University Senate
PROPOSAL FORM

Name:	Mark P. Leone, SEC
Date:	10/18/10
Title of Proposal:	Review of the New License Plate Registration System
Phone Number:	405-1429
Email Address:	mleone@anth.umd.edu
Campus Address:	1124 Woods Hall
Unit/Department/College:	Anthropology/BSOS
Constituency (faculty, staff, undergraduate, graduate):	Faculty
Description of issue/concern/policy in question:	The introduction of the new license plate registration system the Department of Transportation Services (DOTS) has raised questions and concerns. I request that the Campus Affairs Committee examine the new registration system. The committee needs to look at the entirety of the new process and provide a description of it to the SEC. One place to begin is the information provided by J. David Allen, Director of Transportation Services as noted in the August 31, 2010 SEC Minutes under Agenda Item 9: Update on parking Fee Increases & New Parking Permit Process. • "License plates are stored as images and DOTS is working with police to decide how long they should keep this information. Right now they plan to keep non-ticketed license plate information for about a week to a week and a half. Having this information will also allow DOTS to collaborate with police to locate stolen cars or gather information about missing employees."
Description of action/changes you would like to see implemented and why:	Among the issues to be examined are the following: The Department of Transportation Services is in the process of initiating a practice of photographing all student, faculty, and staff license plates. This may be done as cars enter the campus, but the

process and locale isn't completely clear. The scanned license plate is to be stored in a database and is available to workers who check on whether a car is parked legally or illegally. If more information is collected than is now obtained when one registers a car for a parking permit, I would like to know what the new information is. Will the database be shared and with what other entities? How long will the database be maintained? If there are infractions, how long will that set of data be kept?

2. Why scan the plate? When cars are registered, the tag number is given. Why not just scan the cars in the lots instead of entering vehicles? Will scooters be scanned? If the cars are "merely" scanned in the lots and found to be registered, no record need be made. What happens if a registered person has a rental car? Must they then go through some process to "register" that car for a few days?

3 What is the legal basis for the scans and a comparison of them with other databases, particularly from the Prince George's County Police Department?

4. There are, of course, other security considerations that may underlie what is proposed. Campus police reported last spring that all plates, on all cars coming to campus are scanned and then compared with plates from other police departments, particularly Prince George's County. The SEC was told by the then acting Chief of Police that criminals and potential criminals entering campus from the county understood that they would be noticed immediately when they entered campus. How will this surveillance system affect students, faculty, and staff? How is the history of infractions shared or not shared? How is privacy protected? It would be helpful to know how many arrests have been made as a result of such data.

Suggestions for how your proposal could be put into practice:	Report any findings or concerns to the SEC.
Additional Information:	A suggested deadline for the committee's report could be February 1, 2011.