

January 20, 2005

## SGA Resolution: Discontinue Use of Social Security Numbers as Student ID Numbers

Student Government Association, Northeastern University

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### Recommended Citation

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SR-SP-05-101

**A SENATE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR STUDENTS' SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS TO NO LONGER BE USED AS STUDENT IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS**

**WHEREAS:** Northeastern University is entrusted with safeguarding students' private information as divulged to the University, **AND**

**WHEREAS:** Identity theft has emerged as a serious and prevalent threat, particularly with the increased dependence on electronic communication and file storage, **AND**

**WHEREAS:** Students' Social Security numbers are used as student identification numbers, **AND**

**WHEREAS:** Students are regularly asked to provide their student identification number in writing and electronically, **AND**

**WHEREAS:** Students' identification numbers are often not kept in secure locations, **AND**

**WHEREAS:** This lack of security puts students at an unnecessary risk of becoming victims of identity theft, **AND**

**WHEREAS:** Five states, New York, Maryland, Wisconsin, Arizona and Rhode Island, have passed laws prohibiting the use of Social Security numbers as student identification numbers, **AND**

**WHEREAS:** Colleges and universities, such as Duke, University of Southern California, University of Virginia and Montana State University, have taken proactive steps by replacing Social Security numbers with different number systems, **AND**

**WHEREAS:** The recent theft of over 30,000 Social Security numbers of students and staff at George Mason University by computer hackers is a stark reminder that colleges and universities are targets for identity theft, particularly those that use Social Security numbers as student identification numbers, **THEREFORE BE IT**

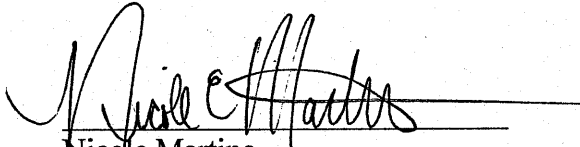
**RESOLVED:** That the University no longer issue Social Security numbers as student identification numbers, starting with the incoming class of 2010 and all incoming students thereafter; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

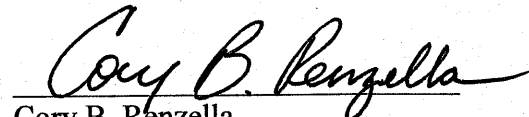
**RESOLVED:** That the University reaffirm and publicize its policy that the University Community not use Social Security numbers in any postings, in

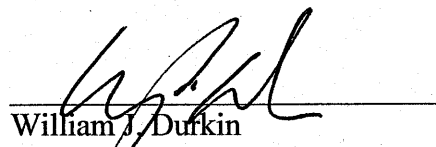
accordance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act; **AND BE IT FURTHER**


**RESOLVED:** That the University Registrar better advertise that current students may change their student identification numbers; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

**RESOLVED:** That the necessary resources be provided so that this transition is completed as rapidly as possible.

  
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Nicole Martino  
Vice President for Student Services  
Student Government Association

  
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Cory B. Renzella  
Senator  
College of Arts & Sciences

  
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William J. Dufkin  
President  
Student Government Association

Attest:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
John M. Guilfoil  
Vice President for Administration  
Student Government Association

DATE: 20 January 2005  
YEA: 44  
NAY: 0  
ABSTAIN: 1