

GSGA42-R04**A Resolution Supporting Equitable Alternative Transit Opportunities for Graduate Students**

Summary: The UMD Department of Transportation does not offer shuttles that leave the College Park area after 8:30 PM, despite the fact many students living elsewhere have classes that continue well past this time. Without a reliable vehicle, many students are unable to attend or return home from campus at night. UMD has made promises to decrease student and faculty greenhouse gas emissions, but despite this has overseen a reduction in the use of campus shuttles and an increase in the use of personal vehicles.

WHEREAS, the last shuttle to leave the UMD campus with a destination somewhere other than a dorm, parking area, or grocery store is the Silver Spring line at 8:40 PM¹;

WHEREAS, multiple graduate-level classes that meet in person, without a virtual option, this academic year continue later than 8:30 PM, with the latest on-campus class ending at 10:00 PM²;

WHEREAS, the majority of graduate students live outside of the immediate campus vicinity due to housing prices and room availability³;

WHEREAS, graduate students frequently mention the unreliability of DOTS when talking to their representatives, or how shuttle schedules have caused them to miss classes;

WHEREAS, the average commute to campus is over 15 miles- too long to walk or bike from campus at night⁴;

WHEREAS, Shuttle-UM transports over 3 million passengers per year, with decreased ridership year after year⁵, showing the capacity and need for an adjustment in scheduling; and

WHEREAS, increasing the use of alternative transportation methods such as those provided through Shuttle-UM is a stated goal of the University of Maryland College Park⁶;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Graduate Student Government (GSG) supports any efforts made by the University of Maryland Department of Transportation Services, the Campus Transportation Advisory Committee, or any other relevant department to ensure UMD shuttles that leave the College Park area will not cease service until the last on-campus class has been completed.

- 1) DOTS [Shuttle-UM Schedules](#)
- 2) Data from Testudo and DOTS ([Link to spreadsheet](#))
- 3) UMD Department of Resident Life ([Graduate Student Housing](#)).

- 4) [Sustaining Progress Summary Table](#)
- 5) Sustainable UMD ([Measuring Progress](#))

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Date of Presentation:

Action(s) Taken:

Decision of GSG President

Signature of GSG President

Date

GSG42-R05

A Resolution in Support of Voting “Yes” on Maryland Question 4, Marijuana Legalization Amendment in the November 2022 Election

Summary: The resolution supports voters in the November 2022 election voting for the legalization of marijuana for adults over 21 and erasing past state possession felonies starting July 2023 in order to increase educational opportunities.

WHEREAS, the upcoming midterm elections will take place on Tuesday, November 8th, 2022; and

WHEREAS, many other states around the country have legalized marijuana in recent years; and

WHEREAS, Maryland voters will be asked to vote “yes” or “no” to a constitutional change legalizing marijuana and expunging several past state felonies;¹ and

WHEREAS, President Biden pardoned all federal felonies for simple marijuana possession, however individuals with state-level felonies still have a record; and

WHEREAS, eliminating previous and future drug convictions increases educational and career opportunities for previous, current, and future University of Maryland students; and

WHEREAS, the criminalization of marijuana has disproportionately hurt marginalized communities;² and

WHEREAS, the University of Maryland is committed to racial justice;³ and

WHEREAS, legalizing marijuana in the state of Maryland leads to potential benefits for University of Maryland students.

THEREFORE, IT BE RESOLVED THAT the Graduate Student Government supports voting “yes” on Maryland Question 4, Marijuana Legalization Amendment in the November 2022 Election.

¹ Ballotpedia. “Maryland Question 4, Marijuana Legalization Amendment (2022).” Accessed October 14, 2022.

[https://ballotpedia.org/Maryland_Question_4,_Marijuana_Legalization_Amendment_\(2022\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Maryland_Question_4,_Marijuana_Legalization_Amendment_(2022)).

Washington Post. “Yes on 4’ Ballot Campaign Launches Push to Legalize Marijuana in Md.” Accessed October 14, 2022.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2022/09/08/maryland-marijuana-legalization-ballot/>.

² American Civil Liberties Union. “Marijuana Legalization Is a Racial Justice Issue | News & Commentary,” Accessed October 14, 2022. <https://www.aclu.org/news/criminal-law-reform/marijuana-legalization-racial-justice-issue>.

³ Office of Diversity and Inclusion. “ODI Mission & Vision.” Accessed October 14, 2022. <https://diversity.umd.edu/odi-mission-vision>.

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