

SUNY Polytechnic Institute
Faculty Assembly

Resolution on the Implementation of E-mail Changes

Background:

The SUNY-Poly administration has, for various reasons, determined that the Institute will transition from the current Google-hosted gmail system to a locally-hosted Microsoft Exchange based e-mail system.

Transitioning from one widely-used mission-critical system to another is a complicated process. It is both technically complicated and operationally complicated because of the need for users to adapt to the new system.

This particular transition is further complicated by the decoupling of email from other Google-hosted applications that are widely used in coursework by faculty and students.

There is genuine concern on the part of faculty that transitioning from one system to another while a semester is in progress increases the complexity and enhances the likelihood that users will experience complications and disruptions that would negatively impact student learning.

Faculty note, for example, that migration from one course management system to another has been undertaken between semesters in order to minimize disruptions. The time period in between the Fall and Spring semester is an extremely important time for students and faculty to communicate. Currently Gmail is the official mode of communication for the campus community. Faculty fear that it may not be student centered to make the change during this time as crucial grading, course registering and bill payments fall in this time period.

Resolution

The Faculty Assembly strongly recommends to the President that the migration from the existing e-mail system to the new system be undertaken during a period when classes are not in session. We recommend that the transition occur during the summer.