

IT Support for Cloud-Based Secure Storage to Students, Faculty and Staff

Background:

Recent events have shed light on the University of Maine's lack of current policy statements regarding secure network storage of archival and ongoing departmental and student work. Secure storage of student work is needed by University of Maine faculty to support pedagogy, otherwise enhance student education and to serve as references for graduates. Faculty have no secure location to save unlimited amounts of files containing sensitive data. Faculty have two options: (1) Save a limited amount of data to First-Class (250Mb); or (2) Save an unlimited amount of data to an unsecured Google Drive¹. Also, the University of Maine System does not provide backup or security to administrative assistants and other departmental personnel in any systematic fashion. Not only are current provisions inadequate but current policies and training do not provide administrative staff adequate guidance for proper handling of information. Finally, policies concerning student use of such resources have yet to be determined.

Motion:

Motion: The Faculty Senate calls on the University of Maine and the University of Maine System to provide

- 1) Updated security policies and guidance for file storage enabling students, faculty and staff to safely store necessary information on university provided network drives; and*
- 2) Cloud-based secure storage and retrieval (with backup) for all data and local files produced, especially those containing sensitive data, to ensure the safety and security of student and administrative information, and accessible at any time through a secure network connection.*

To ensure the safety and security of information and provide timely support to students and staff, this program must be in place prior to the start of the 2015-16 academic year.

¹ Google states clearly in their service agreement that while an author retains intellectual property rights, Google has a worldwide license to host, store, reproduce, modify, create derivative works from what is saved with it, suggesting that data security is not a priority.