OAKLAND UNIVERSITY™

Tuesday, August 24, 2004

New ID number replaces Social Security Number

Responding to **draft state legislation** that will prohibit using a person's Social Security Number (SSN) as a primary identification number, OU introduced on Aug. 22 a new identification number – called a Grizzly ID number – for students, faculty, staff and alumni to access most university systems and services.

OU students, faculty, staff and alumni received detailed notification about the change through postcards, fliers and e-mails in August. People who forget their Grizzly ID number can get the number sent to their Oakland e-mail account by accessing the **Grizzly ID Number** Web site and answering a few security questions. Students can obtain their Grizzly ID number in person by presenting a picture ID at any student services office. Grizzly ID numbers are not available via the phone.

"Although the legislation is still a draft, Oakland University is making the change now to protect this sensitive information by limiting routine use to help minimize risk of identify theft or other instances of fraud," said Theresa Rowe, assistant vice president of University Technical Services. "There is an increasing number of institutions, locally and nationally, that no longer use SSN as the primary identification number for this reason."

The Grizzly ID number is a system-generated number that includes one letter (G) and eight random-generated numeric characters.

OU faculty, staff and students will need the number to access SAIL and WebCT. Students also will need it for eBill access. Alumni will need the Grizzly number (or a previous student ID number) to access SAIL to get an unofficial copy of their transcript, keep biographical information up to date, view and sign up for volunteer opportunities and to inform Alumni Relations of the Class Notes information they would like published in OU Magazine.

During the transition, SAIL will accept both the Grizzly ID and SSN.

Adhering to the draft legislation, Oakland University is still required to collect and report the SSN for some purposes, including financial aid, IRS, employee benefits and other data reports to state and federal agencies.

The draft legislation is intended to help prevent identity theft, make it easier for victims to restore good credit histories and help nab thieves.

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