Several federal statutes require Indiana University to maintain a comprehensive information security and privacy program. In addition, important funding agencies (NSF, NIH, etc.) now require such programs be in place as a condition of awards. Generally, such a program must assign responsibility for security and privacy for the university, and it must provide guidance to faculty, staff, and students, in the form of policy and procedures.

IU now has such a program in place, aptly named the “Indiana University Information Security and Privacy Program.” It can be viewed at http://protect.iu.edu/privacy/program. The program is based on national and international standards guidance, and has been adjusted to fit into our organization. As you can imagine, given the complexity of our operations, it is comprehensive, and so it is lengthy. Thus, the website is meant to be a reference tool, more like an encyclopedia than a quick-reference list. Nevertheless, we encourage you to take a few minutes and skim its contents, for your own awareness of the kinds of information, issues, and policies documented there.

To oversee the program, we have appointed an Information Security and Privacy Risk Council. This Council is charged with the critical task of providing guidance to ensure safeguards are measured and in concert with IU’s missions, philosophies, and culture. The Council’s charge can be viewed at http://protect.iu.edu/privacy/program/governance, and we urge you to scan that material, also for your own awareness. The ISPR Council has reviewed the entirety of the current Program and has endorsed the framework and its safeguards as being appropriate and necessary.

Please distribute this memo into your organizations, so your senior leaders and staff are aware of its existence and provisions. It is highly likely that portions of the program directly affect how your unit operates, or that some of your faculty or researchers need to reference portions of it as they seek funding for their work.

Questions, concerns, or other comments are most welcome and should be directed to the Council co-chairs, Tom Davis (Chief Security Officer, tdavis@iu.edu) or Merri Beth Lavagnino (Chief Privacy Officer, mbl@iu.edu). They would also be very pleased to brief you or any of your staff in person, if you think it might be valuable.