



Senate of the Associated Students of the University of Nevada

86th Session, 2018-2019

A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE GREATER TRANSPARENCY REGARDING INFORMATION SECURITY INITIATIVES

Resolution Number: 150

Authored By: Senator Burton

Sponsored By: 2018-2019 Student Government Assembly

Whereas, the University of Nevada, Reno stores personally identifiable information (PII) of current and former students, faculty, and staff members as well as applicants and alumni;

Whereas, the University of Nevada, Reno as well as the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) have an obligation to protect and maintain the integrity of said information in accordance to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), which states that, “A school is required to provide certain privacy protections for education records that it maintains.”¹;

Whereas, there have been instances of spear phishing attacks from threat actors posing to be high ranking faculty and staff members such as president Marc Johnson;

Whereas, the Office of Information Technology (OIT) is comprised of a Chief Information Security Officer, Jeff Springer, as well as IT Compliance and Security Operations Specialist(s) who oversee information security compliance across campus. ⁶ *Whereas*, the OIT currently provides information security resources to faculty and staff on the OIT website, however, these resources are not available to students.

Whereas, all students are mandated to share personal information with the University and therefore, should have the right to know how their data is being protected and how to protect themselves;

¹ Education, U. D. (2011, February). The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act. Retrieved April 1, 2019, from U.S. Department of Education.

² Carlson, J. (2018, July 25). “Thousands of GA Tech students data leaked, threats of legal and federal action loom”. CBS 46. ² Education, U. D. (2011, February). The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act. Retrieved April 1, 2019, from U.S. Department of Education.

³ Stirgus, E. (2019, April 3). Georgia Tech Data Breach. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

⁴ Privacy Rights Organization Database. Educational Institutions, 2018

Whereas, if passed Senate Bill 169 section 1, in the Nevada State Legislature would designate the month of October of each year as Cyber Security Awareness Month in this state and would require the Governor to issue annually a proclamation encouraging the observance of Cyber Security Awareness Month;

Whereas, in July 2018, staffers in the College of Computing at Georgia Institute of Technology Inadvertently attached a spreadsheet containing confidential student information including but not limiting to ID numbers, home addresses, visa information, GPA, and academic standing to current students in a mass email, impacting nearly 8,000 students 1;

Whereas, in response to the aforementioned example, FERPA, “Prohibits the improper disclosure of personally identifiable information derived from education records.”2;

Whereas, Georgia Tech recently discovered a data breach that affected an estimated 1.3 million current and former students, faculty, staff, and student applicants, which included PII of those affected this breach was discovered March 21, 2019 and those impacted were informed of the matter April 2, 2019. It was recently discovered that the breach began as early as December 2018 3;

Whereas, on top of the aforementioned data breaches, a total of 19 known breaches and data leaks have occurred in educational institutions in 2018 affecting Purdue University, University of Michigan, Oklahoma State, and the University of Alaska-Fairbanks to name a few. 4;

Whereas, students, faculty, and staff who are impacted by a data breach involving PII are likely to be adversely affected over time as a result of identity theft.

Be it resolved that, The Associated Students of the University of Nevada encourages the Office of Information Technology to present annual reports on information security initiatives and departmental updates to the Senate of the Associated Students;

Be it further resolved that, the Associated Students of the University of Nevada encourages the OIT to create information security resources and make them easily accessible to students on online 8 mediums, such as on Webcampus and the Nevada website;

Be it further resolved that, The Associated Students of the University of Nevada supports an increase in awareness initiatives during Cybersecurity awareness month (October);

Be it further resolved that, a copy of this resolution be sent to President Marc Johnson, Vice President of Student Services Shannon Ellis, Vice Provost of Information Technology, Steve Smith, and Chief Information Security Officer, Jeff Springer.

Adopted in Senate on April 10th, 2019

Attest:

Andrea Godoy, Secretary of the Senate

Anthony Martinez, Speaker of the Senate