



Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Students to receive bills, grades via e-mail

Starting fall 2003, Oakland University will begin sending official university business information to students through their free OU e-mail account. With the MiraPoint e-mail solution now in place, the university will take advantage of the new reliable, stable and secure e-mail environment to provide students with more efficient notification of things like bills, grades, schedule of classes, news, campus events and more.

In some cases, students will receive the information directly in their e-mail. In others, they will receive an e-mail notification that data is available to access through a secure Web site.

All OU students will be held accountable for the information the university sends through e-mail.

"The benefits to students and the university are many, including more timely and cost-effective distribution of the information that is important for students to have quickly," said Mary Beth Snyder, vice president of student affairs. "I would encourage all students to make a habit of checking their OU e-mail account at least once a week starting this fall."

While more timely and efficient, sending this communication to students via e-mail also saves money by significantly reducing – or even eliminating – printing and mailing costs.

"By shifting all student business communication from paper to e-mail, we expect to save more than \$100,000 per year," said Steve Roberts, associate vice president for finance and administration and a member of the administrative team that developed the new policy.

Student response has been favorable when members of the policy team shared it with student groups.

"Students supported the move to streamline communications using e-mail," said Glenn McIntosh, assistant vice president of student affairs and dean of students, who was also a policy team member. "Members of the student congress raised a concern about receiving spam mail. This new policy strictly prohibits selling or giving away student e-mail address lists as well as distributing solicitations to purchase, sell or advertise items for third parties."

Students can learn more about Oakland e-mail and find answers to their questions on OU's **E-mail Account Document Library** Web page by clicking on the **Information Technology** button from anywhere on Oakland's home page, then selecting e-mail services.

Through the Oakland system, students can forward their Oakland e-mail to a preferred e-mail account. However, if the preferred e-mail address changes, the student will be responsible for updating the forwarding address.

SUMMARY

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