BILL 002/12-01-14

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION 2014-2015

Authored by: Senator Ravi Rajendra, Senator Marcus Williams

A bill supporting an on-campus test phase of the LiveSafe campus safety smartphone app

WHEREAS, the student body is concerned about the issue of campus safety; and,

WHEREAS, the University of South Alabama was ranked as the eighth most dangerous campus in the United States in a survey conducted in 2012 by Business Insider based on data from both the FBI’s uniform crime report and Clery Act reporting; and,

WHEREAS, the Student Government Association seeks to address student concerns on campus safety in a manner conducive to student lifestyles; and,

WHEREAS, the Student Government Association seeks to modernize safety infrastructure at the University; and,

WHEREAS, the Student Government Association firmly believes successful action promoting a safer campus atmosphere requires a multilateral approach between students, the University administration, and the University of South Alabama Police Department; and,

WHEREAS, in its research, the Student Government Association found traditional emergency blue light call boxes employed at many universities are being phased out because of a lack of legitimate emergencies being reported from them; and,

WHEREAS, in its research, the Student Government Association found a 2014 study published by Michael Hanley in The Chronicle of Higher Education estimating 89% of college students own a smartphone, and this percentage is drastically increasing; and,

WHEREAS, the LiveSafe smartphone app is designed specifically for use on college campuses unlike MyForce, the current smartphone safety app South has a partnership with; and,

WHEREAS, the LiveSafe pricing model imposes less of a financial cost than the MyForce pricing model; and,

WHEREAS, the Student Government Association is alarmed by a White House report stating one in five women are sexually assaulted while in college; and,
WHEREAS, the same White House report states university communities should work to “bring in the bystander” in order to reduce the occurrence of sexual assaults on college campuses; and,

WHEREAS, the Student Government Association believes the LiveSafe smartphone app can add to the safety infrastructure and aid the University community in “bringing in the bystander” in order to reduce the occurrence of sexual assaults on our campus; and,

WHEREAS, statistics from other institutions using LiveSafe show the LiveSafe smartphone app helps promote a safer campus atmosphere after its implementation.

THEREFORE,

LET IT BE RESOLVED, the Student Government Association supports beta testing of the LiveSafe smartphone app to be conducted from January 2015 to June 2015 to determine the smartphone app’s efficacy in promoting a safer campus atmosphere at the University.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, if the LiveSafe smartphone app is well received by the student body in the beta testing phase, the Student Government Association supports full rollout of LiveSafe for the 2015 Academic Term beginning with new student orientation sessions in Summer 2015.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, the Student Government Association and the University of South Alabama Division of Student Affairs each agree to pay $3,750 for the acquisition of the LiveSafe smartphone app for the beta testing phase.