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Originator:	Computer Services
Approved By:	College Planning Committee
Replaces:	New
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COLLEGE PRACTICE

POTENTIALLY OFFENSIVE MATERIAL

Purpose

The College is committed to providing a safe and respectful learning and working environment. In addition to complying with the policies and practices outlined in the Respectful Learning Environment policy (NEW), the Charter of Student Rights and Responsibilities (5-5-03), and the Student Code of Conduct (5-5-02), users are expected to adhere to the standards specified in this operating practice.

1 Offensive Material

No user should be involuntarily presented with or exposed to offensive material. Material is deemed to be offensive if the person transmitting it ought to <u>reasonably</u> know that the material would be viewed by the recipient as offensive, insulting, or otherwise objectionable.

Accessing offensive material includes the creation, transmission, storage, or viewing of materials which in any way contribute, support, or promote actions that are prohibited by federal or provincial laws or are otherwise, in the sole opinion of the College, deemed to be offensive by community standards and values.

Communicating offensive material includes, but is not limited to, data and images that fall into the following categories:

- Harassment
- Sexual Harassment
- Cyberbullying
- Racial/Ethnic/Cultural Harassment
- Discrimination
- Poisoned Environment
- Hate Literature
- Systemic Harassment/Discrimination/Cyberbullying
- Reprisal
- Pornography (or otherwise obscene, sexually explicit, or reasonably objectionable material)

Complaints of exposure to offensive materials, whether deliberate or unintentional, without consent having been either sought or granted, are taken seriously. Upon receiving such a complaint, the Computer Services Department will investigate the incident and take appropriate action according to the IT AUP Non-Compliance, Disciplinary Actions, and Appeals practice (7-2-03).

2 Personal Expression

This operating practice does not interfere with an individual's right to express himself or herself, as defined in section 2(b) of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Expression may be limited if it is likely to (1) cause the College to violate the individual needs of others or (2) cause harm to the College's objectives. Expression that constitutes harassment or threats, as outlined in College policy, may be limited.

3 Predetermined Exemption

Staff or faculty of the College planning to conduct activities (such as a research project) that is likely to result in the exposure of offensive materials must acquire approval before commencing such activities. Approval is given by the Department Director or Dean, possibly in consultation with a College Vice President depending on the subject matter.