

PURPOSE: To plan a forum where students can learn, ask questions, and lodge complaints about REACH, MSMS's new Residence Life app.

INTRODUCED BY: Residence Life Committee

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE SENATE:

SECTION ONE (REASONING):

As REACH is a new system, it is expected that students, in the early phases of the app's implementation, will experience trouble and difficulties using it. That is a properly basic assumption, so it follows that administration would foresee it and plan a meeting, video guide, or other form of introduction to the app's inner-workings and how it will operate at MSMS.

While this did happen in the beginning of the school year during New Student Orientation, that informational meeting was held with the belief that REACH would be implemented by Labor Day weekend. Due to unknown circumstances, the implementation has been significantly delayed. As a result, the knowledge of REACH students once had has faded and needs refreshing in order to allow students to use the app properly.

In the time between New Student Orientation and the first implementation of REACH, no further communication about REACH has been made to students. In that void of communication, doubts and, for lack of better words, conspiracy theories have grown exponentially and frantically in both popularity and substance. This is a natural result of a lack of understanding and a lot of confusion.

This environment and state of mind of the student body should have been addressed well before the first implementation of REACH; however, it wasn't, and the result was irate students. The first extended weekend where students had to use REACH led to a Senate Resolution to limit the app to only blue cards, in which Senators debating reiterated the aforementioned doubts and conspiracy theories.

While the resolution was tabled, the justification for the tabling was further parental support, not uncertainty of Senators. Conversations highlighting the confusion and uncertainty of REACH continued outside the Senate as well, with one student claiming that their overnight leave request was automatically approved because they said they were going to stay with a parent and another saying they said they were going to stay with a parent but their parent still needed to go into the app and approve the request.

Regardless of personal opinions on REACH, it is clear there are many unknowns — many questions that need to be answered. The app is also not perfect, and there are therefore many issues that need a space to be lodged.

We are proposing a "How to REACH" forum to be held on Feb. 23 at 4:10 p.m. in Nissan Auditorium for this purpose. The forum will feature Executive Director Ginger Tedder, Director

of Student Affairs Stacey Holmes, Frazer Hall Director Edward Allen, Goen Hall Director LaToya Bledsoe, and maybe more, depending on availability, going through the basics of REACH — why it was bought, how to use it properly, the kinks of the system.

At the end of the instructional guide, the SGA Vice President will call on students who wish to ask questions and/or file an issue they've had with REACH. We believe the administration will move forward with REACH on all cards. As they do so, it is important for the student body to have a role in that process as it directly affects them, clear up technical issues, and feel comfortable with the app. We believe this forum will give students those chances.

SECTION TWO (PROPOSED ACTION):

Schedule a mandatory meeting in Nissan Auditorium on ~~Feb. 23~~ Feb. 24 at 4:10 p.m. where administrators with a large role in REACH will present a prepared how-to guide on REACH. End the meeting with the SGA Vice President calling on students from a speakers list to ask questions and give comments.