

NETWORK & COMPUTER POLICY

The network and computer policy establishes the vision of the Board of Trustees as to the freedom of sharing information within the scope of responsibility and respect to others and to the Institution itself.

Information Technology (IT) has provided means of sharing information that requires specified guidelines because of the nature of the tools and media used. The University defines the tools of Information Technology (IT) as networks, computers, email, electronic data, electronic information, web pages and the IT facilities available on the campuses such as computer laboratories and computer facilities.

The Policy defines the authorized user as any member of the AUST community (administrator, faculty, student, staff and worker) who has been legally permitted to use the IT system that AUST has put to use for its community.

All authorized users shall be subject to the following:

- a. The freedom of speech, expression and opinion in the pursuit of scholarly inquiry are fundamental in the process of proper learning and teaching. The sharing of information amongst the AUST community and among the learned community outside AUST is also believed to be an important vehicle in the learning process. The use of IT resources and services is therefore seen by the University as providing the necessary tools for the promotion of this freedom and the ability to share.
- b. Access to the Internet shall be guaranteed to all authorized users during all times. The use of the Internet shall be encouraged for the purpose of enhancing the education process.
- c. The use of the Internet for purposes that are not strictly educational shall be the responsibility of the user, and shall not be covered by any university insurance policy.
- d. The University expects (and is committed to) its constituencies to grow professionally, ethically, socially and politically; thus, it sees the Internet as a good medium for this growth. The use of the

Internet however should be done within the proper limits of responsibility, ethics, social & political awareness and in full compliance with the laws of the Republic of Lebanon and of University's policies.

e. The use of the Information Technology tools may be revoked, denied or restricted if authorized users abuse the privileges of such use, and do not operate within the confines mentioned above. The University shall not assume any legal responsibility for any illegal abuse, and may refer to prosecution if any user intentionally abuses the IT system or the country's ethical code of conduct.

The University reserves the right to apply and use the appropriate measures for the protection of its hardware, software and network system.