

X-1.0—POLICY ON USM INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY POLICIES, INCLUDING FUNCTIONAL COMPATIBILITY WITH THE STATE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PLAN

(Approved by the Board of Regents on August 24, 2001; amended June 16, 2023)

Background

The University System of Maryland (USM) exemption from Title 3.5, Subtitle 3 of the State Finance and Procurement Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, empowers the Secretary of the Department of Information Technology to establish information technology policies and standards for many state agencies. Section §12–112 (b) of the Education Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, specifically outlines the requirements of the University System of Maryland information technology policies and standards:

The Board of Regents shall develop an information technology plan for the University System of Maryland that includes information technology policies and standards, including policies and standards for information management and telecommunication systems, that are functionally compatible with the State Information Technology Plan established under Title 3, Subtitle 4 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

Accordingly, the USM may develop its own unique policies and standards for effective management of information technology, provided that they are functionally compatible with those in the State Information Technology Master Plan (ITMP).

Unlike a typical state agency, where the majority of internal users of information technology services are employees, in the USM the majority of internal users are students. Increasingly, the computers connected to USM's networks and accessing our services are not USM-owned computers, but personally owned computers. Furthermore, a typical state agency will focus information technology policies around agency business processes. In the USM, the focus is also on our mission activities of teaching, learning, and research. These activities require a flexible approach to policies and standards, and in many cases, more advanced teaching and research-oriented technology.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish a framework, as required in Senate Bill 682, for creating institutional information technology policies, standards, guidelines, and operating practices that address the requirements of policies articulated in the State ITMP, where applicable. Equally critical, this policy fosters the development of additional information technology policies, standards, and guidelines tailored to the higher education administration and mission-related activities of teaching, learning, and research.

Guidelines

USM institutions shall develop, document, and maintain information technology policies, standards, guidelines, or operating practices that are functionally compatible with the State's ITMP policies and standards, where applicable. The State has identified policies and standards in areas including but not limited to information technology management, hardware and software standards, networking, systems development, web services, and security.

The USM Information Technology Coordinating Council (ITCC) will provide copies of the current applicable State information technology policies and standards as well as checklists and guidelines to assist the USM institutions in developing functionally compatible policies, standards, guidelines, or operating practices. The USM Chief Information Officer (CIO), in consultation with the ITCC, will also propose and develop additional information technology policies and standards as necessary for consideration of the Board of Regents Technology Committee, subsumed by the Board of Regents Finance Committee, and subsequently to the full Board of Regents.

USM Accountability

Each USM institution will establish procedures for annually reviewing and certifying the functional compatibility of its information technology policies, standards, guidelines, and operating practices with the State ITMP, as well as compliance with Board of Regents IT policies, guidelines and standards. These certifications will be filed with the USM CIO and reviewed by the USM ITCC.

Time-Line

The certifications by the USM institutions will be filed starting August 15, 2002 and every August 15th thereafter.