managers of the specific computer, computer system or network in which you are interested for further information.

(D) Responsible use standards

All users of university computing resources must:
(1) Comply with all federal, Ohio and other applicable law, all generally applicable university rules and policies, and all applicable contracts and licenses. Examples of such laws, rules, policies, contracts and licenses include the laws of libel, privacy, copyright, trademark, obscenity and child pornography; the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act; the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; the Electronic Communications Privacy Act and the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, which prohibit "hacking," "cracking," and similar activities; the university’s Code of Conduct; university policy 3364-50-01 Sexual harassment and other forms of harassment; and all applicable software licenses. Users who engage in electronic communications with persons in other states or countries or on other systems or networks should be aware that they may also be subject to the laws of those other states and countries and the rules and policies of those other systems and networks. Users are responsible for ascertaining, understanding and complying with the laws, rules, policies, contracts and licenses applicable to their particular uses.

(2) Use only those computing resources which they are authorized to use and use them only in the manner and to the extent authorized. Ability to access computing resources does not, by itself, imply authorization to do so. Users are responsible for ascertaining what authorizations are necessary and for obtaining them before proceeding. Accounts and passwords may not, under any circumstances, be shared with, or used by, persons other than those to whom they have been assigned by the university.

(3) Respect the privacy of other users and their accounts, regardless of whether those accounts are securely protected. Again, ability to access other persons’ accounts does not, by itself, imply authorization to do so. Users are responsible for ascertaining what authorizations are necessary and for obtaining them before proceeding.

(4) Respect the finite capacity of those resources and limit use so as not to consume an unreasonable amount of those resources or to interfere unreasonably with the activity of other users. Although there is no set bandwidth, disk space, CPU time or other limit applicable to all uses of university computing resources, the university may require users of those resources to limit or refrain from specific uses in accordance with this principle. The reasonableness of any particular use will be judged in the context of all of the relevant circumstances.

(5) Refrain from using those resources for personal commercial purposes or for personal financial or other gain. Personal use of university computing resources for other purposes is permitted when it does not consume a significant amount of those resources, does not interfere with the performance of the user’s job or other university responsibilities, and is otherwise in compliance with this policy. Further limits may be imposed upon personal use in accordance with normal supervisory procedures.

(6) Refrain from stating or implying that they speak on behalf of the university and from using university trademarks and logos without authorization to do so. Affiliation with
the university does not, by itself, imply authorization to speak on behalf of the
university. Authorization to use university trademarks and logos on university
computing resources may be granted only by the senior director of university
marketing. The use of appropriate disclaimers is encouraged.

(E) Security enforcement and privacy:

The university employs various measures to protect the security of its computing
resources and of their users’ accounts. Users should be aware, however, that the
university cannot guarantee such security. Users should therefore engage in "safe
computing" practices by establishing appropriate access restrictions for their accounts,
guarding their passwords and changing them regularly.

Users should also be aware that their uses of university computing resources are not
completely private. While the university does not routinely monitor individual usage of
its computing resources, the normal operation and maintenance of the university’s
computing resources require the backup and caching of data and communications, the
logging of activity, the monitoring of general usage patterns, and other such activities
which are necessary for the rendering of service. The university may also specifically
monitor the activity and accounts of individual users of university computing resources,
including individual log in sessions and communications without notice.

The university, in its discretion, may disclose the results of any such general or individual
monitoring, including the contents and records of individual communications, to
appropriate university personnel or law enforcement agencies and may use those results
in appropriate university disciplinary proceedings. Communications made by means of
university computing resources are also generally subject to Ohio’s Public Records
statute to the same extent as they would be if made on paper.

(F) Violations:

Users who violate this policy may be denied access to university computing resources
and may be subject to other penalties and disciplinary action, both within and outside of
the university. Violations will normally be handled through the university disciplinary
procedures applicable to the relevant user. For examples, alleged violations by students
will normally be investigated, and any penalties or other discipline will normally be
imposed, by the office of student judicial affairs. However, the university may
temporarily suspend or block access to an account, prior to the initiation or completion of
such procedures, when it reasonably appears necessary to do so in order to protect the
integrity, security or functionality of university or other computing resources or to protect
the university from liability. The university may also refer suspect violations of
applicable law to appropriate law enforcement agencies.

(G) Education for responsible use

Use of information technology resources is subject to the user’s agreement to adhere to
the standards outlined in this policy. Upon assignment of a network password, each user
will electronically accept that they have received and read the responsible use policy. The responsible use policy will be posted to the campus website to increase the ability of campus users to reflect on and consult the policy.

Approved by:

Lloyd A. Jacobs, M.D.
President

Date

May 25, 2012

Review/Revision Completed by:
Vice President of Information Technology

Policies Superseded by This Policy:
- Previous 3364-65-05, effective date November 18, 2008

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