

The 40th Session of the Student Body Senate

Florida International University

Miami, Florida

S.R. 04 020

Access to FIU Emails for ACTIVE Alumni

IN THE SENATE

January 19, 2024

Senator Sarwar J. Minar, Senator Haley Dawson, Senator Ciara Jeneske, Senator Alejandro Arzola, and Senator Hossam Hussein introduced the following resolution, which was presented on the Senate floor:

A RESOLUTION

To advocate for an opt-in system for alumni email access beyond 1 year, and to create a package for alumni to purchase additional features.

Be it enacted by the Senate of the Student Body at Florida International University assembled,

Whereas, Florida International University (FIU) currently has over 275,000 alumni all around the world¹, and in 2021, 18,483 degrees were awarded across all undergraduate and graduate programs at FIU². FIU Alumni are all current or former FIU students who have obtained a degree from Florida International University.

Whereas, FIU email means institutional emails that students receive from FIU with part of the extension “@fiu.edu.”

Whereas, prior to Fall 2023, FIU alumni were granted lifelong access to FIU email accounts.

Whereas, active FIU alumni are the FIU alumni who demonstrate active use of FIU institutional emails after graduation.

Whereas, a new FIU alumni email policy (enacted in Fall 2023 via email³) restricts alumni access to FIU email for one year after graduation, after which email access will be revoked.

Whereas, FIU Information Technology (IT) cited three primary reasons for the change in alumni email access: 1) a decline in FIU alumni use of institutional email after 365 migration; 2) security concerns for inactive accounts; 3) the financial burden of inactive accounts.

Whereas, many public universities in Florida publicly state that they grant alumni email access for active users including Florida Atlantic University⁴, or for lifetime including Florida Gulf Coast University⁵ and University of Central Florida⁶.

Whereas, FIU transitioned to Microsoft 365 in 2022⁷, which the alumni community may not be comfortable with Microsoft 365 and are not using the new platform, not because they do not want FIU email anymore.

Whereas, the new alumni email policy appears to be a biased policy against ACTIVE alumni/users (e.g., FIU collaborators and research assistants).

Whereas, active FIU alumni may use their FIU email account to store important information from their degree-seeking years, to keep active alumni engagements and close communication (promoting lifelong learning opportunities and skill-development opportunities and paving ways to succeed in professional life), communicate with FIU collaborators and faculty, or as a part of their online professional identity (e.g., LinkedIn) for jobs and post-secondary education.

Whereas, the FIU College of Law sees an imminent and high danger to the elimination of alumni email access. Currently, the College of Law utilizes alumni email access for many roles including: (1) Ability for FIU Law Alumni to post job listings and give current law students opportunities in employment; (2) Ability for FIU Law Alumni to have access to job listings to apply for employment, hereby improving the job placement numbers for the law school; and (3) Ability for the FIU College of Law to converse and obtain funding from alumni through

donation links and networking events. Complete removal of email access for FIU Law Alumni would result in less job listings for FIU Students, lower engagement with FIU Law Alumni, and inability to email donation links and events with alumni.

Whereas, a change.org petition entitled “Lifetime Access to FIU Email for Active Alumni” has collected 772 signatures since September, 2023.

Whereas, in a survey conducted by the Graduate and Professional Student Committee with 122 responses, 99.2% of respondents want lifetime access to FIU email, and 94.3% of respondents would face difficulties if alumni email access was restricted to 1 year.

Whereas, in a survey conducted by the Graduate and Professional Student Committee of the Student Government Association at FIU, in collaboration with the FIU Alumni Association, active email users use their emails to apply to jobs, stay in contact with FIU connections, receive correspondence from potential collaborators with published works, and more. Below are quotes from some students:

- a. “Taking away students life long student email is DETRIMENTAL to students personal development and professional development. If FIU is worried about IT, then they should consider changing passwords every 6 months and KEEPING student email active life long. I have many many things attached to that email because I thought it was life long(which is what FIU previously stated) including my page I keep my reproducible code and the email I use for networking. Absolutely essential to keep it up.”
- b. “I have many projects stored on the associated [cloud], many of which are capstone or culminating experience projects as well as presentations and memoranda from my time serving on an executive board. Additionally, my alumni email has important exchanges with faculty that I need for reference. Lastly, I have connected my FIU email to many networking, professional, and self-development platforms.
- c. “I will have less opportunities and abilities to connect with FIU Law alumni. Many alumni utilize their FIU emails to promote their law firm's jobs and opportunities to the current law students, and removing access after one year completely removes many of the law firm owners and partners who went to FIU from actively promoting their job listings.”
- d. “I have used FIU email in my resume and have applied to many open positions using my student email address. If my email is unavailable after 1 year of graduation, I might miss a potential job opportunity. Also, my FIU email will be used as I publish more papers as an FIU student or a recent graduate. Journal paper reviews take approximately a year to complete. If I do not have access to my FIU email, I might not be able to contact the journal when needed. It will limit my ability to publish my research work as an FIU student.”

Whereas, using an FIU-associated email demonstrates pride in the FIU degree, and helps represent FIU in a variety of sectors.

Whereas, removing access to FIU email penalizes active users by depriving them of their valuable email accounts.

Whereas, the active status may be verified by asking alumni to change or update passwords once a year or more.

Whereas, if cost is a concern to FIU IT, revoking access immediately for many alumni who decline access to their FIU email willingly would decrease spending on FIU alumni emails.

- a. Further, most of the cost associated with email access are the additional apps (e.g., Word, LinkedIn Lifelong Learning.) An email account would not have these added fees.

Whereas, a university is a lifelong community, and active alumni access to FIU emails can facilitate an ongoing communication and engagement between alumni and the university to foster a sense of belonging and encourage alumni to stay involved with their alma mater.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Senate of the Student Body strongly recommends that Florida International University reconsider its alumni email policy to an opt-in verification system for active users in order to maintain important university connections for alumni, while also considering the security and financial burden of lifetime email access to all alumni.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Senate of the Student Body strongly recommends that Florida International University Alumni Association and FIU IT work together to create an additional package for alumni to pay for that includes not only email, but other software accessible with an FIU email account (e.g., Microsoft Office, LinkedIn Lifelong Learning, etc.).

References

¹ <https://www.fiualumni.com/about/index.html>

² <https://datausa.io/profile/university/florida-international-university/>

³ https://fiu.service-now.com/sp?id=kb_article&sys_id=504c183a1b417558c16e639dee4bcb71

⁴ <https://helpdesk.fau.edu/TDClient/2061/Portal/Requests/ServiceDet?ID=4300>



⁵ <https://www.fgcu.edu/its/students/activate>

⁶ https://ucf.service-now.com/ucfit?id=kb_article&sys_id=468fd2681bd4b1105d25520b234bcb02#mcetoc_1h64lo59ls

⁷ https://fiu.service-now.com/sp?id=kb_article&sys_id=b71ab9e5db2b28502e151fba13961958

Senate Resolution Transmission Form

This resolution is presented by the Senate of the Student Body at Florida International University. It is presented by the Senate President Pro-Tempore and affixed with the signature of the Senate President. Both the Senate President and the Senate President Pro-Tempore affirm that the information presented below is accurate and that the resolution has successfully passed in the Senate of the Student Body. The resolution is presented on this day and at this hour for signature or veto.

SR 04 020			
Date Introduced:	01/18/2024		
Committees Assigned:	(1) Graduate and Professional Student Committee (2) Rules and Administration Committee		
Vote in Committee 1: 01/19/2024	5 <i>For</i>	0 <i>Against</i>	0 <i>Abstaining</i>
Vote in Committee 2: 01/29/2024	4 <i>For</i>	0 <i>Against</i>	0 <i>Abstaining</i>
Vote on the Senate Floor: 02/19/2024	19 <i>For</i>	0 <i>Against</i>	0 <i>Abstaining</i>
 _____ Signature of the Senate President		 _____ Signature of the Senate President Pro Tempore	

Presidential Signature of a Senate Resolution

On this day, at this time, and in this place, the Senate of the Student Body at Florida International University does hereby present this resolution to the desk of the President of the Student Body for signature or veto. The Senate has passed this resolution and all its accompaniments, in accordance with the Constitution and Statutes of the Student Government Association at Florida International University. It is presented in good faith, whereas the officers of the Senate have affixed their signatures to affirm that the resolution has followed due procedure and is valid. The Senate will await your decision.

SR 04 020



Kaily LaChapelle, Senate President



Tiara Campbell, Senate President Pro-Tempore



Karina Hernandez, Senate Floor Leader



Alexander P. Sutton, Student Body President

