Students and the Internet: Baker College Policies That Affect You

The internet offers a rich and powerful resource to the educational community. Students have unprecedented access to a wealth of information from many computers at Baker College, or from home. However, as you are probably aware, a small portion of the internet contains material that is not appropriate for any educational purpose and students need to be aware of Baker College policies regarding this access and these materials.

Every user of these resources at Baker College must agree to certain "Conditions of Use" that were adopted by the college in 1992 and reaffirmed by the college's Operations Committee in 1996. Two documents outline these conditions. The first document is the "Policy on the Proper Use of Information Resources, Information Technology, and Networks at Baker College." The second document, "Information Systems Division: Conditions of Use Policy," details what are acceptable and unacceptable uses of equipment and services provided by Baker College. This document applies in all areas where departments have not adopted their own, more specific, policies.

Both of the documents described above are typically distributed during training sessions, referred to on applications for accounts, found in Email and Convene user guides, and are found on the menu of "Hercules," the main UNIX server; where students have email accounts. The documents provide much more detail, but, in short, they restrict use of college resources only for the purpose of, and in a manner consistent with, the instructional and administrative objectives of the college.

The following are examples of the kind of use that Baker College has defined as inappropriate:

- Any violation of copyright law of software license agreements.
- The installation of software without authorization.
- Seeking to gain or gaining unauthorized access to information resources.
- Any damage to software or hardware owned by Baker College.
- The distribution of "Chain" email.
- The use of "Chat," IRC, MUD, or MOO for any purposes that is inconsistent with college objectives.
- Any violation of Baker College policies regarding sexual or racial harassment.

The last example requires some additional detail. One situation that Baker College will not tolerate is the racial or sexual harassment of any of the members of the college community. Unfortunately, the internet increases the opportunity for such harassment to occur. Users within Baker College have experienced harassing email, and sexually explicit pictures, which have been downloaded from the internet, have appeared on computers. Students have been disciplined, have had their accounts revoked, and have been expelled from the college for such activity.

Any activity that creates, downloads, or otherwise causes there to be sexually explicit pictures on computers under the control of an individual is taken by the college as an example of creating an intimidating, offensive, or hostile working and educational environment, and is certainly the misuse of the purposes for which such equipment was made available.

The health and well being of our resources are the responsibility of us all, who must guard against abuses which disrupt and/or threaten the viability of these resources. Baker College requires that members of this community act in accordance with these responsibilities, college policies, relevant laws and contractual obligations, and the highest standards of ethics.

I understand how this information pertains to me without exception.

Signature: _____ Date: _____ UIN: _____

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