



**Act A-16-20**  
**The University of Alabama**  
**25<sup>th</sup> Senate 2020-2021**

**Authors:** Vice President for Academic Affairs Price Dukes, Senator Amanda Allen, Senator Ben Heggeman

**Sponsors:** Speaker of the Senate Olivia Davis, Secretary of the Senate Ellie Schulman

**Endorsements:** Demarcus Joiner, SGA President; Sam Rickert, Vice President for Student Affairs; Will Bradley, Director of Communications

**AN ACT TO MIGRATE STUDENT EMAIL ACCOUNTS FROM  
GOOGLE'S GMAIL TO MICROSOFT OUTLOOK**

*Be it enacted by the Senate of the Student Government Association assembled.*

**Section 1. Findings:**

1. The Senate previously passed Act A-14-20, establishing a task force to create recommendations to the Office of Information Technology for the migration of student email. This task force was led by the Student Government Association Vice President for Academic Affairs and Director of Communications, and included the current Speaker of the Senate, Vice President for Student Affairs, and heads of the Senate Academic Affairs and Finance committees.
2. The aforementioned task force was convened to research and create recommendations regarding potential solutions for migrating student emails away from Google's Gmail platform.
3. Migrating student email to the Microsoft Outlook environment provides opportunities for enhanced cybersecurity measures. The OIT's security team would have better ability to block malicious activity, preventing a greater number of phishing emails from reaching student inboxes. Emails students receive that originate from sources external to the University would feature the "EXTERNAL" label that is deployed to faculty and staff mailboxes.
4. Hosting student, faculty and staff email all within the same Microsoft environment would allow individuals to easily find the email address of fellow UA students, faculty and staff in a common directory.
5. Hosting student mail in the Microsoft cloud would increase functionality with other Microsoft O365 tools, such as OneDrive and Microsoft Teams. Because student email is currently hosted in Google, students experience limited functionality with these tools.

Hosting mail alongside these collaboration tools provides the opportunity for seamless integration and user experience.

6. Microsoft reports that more than 95% of Fortune 500 companies use their Cloud environments, which include Outlook, Teams and other productivity tools. Integrating UA students into the Microsoft environment during their higher education experience will prepare them to be workforce-ready upon graduation from the University.

Section 2. Legislation:

1. ***THEREFORE, be it resolved,*** that The University of Alabama Student Government Association will recommend to the Office of Information Technology that student emails be migrated to the Microsoft O365 (Outlook) environments at the conclusion of the current school year.
2. ***Be it further resolved,*** that SGA will additionally recommend that OIT maintain current students' access to Google Drive capabilities for the remainder of their time at the University.
3. ***Be it further resolved,*** that SGA will partner with OIT to inform and educate students about the migration process, the timeline for activation, and the full capabilities of the Microsoft O365 environment.
4. ***Be it further resolved,*** that copies of this Resolution be sent to: Dr. Stuart R. Bell, President of The University of Alabama; Dr. Myron L. Pope, Vice President for Student Life; Dr. James T. Dalton, Executive Vice President and Provost; Chad Tindol, Chief Administrative Officer; John P. McGowan, Chief Information Officer; Meagan Bennett, Director of Customer Relations; Stephanie Shamblin, Director of the Student Government Association; Rebecca Griesbach, Editor-in-Chief of *The Crimson White*; and others as may be deemed necessary at a later date.