

**Resolution R-27-16**  
**The University of Alabama**  
**21st Student Senate 2016-2017**

Author: Senate Chief of Staff Michael C. Cervino, Director of Communications Grayson Everett, Senator Gonzalo Rodriguez and Speaker of the Senate Lance McCaskey

Co-Sponsors: Senator Robert Pendley, Student Government Association President Lillian Roth, Senator Carter Lockwood, University of Alabama Office of Information Technology , Meagan Bennett (Office of Information Technology), Chief Information Security Officer Ashley Ewing.

**A RESOLUTION TO STRENGTHEN CAMPUS CYBERSECURITY**

*WHEREAS*, according to the University of Alabama Office of Information Technology, this campus receives around 13.1 million phishing attempts a week. Further, there have been a recorded 6,200 compromised student accounts in the last few years; and,

*WHEREAS*, sensitive information is held within a student account. This could be anything from email, medical records, class history, transcripts, addresses and social security numbers. In the status quo, each and every student, faculty and worker using the MyBama system is at risk of loosing sensitive information; and,

*WHEREAS*, according to Chief Information Security Officer Ashley Ewing, “passwords are no longer adequate protection for our sensitive data”. Moreover, students deserve and must have a safe digital space to store their data without worrying about the threat of a potential hack; and,

*WHEREAS*, a key method used by hackers is compromising a large number of user IDs and passwords in hopes that the same ID and password will be used for multiple accounts, such as email, Facebook, banking applications and mybama; and,

*WHEREAS*, the Office of Information Technology has worked hard to implement a system that protects this community from malicious attacks and data leaks. For the last few months, the office has been working on implementing the DUO authentication service for the University; and,

*WHEREAS*, DUO is a two-factor authentication service that requires more than one device to access a student account. In the status quo, a user simply logs into mybama by imputing their username and password but with DUO an extra layer of security is created; and,

*WHEREAS*, DUO requires the user to first input their username and password but then choose one of three options, 1- Send a Push, 2-Receive a Passcode, 3-Receive a call. DUO then will send a confirmation to the user’s mobile phone, asking them if they just tried to login. The user then is able to see the time and location of the login attempt. If the user is the one attempting to login, they will be able to confirm this attempt with the push of a button and will receive access to their account; and,

*WHEREAS*, cyber attacks and compromised accounts will virtually be nonexistent with the DUO system because a simple username and password will no longer grant you access to your student account. Instead, the user must confirm the login attempt on their mobile devices in order to gain entry. Thus, even if a hacker figures out someone's credentials, they would have to have access to that person's phone to get into their account; and,

*WHEREAS*, the Office of Information Technology expects to see an extreme decrease and or a near total elimination of compromised student accounts after a user installs and utilizes the DUO system. Further, over 100 institutions of higher education are currently using the DUO system; and,

*WHEREAS*, the DUO system will keep our students, faculty and staff safe in the digital world; and,

*WHEREAS*, the Office of Information Technology has reached out to the Student Government Association Senate and Executive branch with an offer to partner and work together on the implementation and release of the DUO program; and,

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*, that the Student Government Association Senate hereby accepts the Office of Information Technologies offer to officially partner and assist with the implementation of the DUO system.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*, that the Student Government Association Senate shall assist the Office of Information Technology with reaching out to the student body and educating them on how use the DUO system.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*, that the Student Government Association Senate officially sponsors and urges the Executive Branches of the Student Government Association to accept the partnership offer, create a plan/project to implement this system and work to spread DUO to as many students as possible.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*, that copies of this legislation shall be sent to, Chief Information Security Officer Ashley Ewing, Meagan Bennett, The Office of Information Technology, Dr. Stuart Bell, SGA President Lillian Roth, SGA Executive Vice President Ben Leake, SGA Director of Communications Grayson Everett, SGA Speaker of the Senate Lance McCaskey, SGA Senate Chief of Staff Michael Cervino, The Crimson White, Director of Student Governance and Citizenship Mary Lee Caldwell and Senate Director of Communications TJ Parks.