

Questions for the President for the Faculty Council Meeting on April 9, 2018

Submitted by Prof. Brian L. Evans, Chair of the Committee of Counsel on Academic Freedom and Responsibility

According to the UT *Information Resources Use and Security Policy* [1], we faculty have no privacy of any of our university e-mail correspondence or other university data:

1. What is the protocol that the university follows to authorize searching or other access to the content of files in faculty computer accounts including faculty e-mail correspondence?
2. Which person(s) at the university has(have) the right to read, search or otherwise access e-mail messages for which they were not the sender or a recipient?
3. Which person(s) at the university has(have) the right to read, search or otherwise access messages sent through university platforms such as Canvas for which they were not the sender or a recipient?
4. Which person(s) at the university has(have) the right to search personally owned devices for University Data?
5. Other than prohibitions against notification in certain court orders, why couldn't the university notify faculty that their files have been searched and why? [2]

[1] *Information Resources Use and Security Policy, The University of Texas, esp. Section 2.1, security.utexas.edu/policies/irusp*

[2] "Contours of Academic Freedom", American Association of University Professors, <https://www.aaup.org/i-need-help/workplace-issues/contours-academic-freedom#c1>

Additional Information

From the *Information Resources Use and Security Policy* (IRUSP) Section 2.1:

"University Data: All data or information held on behalf of University, created as result and/or in support of University business, or residing on University Information Resources, including paper records."

"Users who are University employees, including student employees, or who are otherwise serving as an agent or are working on behalf of the University have no expectation of privacy regarding any University Data they create, send, receive, or store on University owned computers, servers, or other information resources owned by, or held on behalf, of University. University may access and monitor its Information Resources for any purpose consistent with University's duties and/or mission **without notice.**" (emphasis added)

"Users have no expectation of privacy regarding any University Data residing on personally owned devices, regardless of why the Data was placed on the personal device."