



University of Missouri

Date: April **20**, 2017

To: Ben Trachtenberg, Chair
Faculty Council

From: Art Jago

Re: Texting Policy Revisited **Revisited**

Note: This is a revision to the revision introduced at the FC meeting of April 13, 2017. The only addition in this document is a previously approved amendment to change the original draft to better accommodate texts between faculty members. That previously approved amendment is now found below in RED.

Faculty Council passed a revision to the *Faculty Handbook* on 3/23/17 to add a policy governing texting. After the meeting, however, there was agreement that some of the language in that addition remained equivocal/ambiguous.

With input from several council members, I have attempted a further clarification. I offer the following changes for consideration as a Faculty Council resolution:

Article XI. Conduct, Communication and Other Student Affairs

3. At the beginning of each term, students must provide the Office of the Registrar with their current local and permanent home addresses. They must keep that office informed of any change(s) in either address.
 - a. The University will also issue official electronic mail (“email”) accounts to all incoming students. For any official mailings the latest postal address or University electronic mail address will be used, thereby fulfilling the University's obligation of notification.

In addition to communications by email, students ~~must be able to opt in to~~ may be offered the opportunity to receive telephonic/electronic text messages (“texts”) from various departments, ~~including and/or~~ individual faculty. If offered, the student shall be able to opt in to such an availability. If the student has not opted in to receive texts, they are not to be notified by texts. Students cannot be required to text with departments or faculty. Faculty cannot be required to

communicate with students via text messaging. Any communication provided via texts must also be provided via an additional method to ensure that all potentially impacted students or their designees receive the information. A text received or sent by a faculty member is not an official communication. ~~All texts must reflect university values and adhere to federal laws as well as all other university policies related to communication with students and/or between faculty and staff~~ Text communications to students under this policy must reflect university values and adhere to federal laws as well as all other university policies related to communication with students by faculty and staff.

- b. Texts from personal phones require that the phones be password protected. The devices and the software systems generating texts must adhere to current policies and procedures of the MU Division of Information Technology. (Updated ~~03-23-17~~ XX-XX-17)

If these changes are adopted at the Faculty Council Meeting on April 27, 2017, the policy will appear in the Faculty Handbook as follows (i.e., with the indicated insertions and deletions made):

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 - a. The University will also issue official electronic mail (“email”) accounts to all incoming students. For any official mailings the latest postal address or University electronic mail address will be used, thereby fulfilling the University's obligation of notification.

In addition to communications by email, students may be offered the opportunity to receive telephonic/electronic text messages (“texts”) from various departments and/or individual faculty. If offered, the student shall be able to opt in to such an availability. If the student has not opted in to receive texts, they are not to be notified by texts. Students cannot be required to text with departments or faculty. Faculty cannot be required to communicate with students via text messaging. Any communication provided via texts must also be provided via an additional method to ensure that all potentially impacted students or their designees receive the information. A text received or sent by a faculty member is not an official communication. Text communications to students under this policy must reflect university values and adhere to federal laws as well as all other university policies related to communication with students by faculty and staff.

- b. Texts from personal phones require that the phones be password protected. The devices and the software systems generating texts must adhere to current policies and procedures of the MU Division of Information Technology. (Updated 04-27-17)