



NDSA-02-1819

A Resolution in Support of Multi-Factor Authentication

WHEREAS, the North Dakota Student Association (NDSA) represents the voice of North Dakota's 45,000 public college and university students; and,

WHEREAS, the purpose of NDSA is to represent all students enrolled in the North Dakota University System (NDUS) and advocate on issues of higher education in support of access, affordability, quality, and the student experience; and,

WHEREAS, passwords are a vulnerable security measure, leaving student information and identities at risk of being stolen by hackers and cyber criminals; and,

WHEREAS, passwords provide only a single layer of defense against hackers and cyber criminals, and the security of online accounts is based solely on the strength of the password; and,

WHEREAS, phishing attempts have been an issue in the past at institutions within the North Dakota University System (NDUS); and,

WHEREAS, phishing attempts may compromise the information of many students and faculty within the NDUS, including social security numbers and financial information; and,

WHEREAS, multi-factor authentication (MFA) requires not only a password, but also requires additional authentication such as a code sent to a trusted device, a biological finger scan, or a physical token; and,

WHEREAS, these other factors are much more difficult to spoof, which will compensate for the weakness of the password, ultimately assisting in the creation of an effective security system; and,

WHEREAS, the convenience and accessibility of students needs to be considered when determining what type of MFA is being used; and,

WHEREAS, the flexibility of being able to choose from a variety of secondary authentication factors would benefit all students while allowing for an easier transition to an MFA system; and,

WHEREAS, the cost of MFA must be considered when implementing it into the NDUS; so,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Dakota Student Association (NDSA) supports the implementation of MFA at all institutions within the NDUS; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NDSA supports the NDUS in collaborating with students to decide on the best method of implementing MFA for students, faculty, and staff within the University System.