



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT AND  
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER  
Information Technology Services

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
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Oakland, California 94607-5200

September 17, 2018

CHANCELLORS  
ACADEMIC COUNCIL CHAIR MAY  
LABORATORY DIRECTOR WITHERELL  
ANR VICE PRESIDENT HUMISTON

**Re: Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy BFB-RMP-7 Protection of Administrative Records Containing Personally Identifiable Information**

Dear Colleagues:

Attached for Systemwide Review is a proposed revision of Presidential Policy BFB-RMP-7, Protection of Administrative Records Containing Personally Identifiable Information.

The University of California Records Management Committee (RMC) is reviewing and updating policies in the BFB-RMP series. As a result of that review, it is consolidating and updating three policies in the series that cover related topics – BFB-RMP-7, Privacy of and Access to Information Responsibilities; BFB-RMP-11, Student Applicant Records; and BFB-RMP-12, Guidelines for Assuring Privacy of Personal Information in Mailing Lists and Telephone Directories. These policies are found at <https://www.ucop.edu/information-technology-services/policies/records-management-policies.html>. Also attached is a redline document that compares language in existing policies RMP-7, RMP-11, and RMP-12 with the proposed revision of RMP-7.

The scope of the revised policy is limited to personally identifiable information in administrative records, regardless of whether the records are in paper, electronic, or other media. BFB-RMP-1, University Records Management Program, defines administrative records as follows:

“The term ‘**administrative record**’ is used to describe any record that documents or contains valuable information related to the organization, functions, policies, decisions, procedures, operations, or other business activities of the university.”

BFB-RMP-1 also states that the Records Management Program:

“...applies to all administrative records, regardless of their medium. The Program does not apply to:

- Administrative records held by the Principal Officers of The Regents,
- Teaching and research records (e.g., library materials, faculty research and teaching materials, student examinations), or
- Records pertaining to individual patient care (medical records).”

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In consolidating the three existing policies into a revised and updated RMP-7, the RMC eliminated sections that are no longer pertinent, retained sections that are still relevant, and updated others. The revised policy clarifies the roles of Privacy Officials, Records Management Coordinators, and Information Practices Coordinators, and incorporates the UC Statement of Privacy Principles and Values.

UC Records Manager Laurie Sletten, former Systemwide Privacy Manager Roslyn Martorano, and, recently, current Systemwide Privacy Compliance Manager Scott Seaborn led the review and developed the draft in conjunction with a committee of Records Management Coordinators and Privacy Officers. The draft has undergone significant systemwide review and been revised to reflect input from key functional areas. The draft was first presented to the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) in September 2016, after which it was vetted with various groups, as shown below:

- Records Management Coordinators: 11/28/2016, 1/17/2017, 1/26/2017, 6/15/2017, 1/22/2018
- Information Practices Coordinators: 11/28/2016, 6/15/2017
- Privacy Officers: 11/28/2016, 1/17/2017, 6/15/2017, 7/26/2018
- HIPAA Officers: 11/28/2016, 1/17/2017, 6/15/2017
- Office of the General Counsel: 1/17/2017, 6/15/2017, 7/26/2018
- Information Security: 11/28/2016, 1/17/2017, 1/26/2017

The updated draft was re-presented to the PAC on June 20, 2018, at which point the PAC recommended initiation of the formal Systemwide Review.

### **Systemwide Review**

Systemwide Review is a public review distributed to the Chancellors, the Director, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, the Chair of the Academic Council, and the Vice President of Agriculture and Natural Resources requesting that they inform the general University community, affected employees, and union membership about policy proposals. Systemwide Review also includes a mandatory, three-month full Senate review. Employees should be afforded the opportunity to review and comment on the draft policy. Attached is a Model Communication which may be used to inform non-exclusively represented employees about these proposals. The Labor Relations Office at the Office of the President is responsible for informing the bargaining units representing union membership about policy proposals.

If you have any questions, please contact UC Records Manager Laurie Sletten at 510-987-9411. Please submit your comments to Laurie Sletten at [laurie.sletten@ucop.edu](mailto:laurie.sletten@ucop.edu) no later than December 17, 2018.

Sincerely,



Tom Andriola  
Vice President & UC Chief Information Officer  
Information Technology Services

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Attachments: Proposed Presidential Policy BFB-RMP-7, Protection of Administrative Records  
Containing Personally Identifiable Information  
Redline of Existing RMP-7, RMP-11, and RMP-12  
Model Communication

cc: President Napolitano  
Provost and Executive Vice President Brown  
Executive Vice Chancellors/Provosts  
President's Advisory Group  
Vice President Duckett  
Vice President Ellis  
Vice President Holmes-Sullivan  
Vice Provost Carlson  
Vice Provost Gullatt  
Deputy General Counsel Woodall  
Vice Chancellors/Vice Provosts of Academic Personnel/Academic Affairs  
Academic Personnel Directors  
Chief of Staff Nava  
Deputy Compliance Officer Myjer  
Executive Director Baxter  
Executive Director Peterson  
Executive Director Chester  
Director Hairston  
Director Grant  
Manager Smith  
Manager Steinhoff  
Manager Jordan  
Manager Crosson

**BFB-RMP-7: Protection of Administrative Records containing Personally Identifiable Information**

**NUMBER RMP:**

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**PRIVACY OF AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION RESPONSIBILITIES**

**REFER ALL SYSTEMWIDE QUESTIONS TO:**

Coordinator of Information Practices

**REFER ALL CAMPUS QUESTIONS TO:**

Information Practices Coordinator

**EFFECTIVE DATE:**

November 1, 1985

**I. REFERENCE**

Business and Finance Bulletin RMP-8, "Privacy of and Access to Information, Legal Requirements," November 1, 1985.

<b><u>Responsible Officer:</u></b>	<u>Chief Information Officer &amp; Vice President – Information Technology Services</u>
<b><u>Responsible Office:</u></b>	<u>ITS – Information Technology Services</u>
<b><u>Issuance Date:</u></b>	
<b><u>Effective Date:</u></b>	
<b><u>Last Review Date:</u></b>	
<b><u>Scope:</u></b>	<u>This applies to all University employees, students and others who have authorized access to Administrative Records containing Personally Identifiable Information at all locations.</u>

<b><u>Contact:</u></b>	<u>Laurie Sletten</u>
<b><u>Title:</u></b>	<u>UC Records Manager</u>
<b><u>Email:</u></b>	<u>laurie.sletten@ucop.edu</u>
<b><u>Phone #:</u></b>	<u>(510) 987-9411</u>

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## II. SCOPE

This Bulletin establishes responsibilities for privacy of and access to all information maintained by any segment of the University, except for those records pertaining to students. (See "Policies Applying to Campus Activities, Organizations, and Students—Part B, University of California Policies Applying to the Disclosure of Information from Student Records. October 31, 1983.")

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## I. POLICY SUMMARY

The University of California respects the privacy of individuals as fundamental to its mission and a value enshrined in the California constitution. Privacy:

1. Is essential to promoting the values of academic and intellectual freedom.
2. Plays an important role in upholding human dignity and safeguarding a strong, vibrant society, and
3. Serves as the basis for an ethical and respectful workplace.

The University is committed to protecting personal privacy in its operations, activities, and management of information. The University must balance this commitment with other important commitments, including public accountability and the right of people to access information about the conduct of the public's business. This policy outlines the requirements and processes for ensuring the University protects information by meeting its legal obligations, as well as balancing information privacy and autonomy privacy with competing institutional obligations, values, and interests.

The purpose of this bulletin is to establish the systemwide processes for safeguarding personally identifiable information in Administrative Records. When personally identifiable information is requested, the University must examine whether its disclosure or use is governed by law or University policy, and if not, whether disclosure or use constitutes an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. If the University's response to the request is not mandated by law or policy, the requested personally identifiable information may be released, used or disclosed only after a balancing analysis determines that it does not constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

This policy is for use by anyone in the University community who makes decisions about Administrative Records. Material provided in the procedures may be helpful to anyone in the institution who creates or receives records of any type.

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## II. DEFINITIONS

**Administrative Records:** As defined in Business and Finance Bulletin Records Management and Privacy-1: University Records Management Program (RMP-1), this term is used to describe any record, regardless of physical form or characteristics, that documents or contains valuable

information related to the organization, functions, policies, decisions, procedures, operations, or other business activities of the University.<sup>1</sup>

**California Information Practices Act (IPA):** The law that guarantees the right of access to records containing an individual's personal information, with certain limitations, and sets forth provisions to govern the collection, maintenance, accuracy, dissemination, and disclosure of information about them. Special procedures for providing access to and protecting the privacy of University records containing personal data are required by the IPA.

**California Public Records Act (CPRA):** The law that provides public access to state and local agency records relating to the conduct of the public's business. Public records must be disclosed upon request, unless a statutory exemption applies. In providing access, CPRA remains mindful of individual privacy rights.

**Campus Privacy Official:** The individual at each location responsible for overseeing the strategic direction and application of the UC Statement of Privacy Values & Privacy Principles<sup>2</sup> and UC Privacy Balancing Process.

**Commercial Purposes:** Any purpose that has financial gain as a major objective.

**Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):** The federal law that addresses the privacy of students' educational records, which are records directly related to a student and are maintained by the University or a party acting for or on behalf of the University.

**General Data Protection Regulation ("GDPR"):** A privacy law of the European Union that governs the use of personally identifiable information. It concerns the personal data of individuals in the European Economic Area (EEA), which includes EU countries as well as the United Kingdom, Iceland, Norway, and Lichtenstein. The GDPR defines "personal data" very broadly such that the term includes names, addresses, phone numbers, national IDs, IP addresses, profile pictures, personal healthcare data, educational data, and any other data that can be used to identify an individual. It addresses multiple issues, such as the rights of data subjects, consent, and purpose of use.

**Information Practices Coordinator:** The individual at each location responsible for administering responses to records requests, and providing guidance to constituents at their locations on matters related to the access, use, and disclosure of information maintained in Administrative Records.

**Information Privacy:** As defined in the UC Statement of Privacy Values & Privacy Principles, is the appropriate protection, use, and dissemination of information about individuals.

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<sup>1</sup> Administrative records do not include the records held by the Principal Officers of The Regents; teaching and research records (e.g., library materials, faculty research and teaching materials, student examinations); or records pertaining to individual patient care (medical records).

<sup>2</sup> For more information, see Section IV.C. Roles and Responsibilities. A list of current privacy officials can be found at <http://www.ucop.edu/ethics-compliance-audit-services/compliance/privacy/campus-privacy-officials.html>.

**Mailing Lists:** Any compilation of names and addresses, including email addresses.

**Personally Identifiable Information (PII):** Any information that describes or identifies an individual, including but not limited to name, Social Security number, physical description, home address, telephone numbers, email address, education, financial matters, medical or employment history, or statements made by or attributed to the individual.

**Privacy and Information Security Board:** The privacy and information security board at each location that advises on privacy and information security; sets strategic direction for autonomy privacy, information privacy, and information security; champions the UC Privacy Values & Privacy Principles, and the UC Privacy Balancing Process; and monitors compliance and assesses risk and effectiveness of location privacy and information security programs. These boards may be separate committees or structured as part of an existing location governance committee.

**Records Management Coordinator:** As defined in RMP-1, the individual at each location responsible for the development, coordination, implementation, and management of the Records Management Program at the location.

**Records Management Program:** In accordance with RMP-1, the Program that promotes sound, efficient, and economical records management in the following areas: (1) creation, organization of, and access to records; (2) maintenance and retention of Administrative Records; (3) security and privacy of records; (4) protection of records vital to the University; (5) preservation of records of historical importance; (6) disposition of Administrative Records when they no longer serve their purpose; and (7) other functions the University may deem necessary for good records management.

**Student Applicant Records:** Records of a person during the period of application, acceptance, and admission to the University, *prior* to enrollment.

**Telephone Directories:** A collection of individuals' names, telephone numbers, and other contact information, including employee (campus) or student directories.

**UC Privacy Balancing Process:** The process designed to address privacy risks when there is no policy in place pertaining to the situation.<sup>3</sup>

### **III. INTRODUCTION**

~~On June 12, 1978, the Vice President—Academic and Staff Personnel Relations issued guidelines for implementing recently enacted legislation related to privacy of and access to University records. As stated in those guidelines it was necessary to implement a series of information practices requirements, including the following:~~

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<sup>3</sup> See UC Privacy and Information Security Steering Committee Report to the President January 2013, page 18

- ~~—restrict the use of Social Security numbers; (Federal Privacy Act of 1974);~~
- ~~—provide for access by the public to all University records, other than litigation, law enforcement, examination, property, library and museum, and certain personnel and medical records, or records whose disclosure is prohibited by law (California Public Records Act);~~
- ~~—withhold from public access those records for which it can be demonstrated that the public interest served by not making the record public clearly outweighs the public interest served by disclosure of the record (California Public Records Act);~~
- ~~—assure that personal information will not be disclosed unless the disclosure meets one or more of fourteen specific exceptions (Information Practices Act of 1977/IPA);~~
- ~~—establish procedures which ensure that individuals may inquire and be notified whether the University maintains records about them and may inspect those records (with certain exceptions); such procedures to be consistent with eleven criteria (IPA);~~
- ~~—maintain only that information which is pertinent and necessary to accomplish a purpose of the University or is authorized by law (IPA);~~
- ~~—provide with any form used to collect personal information eight specific items of information, such as the principal purpose for which the information is to be used and whether submission of information requested is voluntary or mandatory (IPA);~~
- ~~—assure that mailing lists meet certain standards for protecting the privacy of individuals (IPA);~~
- ~~—establish procedures for recording certain types of disclosures, and correcting such disclosed information (IPA); and~~
- ~~—provide the State Office of Information Practices with a detailed inventory of University records containing personal information (IPA).~~

These requirements are still valid. However, records management procedures and responsibilities have evolved through the practical application within the University of the referenced privacy and access laws. This Bulletin incorporates and therefore supersedes the June 12, 1978 guidelines, and sets forth applicable procedures and responsibilities.

### **III. POLICY TEXT**

This policy applies to all Personally Identifiable Information (PII) in the University of California's Administrative Records, regardless of the record's function or medium, and addresses requirements related to the treatment of such information. Requests for academic

personnel records from government agencies are governed by Business and Finance Bulletin Records Management and Privacy Policies 9a, 9b, and 9c.<sup>4</sup>

All faculty, staff, and other individuals associated with the University who have access to Administrative Records containing PII must understand their responsibilities for safeguarding the privacy of that information. The Information Practices Coordinators, Campus Privacy Officials, and Records Management Coordinators in consultation with the UC Office of the General Counsel (OGC), are responsible for providing overall policy and procedural guidance to University locations about privacy of and access to Administrative Records.<sup>5</sup>

#### **A. Rules of Conduct for Employees with Access to Information Concerning Individuals**

The University of California requires employees to adhere to the following rules of conduct concerning minimum standards<sup>6</sup> for the collection, maintenance, disclosure, safeguarding, and destruction of Administrative Records containing PII. The California Information Practices Act (IPA) requires that any officer or employee who intentionally violates this policy, including these rules of conduct, may be subject to discipline, up to and including termination.<sup>7</sup>

1. Employees responsible for the collection, maintenance, use, and dissemination of Administrative Records that contain PII, must comply with the provisions of the IPA.
2. Employees must not require individuals to disclose PII about themselves or others that is not necessary and relevant to the purposes of the University or to the particular function for which the employee is responsible.
3. Employees must make every reasonable effort to ensure inquiries and requests by individuals for records containing their PII are responded to quickly, courteously, and without requiring the requester to repeat the inquiry to others unnecessarily.
4. Employees must assist individuals seeking information pertaining to themselves with making their inquiries sufficiently specific and descriptive to facilitate locating the records.
5. Employees must not disclose PII to unauthorized persons or entities.
6. Employees must not seek out or use PII relating to others for their own interest or advantage.

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<sup>4</sup> For additional requirements concerning requests for and access to academic peer review records, see policy APM-160.

<sup>5</sup> For more information about the specific responsibilities of each role, see Section IV.C.

<sup>6</sup> See Rules of Conduct for University Employees Involved with Information Regarding Individuals, part of the Privacy Principles and Practices at UC

<sup>7</sup> California Civil Code § 1798.55

7. Employees responsible for the maintenance of records containing PII must take all necessary precautions to assure that proper administrative, technical, and physical safeguards are established and followed in order to protect the records from unauthorized access, use and disclosure.

#### **B. Management of Records containing PII**

*For specific procedures concerning mailing lists and student records including application records, see Section VI Procedures. For information concerning academic peer review records, see APM-160.*

The University strives to collect and maintain only information that is necessary and pertinent to accomplish its University mission.

To the greatest extent practicable, information about an individual must be collected directly from the individual to whom it pertains. When this is not possible, the University must maintain the source or sources of information, in a readily accessible format, in order to provide the source or sources to the individual upon request. When PII is disclosed, individuals may be notified according to existing legal requirements, University policy, and campus practices.

Each location must establish procedures that ensure an individual's right to inquire and be notified whether the University maintains records about them; and provide the records for inspection by the individual to the extent required by law. These procedures must be consistent with the requirements of the IPA, and University policies, such as UC IS-3 Electronic Information Security.

#### 1. Use of PII for Commercial Purposes

The University prohibits employees responsible for maintaining or accessing records with PII from distributing, selling, or renting PII for commercial purposes unless such action is specifically authorized by law.<sup>8</sup>

#### 2. Disposition of Administrative Records Containing PII

Information held by the University must be disposed of in accordance with federal and state law, and as required by RMP-2 Records Retention and Disposition and the UC Records Retention Schedule, unless it is needed as evidence in an investigation, foreseeable or on-going litigation, on-going audit, on-going records request or other special circumstance – in which case the information must be retained until these actions have been completed or resolved.

#### 3. Procedures for Reporting Unauthorized Disclosures or Breaches of PII

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<sup>8</sup> For example California Civil Code §1798.60

Each location is responsible for developing its procedures for reporting unauthorized disclosures or breaches of PII for both paper and electronic records. Procedures for reporting electronic unauthorized disclosures or breaches of PII must be consistent with the University of California Privacy and Data Security Incident Response Plan.

#### 4. General Data Protection Regulation (“GDPR”) Requirements

GDPR requirements may be more restrictive and UC guidance for it must be consulted.

#### C. Evaluating Use or Disclosure of PII

When neither law nor policy provides definitive guidance regarding a proposed use or disclosure of PII, the University must use the UC Privacy Balancing Process to adjudicate privacy and other competing interests.

Under the Balancing Process, the University must not make public disclosures of information when it can demonstrate that the public interest served by nondisclosure clearly outweighs the public interest served by disclosing the information. In reaching this decision, the University must review specific statutory exceptions that might allow for disclosure of PII. Situations involving unprecedented and significant balancing concerns are referred to the location’s Privacy Board unless a relevant alternative adjudication path is already established.

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## IV. COMPLIANCE / RESPONSIBILITIES

### A. Implementation of the Policy

The Vice President for Information Technology Services and Chief Information Officer is responsible for issuing and updating any requirements, standards or guidelines that support this policy.

Chancellors, the Vice President of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and UC Managed Laboratory Directors are responsible for designating an Information Practices Coordinator, Campus Privacy Official, and Records Management Coordinator to administer and implement this policy at their location.

The UC Information Practices Coordinator, UC Privacy Manager, and UC Records Manager facilitate regular communication among local Information Practices Coordinators, Campus Privacy Officials, and Records Management Coordinators to address consistent implementation of this policy throughout the University. Each Information Practices Coordinator, Privacy Official, and Records Management Coordinator must work together at their locations to ensure consistent implementation of this policy, as necessary.

## IV. RESPONSIBILITIES

## A. University-wide Responsibility

The Senior Vice President—Administration has major responsibility for University-wide compliance with legal requirements on privacy of and access to University records. Within that organization, the Coordinator of Information Practices and Special Projects, in consultation with General Counsel as appropriate, provides overall records privacy and access policy and procedural guidance to campuses, Laboratories, and offices of the President, as well as liaison with the State Office of Information Practices.

## B. Campus, Laboratory, and Office of the President Responsibilities

1. Chancellors, Laboratory Directors\*, the Vice President—Agriculture and Natural Resources, and the Senior Vice President—Administration responsible for ensuring that departments and other units under their respective jurisdictions comply with all records privacy and access requirements. To facilitate this responsibility, and because of the complexity of the task of implementing access and privacy requirements and the likelihood of lawsuits if requirements are not met, each of these officers appoints a senior officer as Coordinator of Information Practices:

\*Los Alamos National Scientific Laboratory is expected to comply with all policy and procedural requirements for privacy of and access to information, although it should be understood that the Civil Remedies and Penalties section of the State of California Information Practices Act and Public Records Act may not be applicable in New Mexico.

2. The local Coordinators of Information Practices are responsible for developing privacy and access guidelines, as well as providing technical and practical assistance to all offices at their locations. To assure that local records procedures and practices are consistent with University policies and Federal and State laws, the Coordinators are responsible for liaison with the Office of the President Coordinator of Information Practices and Special Projects. In fulfilling these responsibilities, local Coordinators shall:

- understand legal requirements, including the differences between confidential, personal, and non-personal information;
- prepare a yearly inventory of personal and confidential records systems for ultimate transmittal to the State; and
- periodically review record systems to ensure that files are maintained with accuracy, relevance, timeliness, and completeness.

The local Coordinators should provide guidance to their constituencies which:

- ensures that local forms requesting or providing personal or confidential information have privacy notices incorporated in them or attached to them;
- ensures that individuals have access to information about themselves unless the information has been determined to be confidential;

~~—ensures that individuals may amend a record about themselves and that appropriate action is taken within specified time periods and in accordance with University and legal requirements;~~

~~—establishes charges, if any, for copies of any records to which individuals are entitled to have access, and ensure that such charges are in accordance with University and legal requirements;~~

~~—establishes records of disclosure of information if required by an existing State statute;~~

~~—assure the security of files;~~

~~—allows disclosure of personally identifiable information to a non-profit educational institution conducting scientific research providing there is satisfactory determination of the need for personal or confidential information, a procedure for protecting the confidentiality of the information, and assurance that the personal identity of the subject shall not be further disclosed in individually identifiable form; and~~

~~—ensures that no information in a file is transferred inside or outside the University unless the transfer is consistent with legal requirements.~~

## **B. Revisions to the Policy**

The Vice President for Information Technology Services and Chief Information Officer has the authority to initiate policy revisions and is responsible for regular reviews and updates consistent with approval authorities and applicable Bylaws and Standing Orders of The Regents.

## **C. Roles & Responsibilities**

The following functions are critical to ensuring the University handles information in a manner consistent with the University's legal obligations, policy requirements, and the UC Statement of Privacy Values & Privacy Principles. Together, Information Practices Coordinators, Campus Privacy Officials, and Records Management Coordinators serve as subject matter experts and collaborate with other disciplines to strengthen the University's information governance framework.

### 1. University Employees

All faculty, staff, and other University community members with access to records with PII must safeguard the records from unauthorized access, use and disclosure.

### 2. University Managers

All managers must ensure that any personnel who have access to records with PII are made aware of their responsibilities for handling such records, including protecting the records from unauthorized access, use and disclosure.

### 3. Information Practices Coordinators

The Information Practices Coordinator at each location is responsible for administering responses to records requests, and providing guidance on matters related to the access, use, and disclosure of information maintained in Administrative Records. The California Public Records Act (CPRA) Office within the OGC provides guidance to campuses and may manage multi-campus CPRA requests on behalf of the locations. At their locations, Information Practices Coordinators also:

- i. Ensure that procedures and practices for access, amendment, use and disclosure of Administrative Records adhere to federal and state laws, including but not limited to the IPA and the CPRA.
- ii. Develop guidelines, including training programs, on IPA and CPRA practices, including the rules of conduct outlined in Section III.A.
- iii. Review local PII collection and notice practices upon request.
- iv. Assist with interpretation of federal and state privacy and disclosure laws and University policies including but not limited to the CPRA, IPA and the UC rules of conduct outlined in Section III.A.

### 4. Campus Privacy Officials

Campus Privacy Officials at each location are responsible for overseeing the strategic direction and application of the UC Statement of Privacy Values & Privacy Principles, and UC Privacy Balancing Process throughout the activities at that location.

### 5. Records Management Coordinators

As defined in RMP-1, Records Management Coordinators are responsible for the development, coordination, implementation, and management of the Records Management Program at their locations.

### 6. Chancellors, the Vice President of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and UC Managed Laboratory Directors

These positions are responsible for designating an Information Practices Coordinator, Campus Privacy Official, and Records Management Coordinator to administer and implement this policy at their locations.

### 7. The Vice President for Information Technology Services and Chief Information Officer

This position is responsible for issuing and updating any requirements, standards or guidelines that support this policy.

## V. PROCEDURES

For specific categories of PII, all locations must follow the procedures below to ensure consistency across the University.

### NUMBER RMP-11

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#### STUDENT APPLICANT RECORDS

##### EFFECTIVE DATE

June 15, 1989

##### REFER ALL SYSTEMWIDE QUESTIONS TO:

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##### REFER ALL CAMPUS QUESTIONS TO:

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#### I. REFERENCES

Business and Finance Bulletin RMP-8, "Legal Requirements on Privacy of and Access to Information," dated December 10, 1985, with revised pages 5, 22, and 28 dated September 15, 1986; revised page 8 dated February 1, 1987; revised pages 2, 8a, 9-12, 18, 18a, and 19-23 dated April 15, 1988; and revised pages 14 and 15 dated February 15, 1989.

Letter from Afton E. Crooks, Coordinator of Information Practices and Special Projects, Office of the President, to Olga Euben, Associate Director of Admissions, Santa Cruz campus, August 24, 1982.

Letter from A. T. Brugger, Special Assistant for Student Affairs Services, Office of the President, to Edward Birch, Vice-Chancellor, Student and Community Affairs, Santa Barbara campus, June 27, 1983.

Letter from Rosalie G. Passovoy, Coordinator of Student Special Services, Office of President, to Masa Fujitani, Associate Director of Admissions, Irvine campus, July 1, 1983.

Letter from Vice-Chancellor Birch to Charles W. McKinney, Registrar and Robert E. Bason, Assistant Chancellor University Relations, Santa Barbara campus, September 8, 1983.

Letter from Coordinator Passovoy to Michael Miller, Director of Student Recruitment, Riverside campus, September 14, 1984.

Letter from Coordinator Crooks to Director Miller, January 18, 1985.

Letter from Philip E. Spiekerman, University Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, to Virginia Kelsch, Associate Director of Development, University Advancement, Irvine campus, June 21, 1985.

Opinion by Melvin W. Beal, University Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, to Jack W. Peltason, Chancellor, Irvine campus, July 30, 1985.

California State Information Practices Act, Section 1798 et seq.

## II. INTRODUCTION AND DEFINITIONS

The purpose of this Bulletin is to furnish guidelines for consistent and fair practices in providing and protecting access to records of University applicants (as distinct from full-fledged, matriculating students) in accordance with applicable laws and University policies.

[Found in the beginning of the new RMP-7, under Definitions:]

**Student Applicant Records:** Records of a person during the period of application, acceptance, and admission to the University, *prior* to enrollment.

A. Applicant Records reference a person during the period of application, acceptance, and admission to the University, *prior* to actual enrollment in classes.

### A. Student Applicant Records

In accordance with California law, the University only collects information relevant to the University's purposes. Disclosure of this information must be in accordance with state and federal law.

Until an applicant has enrolled in an academic program, any records referring to them are considered student applicant records and must be used and accessed in a manner consistent with the protections afforded by the IPA.

Access to applicant records is governed by the State of California Information Practices Act (IPA). No distinction is made between U.S. and foreignborn student applicants regarding disclosure of information. The IPA protects the rights of individuals without regard to nationality.

B. Student records are those records which: (a) are directly related to a student, and (b) are maintained by a University of California campus or by a party acting for the campus, whether recorded by handwriting, print, tapes, film, microfilm, or other means. Student records include, but are not limited to, academic evaluations, transcripts, test scores and other academic records, general counseling and advising records, disciplinary records, and financial aid records. Applicant records become student records after the student has been admitted, enrolled in, and been in attendance, at the University. Access to student records is governed by the Federal

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the State's Donohoe Act, as reflected in the University's Policies Applying to Campus Activities, Organizations, and Students, Part B.

Records directly related to an enrolled student, including the student's applicant records, are subject to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).<sup>9</sup>

### III. CREATION, MAINTENANCE, AND DISPOSITION

The offices of the Graduate and/or Undergraduate Admissions are respectively responsible for creating, maintaining, and safeguarding access to applicant records.

The IPA allows for the collection only of information that is "relevant and necessary" to accomplish the intended stated purpose. In the case of applicant records, the information collected must clearly aid the University in determining eligibility for admission and ranking for scholarships, and disclosure of any allowable portion of it must be in accordance with the IPA (see Section IV, below).

The IPA further requires the application forms to carry a privacy notice and statement advising the person filling out the form whether answering the questions posed is mandatory or voluntary; what authority authorizes maintenance of the information; and what, if any, consequences exist for failure to supply any part of the information asked.

The University of California Records Disposition Schedules Manual provides specific guidelines as to how long admissions records are to be kept and when they should be destroyed. Copies of the Manual may be obtained from the campus or Office of the President Records Management Coordinators.

### IV. DISCLOSURE GUIDELINES

Disclosure of applicant information is governed by three basic tenets:

(1) there are broad access rights by an individual to information pertaining to that individual; (2) nonpersonal information may be disclosed to anyone; and (3) disclosure to third parties of personal information is allowed only under specific statutory provisions.\*

\* See Business and Finance Bulletin RMP 8, "Legal Requirements on Privacy of and Access to Information," pp. 13-15, for definitions of personal and nonpersonal information, and pp. 18a-21 regarding disclosure. See also, July 30, 1985 letter from University Counsel Beal to Chancellor Peltason.

The following are guidelines which have been developed in response to specific questions regarding information from applicant records. While it is recognized that there are many more than the four categories herein addressed, the most frequently occurring questions over the years have involved these specific groups. We, therefore, have limited the discussion to them at this time.

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<sup>9</sup> For policy requirements and further information about privacy and potential disclosure of student records, please read Policies Applying to the Disclosure of Information from Student Records (UC PACAOS-130)

#### A. Applicants

~~In accordance with University policy, an applicant has the right to see records referencing him or her with regard to the application process, except that disclosure of evaluation forms and records in an applicant's file, "created with the documented understanding of confidentiality" is protected.~~

~~When the applicant is outside the U.S., a person representing the individual within the U.S. may be granted the same access rights to personal information regarding the applicant as those afforded the applicant, consistent with the IPA, Section 1798.24 (e).~~

An applicant has the right to inspect records that reference them in relation to the application process, and are maintained in the applicant's file, with the exception of recommendation letters and associated records created with the documented understanding of confidentiality.<sup>10</sup>

When the applicant is outside the United States, they may have a person within the U.S. act as their representative. This representative has the same right of access to the applicant's file. The University may disclose information to this representative if records within the University's possession demonstrate with reasonable certainty that this is the applicant's intended representative.

#### B1. Parents of Applicants

~~In accordance with the IPA, the University must not release information from the applicant's records to the applicant's parents and as a matter of University policy, information from the applicant's files is not released to parents of applicants without the applicant's written consent, regardless of the individual's age or financial status. The University's current Current admissions process provides forms provide the opportunity to furnish this consent.~~

In accordance with FERPA, the University must not release student records (including application records) to parents without the student's written consent, regardless of age or financial status, unless such release falls under a specific exception under FERPA.

#### 2. Third Parties

~~In accordance with state law, the University may disclose PII about a University applicant to certain third parties (e.g., high school counselors). This information may include C. School Administrators and Teachers~~

~~According to University policy and the IPA, such personal information about a University applicant as eligibility status or lack of certain grades. The University may disclose this information may be disclosed to such third parties as school counselors only if:~~

- ~~a. The applicant gives prior written consent;~~
- ~~1. prior written consent is given by the applicant; or~~

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<sup>10</sup> California Civil Code §1798.38; 20 USC § 1232a(a)(1)(C)

~~b. The 2. the~~ information is necessary for performance of the third party's counselor's official duties, and its use is will be compatible with its original collection purpose; ~~or~~

~~c. The 3. the~~ requested information will be is to be used for scientific or statistical research and assurances of confidentiality and protection of personal identity are guaranteed, as per Section 1798.24 (u) of the IPA.; or

d. Other legal exceptions apply.

### ~~D3.~~ Advancement, Development, and Alumni Office Staff

Advancement, Development, and Alumni office staff have legitimate educational interest in applicants' records. These offices may access applicant information, including PII, when the information is relevant and necessary to carry out their assigned duties and is clearly related to the purpose In order to be accessed, the requested admissions records must clearly pertain to non-students and fall under the IPA definition of nonpersonal. IPA provisions for intra-agency disclosures prohibit disclosure of personal information unless such disclosure is "relevant and necessary" to carry out assigned duties, and is clearly "related to the purpose" for which the information was originally collected.

### **RMP-12** Guidelines for Assuring Privacy of Personal Information in Mailing Lists and Telephone Directories

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**June 15, 1989**

#### I. REFERENCES

Civil Code Section 1798 et. seq., the Information Practices Act of 1977 (IPA).

Government Code Section 6250 et seq., the California Public Records Act (PRA).

Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA).

The Donohoe Higher Education Act of 1977, Education Code, Sections 67100—67175.

University Policy Applying to the Disclosure of Information from Student Records, (Part B) Sections 10.00—11.30.

Business and Finance Bulletin RMP-8, "Legal Requirements on Privacy and Access to Information."

Business and Finance Bulletin BUS-65, "Guidelines for University Mail Services."

Policy Prohibiting Commercial Advertising in Official University Publications, issued by President David S. Saxon to Chancellors, Laboratory Directors, and Deans, April 12, 1979

~~Letter from President David P. Gardner to Chancellors, Laboratory Directors, and Deans, July 26, 1985, reaffirming the April 12, 1979 policy.~~

~~Letter from Afton E. Crooks, Coordinator of Information Practices and Special Projects, Office of the President to Warren E. Schoonover, Director of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Office of the President, January 30, 1986.~~

~~Letter from Susie Castillo Robson, Coordinator of Student Records, Office of the President, to Sue Carberry, Coordinator of Information Practices, Santa Barbara Campus, regarding the commercial use of public information contained in student directories, March 10, 1986.~~

## ~~II. INTRODUCTION~~

~~The Information Practices Act (IPA) requires that protection of the individual's right to privacy be given consideration in all aspects of University Business.~~

~~The University's obligation to promote its purposes and communicate efficiently with employees, students, and others on University business makes it desirable to produce and maintain directories and mailing lists which include individuals' names, campus or business addresses and telephone numbers, and certain items of personal information about those individuals.~~

~~The purpose of this Bulletin is to:~~

- ~~A. describe the types of mailing lists and directories the University maintains;~~
- ~~B. clarify the circumstances under which personal information may or may not be included in them, and~~
- ~~C. establish guidelines for subsequent distribution and use.~~

~~Except where noted in Sections I. and V.B.2, this Bulletin will deal only with mailing lists and telephone directories that are not governed by federal and state law and University policies relating to information contained in student records maintained by the University.~~

## ~~III. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS~~

### ~~A. Confidentiality of Home Address and Telephone Number~~

~~According to Government Code Section 6254.3 (PRA), the home addresses and telephone numbers of state employees are not deemed to be public records and cannot be released without written permission of the individual.~~

### ~~B. Notification of Intended Use of Personal Information~~

~~Civil Code Section 1798.17 (IPA) provides that the individual will be notified of the intended purpose and use of personal information being collected. Periodic updating of that notification shall occur at not more than one-year intervals.~~

#### ~~C. Prohibition on Release of Names and Addresses for Commercial Purposes~~

~~Civil Code Section 1798.60 (IPA) prohibits distribution, rental, or sale of an individual's name and address for commercial purposes unless specifically authorized by law.~~

#### ~~D. Removal of Names from Mailing Lists~~

### **B. University Mailing Lists and Telephone Directories**

Upon written request from any individual, any University office that maintains a Mailing List must remove that individual's name and address from such list, unless the list is used by the University solely for necessary direct contact with the individual.

The University must not use or disclose its Telephone Directories and Mailing Lists for commercial purposes, unless such action is specifically authorized by law.

~~Civil Code Section 1798.62 (IPA) gives individuals the right, upon written request, to have their own name and address removed from any agency list, unless that list is used exclusively for the purpose of directly contacting the individual.~~

## **IV. LEGAL DEFINITIONS**

### **A. Commercial Purposes**

~~Civil Code Section 1798.3 (j):~~

~~"The term 'commercial purposes' means any purpose which has financial gain as a major objective."~~

### **B. Personal Information**

~~Civil Code Section 1798.3 (a):~~

~~"The term 'personal information' means any information that is maintained by an agency that identifies or describes an individual, including, but not limited to, his or her name, social security number, physical description, home address, home telephone number, education, financial matters, and medical or employment history."~~

~~The types of personal information typically found in mailing lists and directories that are the subject of this Bulletin are not limited to, but might include an individual's home address and telephone number, marital status, and spouse's name.~~

Further definition and explanation regarding personal information can be found in Section VII.B., on page 15 of Business and Finance Bulletin RMP-8, "Legal Requirements of and Access to Information".

## V. GENERAL DEFINITIONS

*[Found in the beginning of the new RMP-7, under Definitions:]*

~~A. **Mailing Lists:** A mailing list is any compilation of names and addresses, including email addresses. Further information regarding mailing lists may be found in Section IV.C. of Business and Finance Bulletin BUS-65, "Guidelines for University Mail Services".~~

~~B. **Telephone Directories:** A collection of individuals' names, telephone numbers, and other contact information, including employee (campus) or student directories.~~

~~1. Employee (campus) directories: Typically include the employee's name, department and title, campus address, and telephone. Campus directories may also include the employee's home address and telephone as well as spouse's name.~~

~~2. Student directories: Typically include the student's name, campus address, local telephone number, and home address. Student directories are compiled from student records, which are subject to different legislative requirements from all other University records. Student records are governed by:~~

~~a. the Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA);~~

~~b. University policy, and~~

~~c. certain sections of the California Education Code adopted by The Regents of the University.~~

~~Questions regarding student records, or any publications compiled from student record information, should be directed to the Assistant Vice President Student Academic Services, Office of the President.~~

### ~~C. University Publications~~

~~President Saxon's policy statement of April 12, 1979 defines official University publications as those that are informational or administrative, and used in the conduct of routine activities. Examples include: maps, guides, directories, catalogues, departmental announcements, and class schedules.~~

## VI. PROCEDURES

~~A. Collecting Personal Information for Inclusion in Telephone Directories and Mailing Lists~~

1. Written voluntary consent from each individual is required before any personal information may be included in any list or directory maintained by the University.

2. Forms used to collect personal information for inclusion in a University directory or mailing list must include the standard State privacy notice explaining its intended use, unless the directory or mailing list is to be used only by the University for the purpose of communicating with the individual.

#### B. Complying with the IPA

1. To comply with the IPA, a notice similar to the following shall be printed in each directory:

"This campus directory is the property of the University of California (campus name). To protect the privacy of individuals listed herein, in accordance with the State of California Information Practices Act, this directory may not be used, rented, distributed, or sold for commercial purposes."

2. When a form used to collect personal information includes a 'yes-no' box to be checked, or a signature line indicating consent to release the information being collected, any line or box inadvertently or purposely left blank must be interpreted as a statement of "non-consent". Records of consent or non-consent must be updated annually to comply with provisions of the IPA.

3. Individuals may request in writing to have a name removed from any specified mailing list. However, the University is not obligated to remove a name if the list is used exclusively to notify the individual, or for some other official University purpose.

#### C. Complying with University Policy

1. President Saxon's 1979 letter defines 'official publication' and states that such a publication 'should not contain commercial advertising'.

2. President Gardner's 1985 letter reiterates and confirms the 1979 ruling prohibiting commercial advertising in official University publications such as directories and mailing lists.

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## V. RELATED INFORMATION

### Academic Personnel Manual

- Section 160, Maintenance of, Access to, and Opportunity to Request Amendment of Academic Personnel Records

### Business and Finance Bulletins

- [IS-3, Electronic Information Security](#)
- [RMP-1, University Records Management Program](#)
- [RMP-2, Records Retention and Disposition](#)
- [RMP-9a, -9b, -9c, Guidelines for Access to University Personnel Records by Governmental Agencies](#)

#### [Personnel Policies for Staff Members](#)

- [PPSM 21, Selection and Appointment](#)

#### [Federal and State Laws](#)

- [California Constitution, Article I, Section 1 and 3](#)
- [California Information Practices Act](#)
- [California Public Records Act](#)
- [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act](#)

#### [Other Presidential Policies and Guidelines](#)

- [Electronic Communications Policy](#)
- [Gramm-Leach-Bliley Compliance Plan](#)
- [UC Policy on Public Disclosure of Compensation Information](#)
- [UC Privacy Balancing Process](#)
- [UC Privacy and Data Security Incident Response Plan](#)
- [UC Privacy and Information Security Steering Committee Report to the President January 2013](#)
- [UC Statement of Privacy Values & Privacy Principles](#)

#### [Other](#)

- [UC Procurement Appendix DS — Data Security and Privacy](#)

[For specific additional requirements about Student Records, Protected Health Information \(PHI\), and Academic Peer Review Records please refer to the policies below:](#)

- [Student Education Records: UC PACAOS-130 Policies Applying to the Disclosure of Information from Student Records and the Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\) primarily govern the handling of student education records.](#)
- [Protected Health Information: The University's HIPAA policies, the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 \(HIPAA\), and subsequent amendments in the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health \(HITECH\) Act govern the handling of Protected Health Information.](#)

- Academic Peer Review Records: See APM 160-20  
This policy defines the rights of individuals and entities to have access to academic peer review records.

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## **VI. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

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Not applicable

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## **VII. REVISION HISTORY**

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**Revision Date:** This Policy was remediated to meet Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0.

This policy replaces the following policies:

- BFB-RMP-7: Privacy of and Access to Information Responsibilities. November 1, 1985 Initial Version.
- BFB-RMP-8: Requirements of Privacy of and Access to Information. November 13, 2015 Rescinded.
- BFB-RMP-11: Student Applicant Records. June 15, 1989 Initial Version.
- BFB-RMP-12: Guidelines for Assuring Privacy of Personal Information in Mailing Lists and Telephone Directories. June 15, 1989 Initial Version



# BFB-RMP-7: Protection of Administrative Records containing Personally Identifiable Information

<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Chief Information Officer & Vice President – Information Technology Services
<b>Responsible Office:</b>	ITS – Information Technology Services
<b>Issuance Date:</b>	
<b>Effective Date:</b>	
<b>Last Review Date:</b>	
<b>Scope:</b>	This applies to all University employees, students and others who have authorized access to Administrative Records containing Personally Identifiable Information at all locations.

<b>Contact:</b>	Laurie Sletten
<b>Title:</b>	UC Records Manager
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:laurie.sletten@ucop.edu">laurie.sletten@ucop.edu</a>
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## I. POLICY SUMMARY

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The University of California respects the privacy of individuals as fundamental to its mission and a value enshrined in the California constitution. Privacy:

1. Is essential to promoting the values of academic and intellectual freedom,
2. Plays an important role in upholding human dignity and safeguarding a strong, vibrant society, and
3. Serves as the basis for an ethical and respectful workplace.

The University is committed to protecting personal privacy in its operations, activities, and management of information. The University must balance this commitment with other important commitments, including public accountability and the right of people to access information about the conduct of the public's business. This policy outlines the requirements and processes for ensuring the University protects information by meeting its legal obligations, as well as balancing information privacy and autonomy privacy with competing institutional obligations, values, and interests.

The purpose of this bulletin is to establish the systemwide processes for safeguarding personally identifiable information in Administrative Records. When personally identifiable information is requested, the University must examine whether its disclosure or use is governed by law or University policy, and if not, whether disclosure or use constitutes an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. If the University's response to the request is not mandated by law or policy, the requested personally identifiable information may be released, used or disclosed only after a balancing analysis determines that it does not constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

This policy is for use by anyone in the University community who makes decisions about Administrative Records. Material provided in the procedures may be helpful to anyone in the institution who creates or receives records of any type.

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## II. DEFINITIONS

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**Administrative Records:** As defined in [Business and Finance Bulletin Records Management and Privacy-1: University Records Management Program](#) (RMP-1), this term is used to describe any record, regardless of physical form or characteristics, that documents or contains valuable information related to the organization, functions,

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policies, decisions, procedures, operations, or other business activities of the University.<sup>1</sup>

**California Information Practices Act (IPA)**: The law that guarantees the right of access to records containing an individual’s personal information, with certain limitations, and sets forth provisions to govern the collection, maintenance, accuracy, dissemination, and disclosure of information about them. Special procedures for providing access to and protecting the privacy of University records containing personal data are required by the IPA.

**California Public Records Act (CPRA)**: The law that provides public access to state and local agency records relating to the conduct of the public’s business. Public records must be disclosed upon request, unless a statutory exemption applies. In providing access, CPRA remains mindful of individual privacy rights.

**Campus Privacy Official**: The individual at each location responsible for overseeing the strategic direction and application of the [UC Statement of Privacy Values & Privacy Principles](#)<sup>2</sup> and UC Privacy Balancing Process.

**Commercial Purposes**: Any purpose that has financial gain as a major objective.

**Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**: The federal law that addresses the privacy of students’ educational records, which are records directly related to a student and are maintained by the University or a party acting for or on behalf of the University.

**General Data Protection Regulation (“GDPR”)**: A privacy law of the European Union that governs the use of personally identifiable information. It concerns the personal data of individuals in the European Economic Area (EEA), which includes EU countries as well as the United Kingdom, Iceland, Norway, and Lichtenstein. The GDPR defines "personal data" very broadly such that the term includes names, addresses, phone numbers, national IDs, IP addresses, profile pictures, personal healthcare data, educational data, and any other data that can be used to identify an individual. It addresses multiple issues, such as the rights of data subjects, consent, and purpose of use.

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<sup>1</sup> Administrative records do not include the records held by the Principal Officers of The Regents; teaching and research records (e.g., library materials, faculty research and teaching materials, student examinations); or records pertaining to individual patient care (medical records).

<sup>2</sup> For more information, see Section IV.C. Roles and Responsibilities. A list of current privacy officials can be found at <http://www.ucop.edu/ethics-compliance-audit-services/compliance/privacy/campus-privacy-officials.html>.

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**Information Practices Coordinator:** The individual at each location responsible for administering responses to records requests, and providing guidance to constituents at their locations on matters related to the access, use, and disclosure of information maintained in Administrative Records.

**Information Privacy:** As defined in the [UC Statement of Privacy Values & Privacy Principles](#), is the appropriate protection, use, and dissemination of information about individuals.

**Mailing Lists:** Any compilation of names and addresses, including email addresses.

**Personally Identifiable Information (PII):** Any information that describes or identifies an individual, including but not limited to name, Social Security number, physical description, home address, telephone numbers, email address, education, financial matters, medical or employment history, or statements made by or attributed to the individual.

**Privacy and Information Security Board:** The privacy and information security board at each location that advises on privacy and information security; sets strategic direction for autonomy privacy, information privacy, and information security; champions the UC Privacy Values & Privacy Principles, and the UC Privacy Balancing Process; and monitors compliance and assesses risk and effectiveness of location privacy and information security programs. These boards may be separate committees or structured as part of an existing location governance committee.

**Records Management Coordinator:** As defined in [RMP-1](#), the individual at each location responsible for the development, coordination, implementation, and management of the Records Management Program at the location.

**Records Management Program:** In accordance with [RMP-1](#), the Program that promotes sound, efficient, and economical records management in the following areas: (1) creation, organization of, and access to records; (2) maintenance and retention of Administrative Records; (3) security and privacy of records; (4) protection of records vital to the University; (5) preservation of records of historical importance; (6) disposition of Administrative Records when they no longer serve their purpose; and (7) other functions the University may deem necessary for good records management.

**Student Applicant Records:** Records of a person during the period of application, acceptance, and admission to the University, *prior* to enrollment.

**Telephone Directories:** A collection of individuals' names, telephone numbers, and other contact information, including employee (campus) or student directories.

**UC Privacy Balancing Process:** The process designed to address privacy risks when there is no policy in place pertaining to the situation.<sup>3</sup>

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### III. POLICY TEXT

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This policy applies to all Personally Identifiable Information (PII) in the University of California’s Administrative Records, regardless of the record’s function or medium, and addresses requirements related to the treatment of such information. Requests for academic personnel records from government agencies are governed by Business and Finance Bulletin Records Management and Privacy Policies [9a](#), [9b](#), and [9c](#).<sup>4</sup>

All faculty, staff, and other individuals associated with the University who have access to Administrative Records containing PII must understand their responsibilities for safeguarding the privacy of that information. The Information Practices Coordinators, Campus Privacy Officials, and Records Management Coordinators in consultation with the UC Office of the General Counsel (OGC), are responsible for providing overall policy and procedural guidance to University locations about privacy of and access to Administrative Records.<sup>5</sup>

#### A. Rules of Conduct for Employees with Access to Information Concerning Individuals

The University of California requires employees to adhere to the following rules of conduct concerning minimum standards<sup>6</sup> for the collection, maintenance, disclosure, safeguarding, and destruction of Administrative Records containing PII. The California Information Practices Act (IPA) requires that any officer or employee who intentionally violates this policy, including these rules of conduct, may be subject to discipline, up to and including termination.<sup>7</sup>

1. Employees responsible for the collection, maintenance, use, and dissemination of Administrative Records that contain PII, must comply with the provisions of the IPA.

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<sup>3</sup> See [UC Privacy and Information Security Steering Committee Report to the President January 2013](#), page 18

<sup>4</sup> For additional requirements concerning requests for and access to academic peer review records, see policy APM-160.

<sup>5</sup> For more information about the specific responsibilities of each role, see Section IV.C.

<sup>6</sup> See [Rules of Conduct for University Employees Involved with Information Regarding Individuals](#), part of the Privacy Principles and Practices at UC

<sup>7</sup> California Civil Code § 1798.55

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2. Employees must not require individuals to disclose PII about themselves or others that is not necessary and relevant to the purposes of the University or to the particular function for which the employee is responsible.
3. Employees must make every reasonable effort to ensure inquiries and requests by individuals for records containing their PII are responded to quickly, courteously, and without requiring the requester to repeat the inquiry to others unnecessarily.
4. Employees must assist individuals seeking information pertaining to themselves with making their inquiries sufficiently specific and descriptive to facilitate locating the records.
5. Employees must not disclose PII to unauthorized persons or entities.
6. Employees must not seek out or use PII relating to others for their own interest or advantage.
7. Employees responsible for the maintenance of records containing PII must take all necessary precautions to assure that proper administrative, technical, and physical safeguards are established and followed in order to protect the records from unauthorized access, use and disclosure.

**B. Management of Records containing PII**

*For specific procedures concerning mailing lists and student records including application records, see Section VI Procedures. For information concerning academic peer review records, see [APM-160](#).*

The University strives to collect and maintain only information that is necessary and pertinent to accomplish its University mission.

To the greatest extent practicable, information about an individual must be collected directly from the individual to whom it pertains. When this is not possible, the University must maintain the source or sources of information, in a readily accessible format, in order to provide the source or sources to the individual upon request. When PII is disclosed, individuals may be notified according to existing legal requirements, University policy, and campus practices.

Each location must establish procedures that ensure an individual's right to inquire and be notified whether the University maintains records about them; and provide the records for inspection by the individual to the extent required by law. These procedures

must be consistent with the requirements of the IPA, and University policies, such as [UC IS-3 Electronic Information Security](#).

1. Use of PII for Commercial Purposes

The University prohibits employees responsible for maintaining or accessing records with PII from distributing, selling, or renting PII for commercial purposes unless such action is specifically authorized by law.<sup>8</sup>

2. Disposition of Administrative Records Containing PII

Information held by the University must be disposed of in accordance with federal and state law, and as required by [RMP-2 Records Retention and Disposition](#) and the [UC Records Retention Schedule](#), unless it is needed as evidence in an investigation, foreseeable or on-going litigation, on-going audit, on-going records request or other special circumstance – in which case the information must be retained until these actions have been completed or resolved.

3. Procedures for Reporting Unauthorized Disclosures or Breaches of PII

Each location is responsible for developing its procedures for reporting unauthorized disclosures or breaches of PII for both paper and electronic records. Procedures for reporting electronic unauthorized disclosures or breaches of PII must be consistent with the University of California Privacy and Data Security Incident Response Plan.

4. General Data Protection Regulation (“GDPR”) Requirements

GDPR requirements may be more restrictive and UC guidance for it must be consulted.

**C. Evaluating Use or Disclosure of PII**

When neither law nor policy provides definitive guidance regarding a proposed use or disclosure of PII, the University must use the [UC Privacy Balancing Process](#) to adjudicate privacy and other competing interests.

Under the Balancing Process, the University must not make public disclosures of information when it can demonstrate that the public interest served by nondisclosure clearly outweighs the public interest served by disclosing the information. In reaching this decision, the University must review specific statutory exceptions that might allow

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<sup>8</sup> For example California Civil Code §1798.60

for disclosure of PII. Situations involving unprecedented and significant balancing concerns are referred to the location's Privacy Board unless a relevant alternative adjudication path is already established.

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## **IV.COMPLIANCE / RESPONSIBILITIES**

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### **A. Implementation of the Policy**

The Vice President for Information Technology Services and Chief Information Officer is responsible for issuing and updating any requirements, standards or guidelines that support this policy.

Chancellors, the Vice President of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and UC Managed Laboratory Directors are responsible for designating an Information Practices Coordinator, Campus Privacy Official, and Records Management Coordinator to administer and implement this policy at their location.

The UC Information Practices Coordinator, UC Privacy Manager, and UC Records Manager facilitate regular communication among local Information Practices Coordinators, Campus Privacy Officials, and Records Management Coordinators to address consistent implementation of this policy throughout the University. Each Information Practices Coordinator, Privacy Official, and Records Management Coordinator must work together at their locations to ensure consistent implementation of this policy, as necessary.

### **B. Revisions to the Policy**

The Vice President for Information Technology Services and Chief Information Officer has the authority to initiate policy revisions and is responsible for regular reviews and updates consistent with approval authorities and applicable Bylaws and Standing Orders of The Regents.

### **C. Roles & Responsibilities**

The following functions are critical to ensuring the University handles information in a manner consistent with the University's legal obligations, policy requirements, and the [UC Statement of Privacy Values & Privacy Principles](#). Together, Information Practices Coordinators, Campus Privacy Officials, and Records Management Coordinators serve

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as subject matter experts and collaborate with other disciplines to strengthen the University's information governance framework.

1. University Employees

All faculty, staff, and other University community members with access to records with PII must safeguard the records from unauthorized access, use and disclosure.

2. University Managers

All managers must ensure that any personnel who have access to records with PII are made aware of their responsibilities for handling such records, including protecting the records from unauthorized access, use and disclosure.

3. Information Practices Coordinators

The Information Practices Coordinator at each location is responsible for administering responses to records requests, and providing guidance on matters related to the access, use, and disclosure of information maintained in Administrative Records. The California Public Records Act (CPRA) Office within the OGC provides guidance to campuses and may manage multi-campus CPRA requests on behalf of the locations. At their locations, Information Practices Coordinators also:

- i. Ensure that procedures and practices for access, amendment, use and disclosure of Administrative Records adhere to federal and state laws, including but not limited to the IPA and the CPRA.
- ii. Develop guidelines, including training programs, on IPA and CPRA practices, including the rules of conduct outlined in Section III.A.
- iii. Review local PII collection and notice practices upon request.
- iv. Assist with interpretation of federal and state privacy and disclosure laws and University policies including but not limited to the CPRA, IPA and the UC rules of conduct outlined in Section III.A.

4. Campus Privacy Officials

Campus Privacy Officials at each location are responsible for overseeing the strategic direction and application of the [UC Statement of Privacy Values & Privacy Principles](#), and UC Privacy Balancing Process throughout the activities at that location.

5. Records Management Coordinators

As defined in [RMP-1](#), Records Management Coordinators are responsible for the development, coordination, implementation, and management of the Records Management Program at their locations.

6. Chancellors, the Vice President of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and UC Managed Laboratory Directors

These positions are responsible for designating an Information Practices Coordinator, Campus Privacy Official, and Records Management Coordinator to administer and implement this policy at their locations.

7. The Vice President for Information Technology Services and Chief Information Officer

This position is responsible for issuing and updating any requirements, standards or guidelines that support this policy.

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## V. PROCEDURES

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For specific categories of PII, all locations must follow the procedures below to ensure consistency across the University.

### A. Student Applicant Records

In accordance with California law, the University only collects information relevant to the University's purposes. Disclosure of this information must be in accordance with state and federal law.

Until an applicant has enrolled in an academic program, any records referring to them are considered student applicant records and must be used and accessed in a manner consistent with the protections afforded by the IPA.

Records directly related to an enrolled student, including the student's applicant records, are subject to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> For policy requirements and further information about privacy and potential disclosure of student records, please read [Policies Applying to the Disclosure of Information from Student Records](#) (UC PACAOS-130)

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An applicant has the right to inspect records that reference them in relation to the application process, and are maintained in the applicant's file, with the exception of recommendation letters and associated records created with the documented understanding of confidentiality.<sup>10</sup>

When the applicant is outside the United States, they may have a person within the U.S. act as their representative. This representative has the same right of access to the applicant's file. The University may disclose information to this representative if records within the University's possession demonstrate with reasonable certainty that this is the applicant's intended representative.

1. Parents of Applicants

In accordance with the IPA, the University must not release information from the applicant's records to the applicant's parents without the applicant's written consent, regardless of the individual's age or financial status. The University's current admissions process provides the opportunity to furnish this consent.

In accordance with FERPA, the University must not release student records (including application records) to parents without the student's written consent, regardless of age or financial status, unless such release falls under a specific exception under FERPA.

2. Third Parties

In accordance with state law, the University may disclose PII about a University applicant to certain third parties (e.g., high school counselors). This information may include eligibility status or lack of certain grades. The University may disclose this information only if:

- a. The applicant gives prior written consent;
- b. The information is necessary for performance of the third party's official duties and its use is compatible with its original collection purpose;
- c. The requested information will be used for scientific or statistical research and assurances of confidentiality and protection of personal identity are guaranteed; or
- d. Other legal exceptions apply.

3. Advancement, Development, and Alumni Office Staff

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<sup>10</sup> California Civil Code §1798.38; 20 USC § 1232g(a)(1)(C)

Advancement, Development, and Alumni office staff have legitimate educational interest in applicants' records. These offices may access applicant information, including PII, when the information is relevant and necessary to carry out their assigned duties and is clearly related to the purpose for which the information was originally collected.

## **B. University Mailing Lists and Telephone Directories**

Upon written request from any individual, any University office that maintains a Mailing List must remove that individual's name and address from such list, unless the list is used by the University solely for necessary direct contact with the individual.

The University must not use or disclose its Telephone Directories and Mailing Lists for commercial purposes, unless such action is specifically authorized by law.

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## **VI. RELATED INFORMATION**

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### Academic Personnel Manual

- [Section 160](#), Maintenance of, Access to, and Opportunity to Request Amendment of Academic Personnel Records

### Business and Finance Bulletins

- [IS-3](#), Electronic Information Security
- [RMP-1](#), University Records Management Program
- [RMP-2](#), Records Retention and Disposition
- [RMP-9a](#), [-9b](#), [-9c](#), Guidelines for Access to University Personnel Records by Governmental Agencies

### Personnel Policies for Staff Members

- [PPSM 21](#), Selection and Appointment

### Federal and State Laws

- California Constitution, Article I, Section 1 and 3
- California Information Practices Act
- California Public Records Act
- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

#### Other Presidential Policies and Guidelines

- [Electronic Communications Policy](#)
- [Gramm-Leach-Bliley Compliance Plan](#)
- [UC Policy on Public Disclosure of Compensation Information](#)
- [UC Privacy Balancing Process](#)
- [UC Privacy and Data Security Incident Response Plan](#)
- [UC Privacy and Information Security Steering Committee Report to the President January 2013](#)
- [UC Statement of Privacy Values & Privacy Principles](#)

#### Other

- [UC Procurement Appendix DS — Data Security and Privacy](#)

For specific additional requirements about Student Records, Protected Health Information (PHI), and Academic Peer Review Records please refer to the policies below:

- Student Education Records: UC PACAOS-130 [Policies Applying to the Disclosure of Information from Student Records](#) and the Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) primarily govern the handling of student education records.
- Protected Health Information: The [University's HIPAA policies](#), the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), and subsequent amendments in the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act govern the handling of Protected Health Information.
- Academic Peer Review Records: See [APM 160-20](#)  
This policy defines the rights of individuals and entities to have access to academic peer review records.

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## VII. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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Not applicable

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## VIII. REVISION HISTORY

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**Revision Date:** This Policy was remediated to meet Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0.

**University of California – Policy BFB-RMP-7**

**BFB-RMP-7: Protection of Administrative Records containing Personally Identifiable Information**

This policy replaces the following policies:

- BFB-RMP-7: Privacy of and Access to Information Responsibilities. November 1, 1985 Initial Version.
- BFB-RMP-8: Requirements of Privacy of and Access to Information. November 13, 2015 Rescinded.
- BFB-RMP-11: Student Applicant Records. June 15, 1989 Initial Version.
- BFB-RMP-12: Guidelines for Assuring Privacy of Personal Information in Mailing Lists and Telephone Directories. June 15, 1989 Initial Version