Departmental and University policies regarding electronic communication. Specifically,

1. The use of the EGSA listserver is to transmit useful information regarding Departmental activities relevant to graduate students. This includes funding opportunities, meetings, research and employment opportunities, relevant deadlines, notices of departmental activities and the normal business of EGSA, etc.

2. The listserver is not to be used to express private opinions regarding university or departmental policies.

3. The listserver is not to be used as a bulletin board/chat mechanism/blog to engage in arguments or discussions. It is an information conduit only. If you wish to establish a chat room or bulletin board in which such arguments and discussions are allowed, please feel free to so by utilizing one of the many private vendors available for such purposes (Yahoo, Google, etc). If you wish to engage in scientific dispute, there are many existing electronic entities in which you can participate. The EGSA listserver is not one of them. We do not wish to quell free speech, but the listserver is not to be used as a sounding board. There are a plethora of other venues which are appropriate for such purposes.

4. Forwarding and transmitting private correspondence onto the listserver is completely inappropriate. Email correspondence is to be considered private unless otherwise designated by the individual sending the mail.

5. Personal use of your university email accounts is a privilege that is allowed within certain guidelines. We encourage you to become familiar with those guidelines; they are posted on the Computing and Communications web site. As graduate students and employees of the University, you must be cognizant of the fact that you represent the University when using your accounts. Any information or opinion you transmit using your University account gives the immediate impression that you are speaking on behalf of the University, the Department, or EGSA. Only the President of EGSA is empowered to speak for EGSA; only the Chair's office is empowered to speak for the Department (and so on up the line). If you wish to make statements of a personal nature, e.g. expressing your opinion of various University policies and procedures, you are most certainly allowed to do so, but make it extremely clear such statements are yours and yours alone and do not reflect the opinion of the University, the College, or the Department. The best way to ensure this separation between your de-facto representation of the University and any policies and procedures with which you may disagree is to simply use a private email account. Just as it is in violation of state regulations to use University letterhead to conduct private business, it is a violation to use your University email account to conduct private business or use it as a public sounding board for opinions. We strongly encourage you to keep the line between your personal lives/opinions and your university life very wide and very clear.

6. Failure to abide by these simple guidelines will result in forfeiture of your access to the listserver and/or loss of your email account.