



Tuesday, June 29, 2004

## New ID number to replace 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 will introduce a new identification number – called a Grizzly ID number – for students, faculty or staff to access most university systems and services starting Aug. 22.

OU students, faculty and staff will receive detailed notification about the change through postcards, fliers, e-mails and the OU Web site as the implementation date draws closer.

“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 are 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 will be 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 e-bill access. 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.

### SUMMARY

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