



RESOLUTION #14-05

Clarification of Purpose for VSU Distribution List

Date: April 7, 2014

Authored by: Senators Tamera A. Dunn, Graduate Student

Be it enacted by the Senate of Valdosta State University (VSU) here assembled, that:

WHEREAS, the purpose of the VSU Students Distribution List is to serve as the primary means of communication for important updates and official university announcements that impact all students from University officials including to, but not limited to the President, Provost, Division Vice Presidents, Registrar, University Police, or Student Government Association President, and

WHEREAS, students at Valdosta State University have expressed concerns regarding the increasing volume of emails which do not align with the above purpose received through the VSU Students Distribution List, and

WHEREAS, the current moderators of the VSU Student Distribution List according to the Division of Information Technology are:

1. Associate to the Provost & Vice President of Academic Affairs
2. Administrative Secretary, Environmental and Occupational Safety
3. Director of Communications
4. Communication Specialist
5. Communication Specialist
6. Chief Information Security Officer
7. Director of Information Technology

WHEREAS, the March 6 *Spectator* included an editorial column detailing the issue of important email messages being 'lost' within the overwhelming number of emails approved by moderators of the VSU Students Distribution List, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT it is recommended that the sole responsibility on the moderation (approval, denial, or rerouting) of email messages sent to students@valdosta.edu, also known as the VSU Students Distribution List, is conferred to the Office of Communications, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT all student organization and academic related events be sent to the students via the Student Activities Distribution List Bulletins, in which students have the choice to opt-out of receiving email messages, issued twice a week by the Office of Student Life, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT an email come from the appointed University official or the SGA President to outline the purpose of each distribution list as maintained by the University along with proper submission protocol to promote and advertise student organization, academic related, and university events, and

Student Government Association Valdosta State University

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THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the current moderators as listed at <http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/it/its/css/helpdesk/guides/office-365/ mailing-lists.php> for the VSU Students Distribution List be adjusted to include only the following individuals:

1. Director of Communications
2. Communication Specialist
3. Communication Specialist
4. Chief Information Security Officer
5. Director of Information Technology

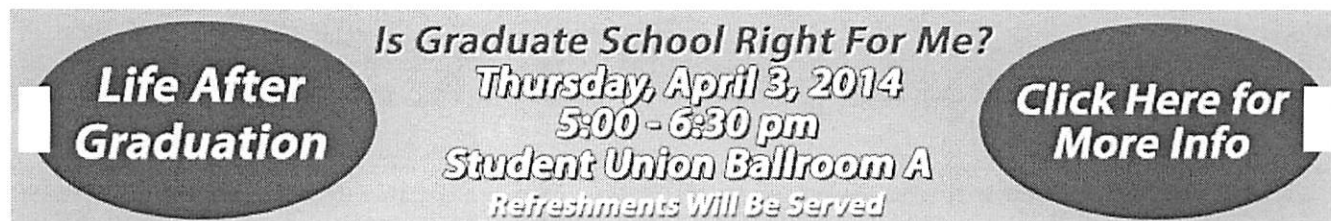
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT individuals who 'reply all' to messages will not have their messages approved by any moderator for the VSU Students Distribution List, and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT student organizations which willfully ignore the proper listserv to utilize receive progressive disciplinary action through the Office of Student Life, and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT it is recommended that the Division of Information Technology develop additional avenues to advertise university events on the MyVSU portal or consider a future university mobile application such as Guide Book not only to limit the vast volumes of emails, but also effectively communicate information to students in the future.

FINALLY, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Student Government Association President be responsible for the distribution of this resolution as deemed appropriate upon passage and signage.

For Office Use Only					
Received:	<u>04/07/2014</u>	Yes:	<u>33</u>	Tabled Date:	<u>N/A</u>
Initials:	<u>NB</u>	No:	<u>3</u>	Approval Date:	<u>04/08/2014</u>
		Abstain:	<u>6</u>		
Motion:	<u>Senator Bridget Henery</u>		Secondary Mover:	<u>Senator Fabiola Gomez</u>	
<u>APPROVED</u>	DENIED	VETOED	President's Signature:	<u>[Signature]</u>	



Distribution list serves up spam

Mar 6th, 2014 | By | Category: [2014-03-06](#), [Editorial](#), [Opinion](#), [Spring 2014](#), [Top Headlines](#)

Tired of your important emails being lost under a pile of spam messages? So are we.

Every day, VSU students receive dozens of messages from various clubs, groups and organizations—burying essential emails from professors and classmates. High-priority emails, like Campus Alert, become lost within this disorienting system.

Despite the haphazard appearance of email distribution, there is a system currently in place, but it is ultimately insufficient in controlling these bulk messages.

When a VSU-affiliated organization produces an announcement, it must first be sent to and approved by a list of moderators. These moderators are made up of members from the Communications Department, Information Technology, the Registrar Office and many other VSU departments.

Once approved, the announcements are collected into a single email to group members. The email addresses of students, faculty and staff fall into three different VSU Distribution groups. When a VSU group (or other external domain) dispatches emails to the school, they are sent to the appropriate audience.

Although this dizzying output of quasi-informative spam is not harmful to your computer, it can definitely slow down productivity and increase annoyance. These unwanted emails must be controlled *and* regulated.

Brian A. Haugabrook, interim chief information officer of IT, is on the radar of his department.

"IT is evaluating different options for people to subscribe to these lists," Haugabrook said. "We will be evaluating with the communications team on the proper set-up for groups."

Haugabrook says that students can still control the flow of incoming emails.

"One option is to separate emergency/high-importance emails into their own distribution lists," Haugabrook said. "Students, faculty and staff have too many emails going out daily."

Haugabrook promises that progress is on the way.

"This semester has been challenging with the new HSBA (Health Sciences and Business Administration) building," he said. "We will be able to make more progress in April."

Until these changes are made, filters and other methods of mail regulation are available. Students can create folders for these unwanted messages and drag them out of their inbox into a folder marked as appropriate (spam, trash, etc.).

Students can also format their email accounts to automatically send unwanted mail to these separate folders, creating more space and time to see important emails.

Although these filters are helpful, we at the Spectator find this surplus of electronic mail unacceptable. It is an issue that must be solved by those in charge of distributing it.

It is not the responsibility of the students to compromise with this mess, but that of our university to take action when a campus-wide issue arises.

For further questions or concerns, the IT Helpdesk is accessible at 229-245-4357 to help alleviate any frustration.

The Spectator reserves the right to delete any comment that we find libelous, invades privacy, or otherwise impinges on media law concerns. We welcome your comments and thoughts on our articles. All comments go through The Spectator website student administrators before they are published to the website. Comments over two paragraphs in length will be removed. Any commentary longer than two paragraphs must be submitted to the Spectator in a letter to the editor. Spectator writers and photographers are also asked not to comment on columns. If you have any questions, please contact us at spec@valdosta.edu. Note that student editors are responsible for all content on the Spectator website. Read more on the comment moderation and internet takedown policies [HERE](#)

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