



Information Technology Services

TO: Staff
SUBJECT: Information Security Alert: Retirement Phishing Scams

Overview

In an effort to enhance our campus cybersecurity defenses, we are sharing situational awareness information and advisable actions. The campus continues to see phishing messages and other attacks, most recently focused on public employee retirement benefits.

The phishing messages look real, but are not and are being received at SF State and personal e-mail addresses. They ask the recipient to set up an appointment via Zoom to discuss retirement benefits. In one case, the employee attended the Zoom session and the fraudster asked the employee to log into Gateway to view the employee's most recent paycheck and to log into the CalPERS system to view the pension/benefits account. Topics in these fake emails include:

- "Pension Help for San Francisco State University personnel"
- "Retirement Planning Appointment"

What You Can Do

Be vigilant and help protect yourself with the following actions:

- Be suspicious of anyone asking you to set up an appointment or to discuss your retirement benefits unless you have confirmed they are from SF State's Benefits & Retirement Services.
- Only SF State and CalPERS representatives are authorized to discuss retirement benefits with employees and they will always communicate with you via your SF State email account.
- If you would like more information about your pension/benefits or have questions, please visit the SF State Human Resources (HR) website: <https://hr.sfsu.edu/retirement-services>.
- If you can't tell whether an email is legitimate or not, please use the Report Phishing Button in Outlook or forward the email to abuse@sfsu.edu for inspection.
- Do not click on links or attachments from senders that you do not recognize. Be especially wary of .zip files or other compressed or executable file types.
- More phishing resources can be found on the ITS website at [ITS Phishing Guide](#)

Thank you for your diligence in protecting SF State information/systems and your personal information. Reporting suspicious communications and issues improves security for everyone.

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