Walla Walla University Cell Phone Policy

Walla Walla University (the “University” or “WWU”) provides cell phones to employees who require mobile service to adequately complete their job functions. The University cell phone policy establishes procedures by which the Information Technology department will distribute, service, and support University-supplied cellular devices and services.

1 Eligibility Criteria for University-Provided Cell Phone: It is generally expected that occasionally, an employee who has not been supplied a University-owned cell phone may find it convenient or useful to use their personal cell phone to conduct University-related business and that such occasional use alone does not constitute a valid justification absent other factors. Such factors include (a) sufficient frequency and regularity such as to justify year-round coverage, (2) otherwise significant out-of-pocket cost to employee, (3) significant travel involved in position, (4) whether the job function can in large part be performed without the use of a cell phone, and (5) whether the nature of the cell phone use is vital and urgent to the business purposes of the University.

2 Application Process for a New Cell Phone: After a review of the eligibility criteria in paragraph 1 above, supervisors who deem that a University-provided cell phone is absolutely necessary for one of their employees to adequately complete their job functions, should submit a formal written application to their Area Vice President stating why the job cannot be adequately performed without a University-provided cell phone and explaining how the eligibility criteria in paragraph 1 is met. The VP will carefully review the request and the justifications provided by the supervisor. The VP will also consider the possibility and potential to shift workloads to other employees who already have use of a University-provided cell phone. If the Area VP approves the request, the request (including the related justification) will then be forwarded by the VP via email to the Help Desk Manager in the Information Technology department. The Help Desk Manager will contact the user and begin the process to order a new cell phone.

3 Standard Phones: In general, newly-eligible employees will be issued a modern Verizon smartphone (“Standard Phone”). Existing users will also be issued a Standard Phone upon replacement, regardless of the model currently in use that is being replaced. See, however, paragraph 4 below for an accommodation made by the University for employees who desire to personally acquire an alternate phone.

4 Alternate Phones (Upgrades): If an employee prefers a different model than the Standard Phone, the University will purchase such alternate phone (“Alternate Phone”) on their behalf. However, the employee will be personally responsible for paying for the Alternate Phone less a $100 credit paid by the University towards the purchase of such phone. The excess purchase cost is to be paid solely by the individual. University funds, including monies from the employee’s department, may not be used to defray this cost. This policy applies to all University-provided phones regardless of job function or position. In exchange for the $100 credit, the employee agrees to willingly and regularly use the Alternate Phone for University business without consideration to the fact that personal funds were invested towards the purchase of such phone.
Example – Purchase of Alternate Phone: Assume an employee desires an Alternate Phone, which after all available Verizon discounts under the University’s plan, costs $469 (including any taxes or fees). The University would pay $100 towards the Alternate Phone and the employee would pay the remainder of $369.

5 Replacement Cycle: Existing users are eligible to upgrade their current cell phone to a new model after a minimum of 12 months of use. However, if an employee’s cell phone becomes damaged or inoperable prior to the normal 12 month upgrade cycle a Standard Phone will be provided at no cost. For Alternate Phones, employees will be responsible for the excess cost over $100 as per paragraph 4 above. If a user wishes to replace their current device before they’re eligible for a replacement, the user will be responsible for the full cost of the new phone.

6 Accessories: Accessories beyond those which come with the Standard Phone are the personal responsibility of the employee and may not be purchased with University or departmental funds. This includes car chargers, blue tooth devices, protection cases and extra batteries.

7 Help Desk Services/Repairs: Please contact the IT Help Desk at x2317 if you require assistance with your cell phone. Minor repairs on Standard Phones will be paid by the University. For Alternate Phones, repair costs are the sole personal responsibility of the user.

8 Local Number: New cell phone activations receive a local cellular phone number. A user will receive a local, not long distance, number corresponding to their work location.

9 Backup: The backup and restoration of cellular device data including the applications and data is the responsibility of the user. Note: This is usually accomplished by the user logging into the operating systems vendor services … Apple iCloud, Google Play store, etc.

10 Travel in North America: Salaried employees may use their cell phones in Canada and Mexico by alerting the cell phone manager in Information Technology of their travel dates. The user must make contact at least 3 business days prior to their travel in order to have their cell phones successfully added to the Canada/Mexico plan. Hourly employees may use their cell phones in Canada and Mexico with approval from vice president they report to and financial administration. Once the cell phone manager in Information Technology receives confirmation of approval, services can be added. Similarly, approval must be completed at least 3 business days prior to their travel in order to have their cell phones successfully added to the Canada/Mexico plan.

11 International Travel: When traveling internationally the Information Technology department requires the SIM card to be removed to ensure that significant usage fees aren’t accidentally accrued. The user may choose to use the University-provided cell phone internationally if they purchase a SIM card from a carrier in the country(s) they are visiting. The SIM card can be inserted into the University-provided cell phone. This ensures the proper function and easily discernable cost for the individual.
12 **Cell Phone Directory Listing:** The cell phone number of any employee using a University-provided cell phone will be listed on WWU’s website in a location that is password-only accessible by other WWU employees (but not by WWU students). One of the business purposes for supplying employees with WWU cell phones is so that they are available to other WWU employees while away from the office. This business purpose includes that such other WWU employees will be able to locate their cell phone number in order to place a call to them.

13 **Reimbursements for Personal Phones – Eligible Employees:** WWU does not permit departments to reimburse WWU employees who are otherwise eligible for a University-provided cell phone for the monthly cost of their personal cell phones in lieu of receiving a University-provided phone. Exceptions will only be made if it can be demonstrated that the University plan does not have adequate coverage in areas to which the employee regularly travels for WWU business purposes.

14 **Reimbursements for Personal Phones – Non-Eligible Employees:** Minor and incidental use of a personal cell phone to conduct University-related business is expected in the ordinary course of employment and will therefore not be reimbursed to an employee who has not been supplied a University-owned cell phone. If the request for a University-provided cell phone is denied, the employee is advised to desist from the use of a personal cell phone if such use results in significant out-of-pocket costs to the employee.

This University cell phone policy, including future changes and updates is posted for internal users to review on the University website.