

The University of Alabama

Statement on the Use of Personal Mobility Devices

The University of Alabama (“University”) has received recent inquiries regarding the use of Segways and similar personal mobility devices by students, faculty, staff and visitors. Representatives from the University’s Housing & Residential Communities, Police Department, Parking & Transportation Services and Risk Management have discussed the use of personal mobility devices with the key objective being campus safety.

Those parties inquiring about the use of personal mobility devices have indicated the intended use is solely for personal convenience, which in most situations is to simply reduce the time to navigate campus and adjacent off-campus residential and retail locations.

At present, the University is neither prepared nor equipped to accommodate personal mobility devices. Specifically, the University’s challenges include:

- A lack of dedicated space for parking and/or securing these devices when not in use;
- Electrical systems that may not be available or compatible for recharging;
- Buildings with limited hallway/corridor widths or challenging configurations;
- Conflicts with pedestrians on sidewalks due to limited width, speed differences and general congestion;
- Concerns with use on public and University roads where vehicle traffic would potentially endanger the user of a personal mobility device; and,
- Limited space in residential/housing units to accommodate the storage of a personal mobility device.

This Statement is not an established policy and personal mobility devices are not restricted from operating on campus. However, the University will not modify existing practices and/or make any accommodation for the operation and/or storage of these devices other than for legitimate business reasons such as the use by law enforcement or other departments that may need the convenience of personal mobility device and can demonstrate the use will not endanger persons or property. The University will apply existing rules and policies, where and when applicable to address unsafe operation, inappropriate storage or other actions that are contrary acceptable behavior.

Should a personal mobility device be needed by a person with a qualified and documented disability, the University’s Office of Disability Services will address the need for a reasonable accommodation upon request of the owner/user.