

Computing and Information Services – Fred Miller, Chief Information Officer

Title: Web Log (Blog) Use Policy

Applicable: Furman University Students, Staff, and Faculty

Contacts: Computer Help Desk ext. 3277

Background: With the introduction of the new campus web log (blog) server, blogs.furman.edu, it has become necessary to create a policy which details who is entitled to an account on the Furman blog server as well as rules and guidelines that authors should follow when uploading content.

Policy: Furman University's Computing and Information Services department provides web log (blog) services in support of scholarly, curricular, extra-curricular and personal communications conducted by members of the University community. This blog service is made available to any current faculty or staff member of Furman University with an active Furman University network account.

Guidelines:

1. Current Furman University faculty and staff members, with an active network account may place a request with the Help Desk for the creation of a blog to be used for scholarly, curricular, extra-curricular or personal communications.
2. Use of the blog service and the content of all electronic pages are subject to all applicable Furman University policies and local, state and federal laws. These policies include but are not limited to:
 - a. All material posted on the blog service must be in compliance with copyright laws. Authors have the responsibility of acquiring all necessary permissions to post copyrighted material.
 - b. The selling of online advertising space to non-University entities on any web page hosted or sponsored by Furman University is strictly forbidden.
 - c. Announcements may not include content, material, or links that, upon viewing, could create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive learning and/or working environment.
 - d. Announcements may not be used to promote activities that are illegal, support commercial activities not associated with the University, or to provide personal financial gain.

- e. A web page may be considered in violation of content policies if it contains links to pages that violate the policy.
3. All members of the University community are encouraged to communicate differing perspectives. Community members are also, however, entitled to work and live in an environment free of harassment. Therefore any activity that violates the University's harassment policy (094.1) is prohibited. Defamatory remarks and obscenity are also prohibited. The use of overt profanity is strongly discouraged.
4. The following statement must appear on all pages created through the University's blog service, unless the pages were explicitly approved for official University business: "The views and opinions expressed in this page are strictly those of the page author(s). The contents of this page have not been reviewed or approved by Furman University. The copyright and all related rights to original work posted via the blog service are owned by and are the sole responsibility of its author(s)."
5. Computing and Information Services may establish limits regarding the use of the blog service and may modify these limits at any time. This includes but is not limited to the total size of the blog content, the size of images, videos, software or other material posted to a blog. Computing and Information Services reserves the right to require users of the blog service to utilize University approved templates for all hosted pages.
6. Computing and Information Services intends to archive the content of all blogs in the blog service for non-commercial, historical purposes. By using the blog service, authors grant Furman University non-exclusive rights to archive blog content in any format.
7. Computing and Information Services offers the blog service at the author's own risk. The blog service is provided on an "as is" and "as available" basis. The University does not guarantee that it will provide ancillary software, such as databases and script languages, that authors may wish to use in their blogs.
8. Computing and Information Services reserves the right to remove, at any time, at its sole discretion, any content posted on the blog service that it deems in violation of University policy or local, state or federal law.
9. Computing and Information Services reserves the right to change, at any time, at its sole discretion, the provisions of the blog service.
10. Protect your privacy and the privacy of other individuals; be aware that what you write will be viewable by the public for extended periods of time.