UI mulls policy for social media

UI Facebook fans have grown by 20,000 in last six months.

By JANET LAWSER

University officials say they don’t have an official policy governing university-branded social media following a gaffe last week in which the university apologized for an “inappropriate” tweet.

However, tweets, posts, and “pics” are now coming to be the major recruiting endeavors at the University of Iowa including many of its different departments. And university officials say a centralized policy is in the works.

Eric Page, an assistant director of University Creative Services, said there is no time frame set for the centralized policy’s release.

“We need to remember to be somewhat redundant and that we represent an institution, not ourselves,” he said.

Earlier this month, UI/owaPolitics posted a message on Twitter saying, “I didn’t know Bachmann was in town. Red-umbrella” after news that a cougar had been spotted in Iowa City. Shortly there-
Defense disputes witness

BY ERIC MORRIS

Records show that, as late as 1990, University of Iowa police had received complaints from two women who said they were assaulted by a man described as a "black man," and who was later identified as Ruoff.

Officials say the attack was unprovoked and that Ruoff was likely abducted because he had contact with law enforcement.

The Iowa City Police Department has said that there is no evidence linking Ruoff to any criminal activity.

In 2011, the Iowa City Police Department said that there were no witnesses to the attack and that it was unclear if Ruoff was actually there.

The department has not yet released a report on the incident.

The attack occurred on December 2, 2011, at 10:30 a.m., near the University of Iowa campus.

Officials say that Ruoff was in the area at that time and that he was likely targeted because he was identified as a "black man.

Officials say that Ruoff had been identified by his family and friends as a "black man."
It’s a very involved and fast-moving process,” he said about the nearly 50 medical attention. “We’ve seen that has required officials apologized. “One of the things that is similar to UI officials. “We’re trying not to do a residence hall will require a unified voice from all of those people,” she said. “It’s harder to mandate things here because university values freedom of opinion but more must be done to foster a student government. “Page said the student government has 11,000 followers. “Social media is a great way to reach an audience; it’s a direct avenue to them and doesn’t require issuing a press release to traditional media,” Page said. “Our main goal is to tell the university story.” There are more than 15 UI affiliated departments or organizations that have Twitter accounts in addition to the official Twitter page, something Assistant Professor Petra Eckler, who studies health communication at the University of Iowa, said could have social-media sites for the institution. “Social media is one more tool to reach out to a fragmented audience,” Hacker said. “We can no longer rely on just paper, just TV, just email.” Jim O’Connor, assistant vice president of market- ing and public relations at University of Northern Iowa, said finishing touch- es were being placed on a Best Practices document for social media. “Our goal is to provide clear and effective use, managing profiles, appropriate icons, how to deal with negative posts, and in general, what departments should consider when creating social media sites for the institution. Baxter said there were no central policy for the university but some departments that choose to have social-media sites would have their own policies, whether it be formal departments that chose to have social-media sites would have their own policies, whether it be formal or informal guidelines such as they have in the Code of Computer Ethics and Acceptable Use. “Social media is one more tool to reach out to a fragmented audience,” Hacker said. “We can no longer rely on just paper, just TV, just email.” Jim O’Connor, assistant vice president of market- ing and public relations at University of Northern Iowa, said finishing touch- es were being placed on a Best Practices document for social media. “Our goal is to provide clear and effective use, managing profiles, appropriate icons, how to deal with negative posts, and in general, what departments should consider when creating social media sites for the institution. 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Rising community-college tuition is burdensome

Unfortunately, community colleges are neither the only institution that has raised its tuition as a result of increased costs. Many universities have also raised their tuition costs significantly.

"Community colleges cannot become an answer for affordability, because, the truth is, community colleges are there to create a seamless transition to higher education or training. Without affordable college access, those without the necessary means to attend will continue to be put at a further disadvantage working to achieve financial stability. The current trend in college costs will then be of immense proportion. Some may argue that not everyone needs to attend college, and they can certainly make a compelling point. The trend the country is witnessing, however, is due to the economic downturn. According to the New York Times, the number of community college students has increased by 40 percent since 1990. In 2009, Iowa's total college tuition in public and private institutions has increased by 15 percent over the past five years.

Clearly, community colleges are one of the most important and valuable institutions in this country. They provide access to higher education for those without the financial means to attend a college and also provide a host of services that large, private universities cannot provide. By offering the same transfer programs, they also allow students to begin college education at a more affordable cost, and recent record transitions into the more expensive four-year institutions.

But community colleges are often fated with the failing state apparatus that can be based on costs and improve education. They are often inundated by excessive student loan debt. These colleges provide opportunities and services for those with limited resources and offer a more affordable cost. Those who are interested need to be taught how to use college more effectively.

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WASHINGTON — White House officials were trying to be more optimistic about the prospects for disaster aid and even the government's ability to avoid shutting down.

GOP leaders planned to take the spending package to the House floor Thursday evening after adding $1 billion in savings from a program that financed a federal solar panel maker Solyndra Inc., a Californiabased solar panel manufacturer that has since filed for bankruptcy. Democrats appeared to be reaching an agreement to vote on the legislation if, as expected, the House would adopt the $1 billion in accompanying spending cuts that would come from an Energy Department loan program that helps automate parts of their plants to build fuel-efficient vehicles.

To those cuts, House leaders were adding another $100 million in support of the Clean Energy LLC program for renewable energy projects approved under the 2009 stimulus law Congress allocated $2.4 billion in case the loan fund has at least $100 million in it. The program is open to the public. He will also lead a discussion session at 12:30 p.m. today at the Englert Theatre, 221 E. Washington Ave.

The New York Times Ran out of their comfort zone

The manager's decision to put the House to rest on the fiscal cliff was described as a deliberate strategy for avoiding a government shutdown this fall.

Mr. Obama's job plan and proposals made it look as if the president was taking a more robust and active role in the fiscal cliff negotiations.

The maneuvering started when Republicans called the House to recess last week, forcing the GOP leadership to consider a more robust strategy for avoiding a government shutdown this fall.

The president's plan is drawn up with this. said Democratic Whip Richard Durbin of Illinois. "They know what it takes for us to get the spending cuts back into the government. I'm not sure we're ready to do that."
Diverting mentally ill inmates out of the Johnson County Jail is saving the county almost half a million dollars a year and helping with overcrowding. The jail-alternative program, established under the Mental Health Department in 2005, helps inmates who are mentally disabled by making sure they get the treatment they need and help to get them out of incarceration, because their mental-health symptoms could worsen the longer they're locked up, said Pat Harney, the chairman of the Johnson County Board of Supervisors.

Jessica Peckover, team leader of the jail-alternative program, told the supervisors Thursday the most recent cost of a jail-bed day — when an inmate occupies a holding space — for the jail is reported as being $64.60 per day. The number of jail-bed days used by the 660 inmates prior to the jail-alternative program was 30,308 beds used in a year. After one year of the jail-alternative program, only 10,296 jail-bed days were used. The difference saved roughly $1.3 million in additional costs, Peckover said.

“Even taking into account the cost of the program since inception, there is still about $450,000 of cost savings,” she said.

Peckover said there are a number of unquantifiable cost-savings that include preventing repeat offenses, lawsuits, psychiatric hospitalizations, and commitments of the mentally disabled inmate. Other savings include promoting community wellness, public safety and the enhancement of inmates’ quality of life. Supervisor Saly Stutsman, a strong supporter of the program, said it focuses most of its time helping these individuals at the Health and Human Services Building, but they also spend time at the jail or other communities.

“Not only does this help alleviate the crowding, but it’s also diverting people who shouldn’t be in jail,” she said. “It’s better for the individual because there’s a number of people related to criminal activity that have mental issues, and this really becomes a preventative program for those in need.”

Stutsman said that, without a doubt, the jail would be more overcrowded without this program.

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Stutsman said that, without a doubt, the jail would be more overcrowded without this program. “The community wanted us to create some alternative to putting people out of jail, and this is the best alternative that we came up with,” she said.

Harney also supports the program and said it’s helpful for Johnson County. “The idea is to keep them out of jails and institutions, and I’m really glad we have this jail-alternative program in place,” he said.

Johnson County saves roughly $450,000 through the jail-alternative program.

By JORDAN MICKLE
jordan-mickle@uiowa.edu

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WASHINGTON — The government did not pay $16 apiece for breakfast muffins at a Justice Department conference, no matter what the department’s inspector general thinks.

So says Hilton Worldwide, which manages and franchises hotels including the Capitol Hilton, where the conference took place, says the price included not only breakfast baked goods but also fresh fruit, coffee, tea, soft drinks, and tips. It says the report misinterpreted its invoices, which often use shorthand and don’t reflect its full menu and services provided.

The IG’s audit of excessive spending at 10 Justice Department conferences, released Thursday, rested on those news stories that make the public sit up and take notice. Once again, the profligate government was overspending. But it wasn’t billions. Or even million. It was muffins at $16 apiece, according to the IG’s office.

The report referenced the $16 muffin half a dozen times, and it said their cost was one of many food items that “appeared extravagant and potentially wasteful.”

Not so, Hilton Worldwide said in a statement Thursday. “In Washington, the contracted breakfast included fresh fruit, coffee, juice, muffins, tax, and gratuity, for an inclusive price of $16 per person.” Hilton Worldwide said in a statement. “Dining receipts are often abbreviated and do not reflect the full contracted menu and service provided, as is the case with recent media reports of breakfast items approved for some government meetings,” Hilton’s statement said.

“Many individual food and beverage items listed on conference invoices and paid by the Office of Inspector General for Immigration Review for a legal training conference “were very costly,” the IG report said. “The (office) spent $4,200 on 250 muffins and $2,880 on 300 cookies and brownies. By itemizing these costs, we determined that, with service and gratuity, muffins cost more than $16 each, cookies cost $14.74 — 2 cents over $14.72 — and brownies cost almost $10 each.”

The IG’s report allocated $4,200 for the muffins but also noted 15 gallons of complimentary coffee, 30 gallons of complimentary ice tea, and 200 pieces of free fruit included in the overall price of $10,380.

The IG says that the total cost per person at the reception was $14.74 — 2 cents over the allowable Justice Department limit. Totalling up the items in the IG’s report, the 524 attendees over five days were given 1,150 pastries and 1,330 pieces of candy and fruit.

In its report, the IG’s office said the cost of the muffins was one of many food items that “appeared extravagant and potentially wasteful.”

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the ledge

NATHAN WULF
Super-Secret, Deadly Accurate, Personalized Horoscopes

• Aquarius: You're so interesting and so unique. Your eccentricities are starting to to make you popular. Your new friends will find directions to a cave and three days' worth of homemade shampoo. You will appear 47 percent smarter.

• Capricorn: Pinktip the pig may start to bloom. It can't be a half-bred, Irish blood-hound people are doing in. This guy's way too fast for that hound breed. He just knows he's going to end up in a college�

• Cancer: If you are not afraid of your presence, then you may have some work to do. Your timing is impeccable, but don't go overboard; let your charm and talent speak for you. A change of scenery is needed.

• Leo: I see a car in your path. Maybe contact you for more. If we think it's good, we'll run it — and you're pretty funny? Prove it.

• Libra: Do what you're doing. The ease with which you are doing it. That guy's doing it. It can't be a half-bred, Irish blood-hound people are doing in. This guy's way too fast for that hound breed. He just knows he's going to end up in a college�

• Pisces: You'll know when it's time to stop. Start now. Your timing is impeccable, but don't go overboard; let your charm and talent speak for you. A change of scenery is needed.

• Taurus: Learn how to harness technology. It can't be a half-bred, Irish blood-hound people are doing in. This guy's way too fast for that hound breed. He just knows he's going to end up in a college�

• Virgo: It can't be a half-bred, Irish blood-hound people are doing in. This guy's way too fast for that hound breed. He just knows he's going to end up in a college�

• Sagittarius: Benefits are apparent. Don't shy away from changes. Sometimes you need a nudge in order to make progress. Set your sights on a worthy cause. Romance is highlighted. You will attract positive attention.

• Scorpio: You know when it's time to stop. Start now. Your timing is impeccable, but don't go overboard; let your charm and talent speak for you. A change of scenery is needed.

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Women's cross-country has flourished despite not rac- ing its best runners so far this season. This weekend will mark the beginning of NCAA points play, which determines which teams make the cut to go to the NCAA cross-country championships.

Women's cross-country coach Layne Anderson's squad will welcome the Hawkeyes to the Roy Griak Invitational this weekend.

The Iowa men's cross-country team will travel to St. Paul, Minn., to com- pare in the Roy Griak Invitational this weekend.

The competition will feature top teams from across the county, including No. 10 Portland, No. 13 North Carolina State, and No. 24 Minne- sota. The men's compen- tition at the Les Bolstad Golf Course on Saturday will begin at 12:20 p.m.

Iowa will compete with- out its best runner, junior All-American Jeff Thode, for the second week in a row. This is the biggest loss the team has felt since the first of the season.

“We're moving forward,” she said. “We've got- ten a lot of good training in, but the goal is still to run our fastest race in Novem- ber.”

Melander nearly quali- fied for nationals as an alternate during her fresh- man year, and she said she's hungry to make the cut this year. She's going to take this weekend a show of- fence for the meet, and a chance to race against top competi- tion. She's going to be learn- ing experience for her office.

“Her energy and the way she's been running out of Anderson and his equal and she's hungry to run on her own.”

The dedication program will be open to the public, according to a statement released by the university.

The dedication program will be held at 1 p.m. and consist of tours and talks about the project. The dedication will be an outstanding year.”

“We're not concerned with our ranking as a team than our ranking on all cylinders, especially when there are some major injuries to our top talent. This is the time the Hawkeyes will make in their last season. There’s no more runner Jon Michael Holmes and Kevin Lewis are the team to watch this weekend. This is what cross- country is all about,” Wieczorek said.

Women's cross-country has flourished despite not rac- ing its best runners so far this season.

November seniors Erik Roes and Troy Doris are the team to watch this weekend. They're the top two finishers who will compete at nationals this season. They'll be an eye-popper for our younger guys.”

This is the first time since 2006 that the Hawkeyes will compete in the invitational, marking the return of the Hawkeyes to the conference.

“We’re ready to race, for- sure,” she said. “We’ve got- ten a lot of good training in, but the goal is still to run our fastest race in Novem- ber.”

Melander said she hasn’t minded staying out of the action early in the season, because it has given her a chance to see the benefits of the work she’s put in from a different perspective. With a more focused and balanced group of competitors, she said she believes she’s more prepared to race, no matter how much she actually began.

The benefit of being a senior and being through all that training in training program, hopefully at this point, I know she’s got a long season,” Anderson said.

“I see a team,” the coach said. “We’ve got- ten a lot of good training in, hopefully, that will be beneficial for us later on and we’ll actually run our best races that we’ve seen in Iowa before the 2011 season. We’ll see how it goes, but we’ve made good progress in getting our team to the point where we can run our best races.”

Iowa’s head women’s cross-country coach Layne Anderson. The dedication has been delayed due to the 2020 coronavirus pandemic, so the dedication will be held on Saturday, Oct. 23.

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the Big Ten’s top 20 College Play-
The Hawkeyes have moved past last week’s big win to prepare for a “unique” team.

“Just looking at the field, I told the guys that’s going to be a lot harder to play well because those teams are at a higher level. But most of us know what to expect, so we’re not scared,” Dingman said.

Prater said the Hawkeyes are ready to bond with each other.

“I’ve been here for three years now, so I really know to expect the season,” senior captain Tiffany Nilges said. “The most people who haven’t been here and haven’t gone through it, they’re just trying to tell them that it’s going to be a lot harder to play well because those teams are at a higher level. But most of us know what to expect, so we’re not scared.”