

Motion on Computer Security at James Madison University

January 29, 2015

Whereas the faculty of James Madison University have a direct, significant interest in the security of computing and networking systems at JMU, and

Whereas the faculty recognize that attacks on our computing resources are part of a nationwide trend, thus making IT security increasingly important, and

Whereas the faculty understand that computer security involves wise decisions that balance the cost of security and ease of access against the risks of potential security breaches, and

Whereas the official notification from the administration on December 18, 2014 regarding a recent security breach at the University was lacking in clarity and detail, and this uncertainty has led to confusion, the perception of a lack of transparency, and a sense of vulnerability among the University faculty,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Faculty Senate

- Supports the IT staff at the University for their work in maintaining the security of our computing systems, and extends gratitude for their hours of hard work in recovering from the December 2014 incident, and
- Requests a report from the administration containing:
 - As much detail about the December 2014 incident as would be prudent to share without further compromising ongoing security efforts, and
 - A clearer indication of what information was accessed, and the potential risks for faculty members from this data, and
 - More details about the ongoing efforts of the University to secure our computing systems so that the faculty will have greater confidence that University security efforts provide as much protection as is reasonably cost-effective, and
- Requests that the administration perform a cost-benefit analysis of extending the offer of enrollment in the Experian® ProtectMyID® identity theft protection service beyond the one-year enrollment currently offered by the University.