




University Senate CHARGE

Date:	November 1, 2010
To:	Gene Ferrick Chair, Campus Affairs Committee
From:	Linda Mabbs Chair, University Senate 
Subject:	Consideration of a Campus-Wide Helmet Policy at the University of Maryland
Senate Document #:	10-11-33
Deadline:	March 28, 2011

The Senate Executive Committee (SEC) requests that the Campus Affairs Committee consider whether a campus-wide helmet policy should be instituted at the University of Maryland.

In recent years, the use of motorized scooters by students on campus has been rapidly increasing. It is clear that students have been using these scooters for the convenience that they afford. Many students use these vehicles as a means to get to class and student-athletes often use them to get across campus to the practice facilities on the north side of campus.

There is no law in the State of Maryland that requires drivers of motorized scooters to wear a helmet while operating them. Since these scooters can be operated on roadways with other vehicles and at speeds greater than most bicycles, safety is a factor.

A preliminary review by the University's Legal Office and the State Attorney General's Office concluded that the University has jurisdiction and control over our campus roads. Therefore, it is possible for the University to create a helmet policy if we deemed it to be appropriate. The SEC requests that the Campus Affairs Committee conduct a review to determine whether or not the University of Maryland should institute a campus-wide helmet policy.

Specifically, we ask that you:

1. Comment on whether there are safety concerns for those who use motorized scooters without helmets.

2. Compare our circumstances to those at our peer institutions.
3. Consult with the Legal Office on the legality and impact of creating such a policy.
4. Consult with a representative of Public Safety regarding penalties and enforcement issues if such a policy were instituted.
5. Recommend a new policy if appropriate.
6. Recommend whether educational safety programs should be instituted.

We ask that you submit your report and recommendations to the Senate Office no later than March 28, 2011. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Reka Montfort in the Senate Office, extension 5-5804.