



the university of maryland  
**RHA ROUNDUP**

**Wednesday, March 13, 2024**

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## **RHA Senate passes four resolutions encouraging transportation changes**



**MARCH 12** -- The Maryland Residence Hall Association voted to approve four pieces of legislation supporting changes to transportation on and around the University of Maryland.

Akash Balenalli, RHA's Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Coordinator contributed to three resolutions encouraging action from the university to improve safety on Knox Road, instate additional micro-mobility regulations and expand traffic enforcement on campus.

The fourth resolution, authored by Kyle Bos and supported by Balenalli, encourages TAC to submit a student facilities fund proposal for the committee's initiatives for the fall 2024 semester.

"I think these bills are really necessary. Having legislation that corresponds with TAC's work is crucial as it helps legitimize and broadcast what RHA does. We also survey social media and give students routes to directly interface with the committee, so through these bills we've really tried to make student legislation more accessible to those who aren't elected into a position," said Balenalli.

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### **NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

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Hello!

We made it to spring break! I know how much time and energy is being dedicated to midterms, but don't forget to take care of yourself during this hectic time. We helped launch the new conversation flags in Yahentamitsi, so take advantage and meet new people during your study breaks! With the semester in full swing, we are working on a number of initiatives, with scooters being a top issue. As a reminder, please don't keep your scooter in your room! We value everyone's safety and while we acknowledge the scooter dilemma, please consider the safety risk they cause. Don't be afraid to call someone out, we have to hold each other accountable.



In these last couple of days on campus, savor the warm weather and do your best on midterms! Be safe and have a great spring break. You all are amazing, go terps!

- *Erika Holdren, RHA President*



Save the date! Join us for the Maryland Residence Hall Association Year-End Reception (only open to RHA councils, Senate members, and the Executive Board). Enjoy food and drinks as we celebrate everything RHA's accomplished this year.

Want to **nominate** yourself or a council member for an **award** at YER? Click [here](#) to nominate an RHA member for Senator of the Year, Council President of the Year, the RHA Building Block Award, Create Your Own Award, and more! You must be an RHA-affiliated member to nominate. Form is due **April 1st @ 11:59 p.m.**

## Looking ahead...



Do you want to be on RHA's Executive Board next school year? Want to nominate someone to be on the Executive Board?

The executive team nomination form is open right now! Fill out the form to nominate someone (or yourself) to be on RHA's Executive Board next year. The descriptions of each position are listed on [the nomination form](#). Form is due **March 15th @ 11:59 p.m.**

## Senate Summary (3/12/24)

- **Agenda**
- **SPECIAL ORDER:** Director of the Counseling Center Dr. Joshi
- **PASSED (14-0-1):** [Resolution SAA001S](#) (A Resolution to Encourage the Use of Conversation Flags at Dining Halls)
- **PASSED (14-0-1):** [Resolution SAA002S](#) (A Resolution to Support Safety Improvements on Knox Road)
- **PASSED (12-1-1):** [Resolution NBA002S](#) (A Resolution to Encourage the University of Maryland to Instate More Micromobility Regulations to the University Administration)
- **PASSED (13-0-1):** [Resolution MAA002S](#) (A Resolution to Urge the University of Maryland to Expand Traffic Enforcement On-Campus)
- **PASSED (13-0-1):** [Resolution KBB002S](#) (A Resolution to Support a Student Facilities Fund Proposal by the Transportation Advisory Committee)



Emily S. received the "Senate Book" from Kyle B. for their strong participation at Senate.

## Committee Corner

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**Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC):** works with the university's Department of Transportation Services (DOTS).

- Multiple bills passed through Senate to address micro-mobility storage issues and regulation problems
- Planning to expand traffic enforcement for scooters, cyclists, and vehicles
- Currently working on Student Facilities Fund proposal to serve as pilot for covered bicycle/micro-mobility parking with charging facilities
- Continuing to collaborate with the city on Knox Road improvements on segment between Guilford Drive and Baltimore Avenue
- Working with city and SGA liaisons to talk about resolving parts of city code that make infrastructure changes difficult on street segments with high-density housing

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**Diversity and Inclusion Action Committee (DIACOM):** works to ensure students feel safe and comfortable on campus.

- Meeting ReLate to discuss break housing
- Planning Cultural Clothing Day

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**Sustainability Committee (SCOM):** works on issues that concern the university's green initiatives.

- Thank you to everyone who came out to Maryland Beautification Day and helped clean up our campus!
- The apartment composting pilot program has begun. Stay tuned!

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**Dining Services Advisory Board (DSAB):** works with the dining services directors to accommodate student's dining recommendations.

- Conversation flags are now in the dining halls! Pick one up today and make a new friend!
- Voting boxes (for new menu items) will likely make a comeback soon
- Come join us for DSAB on Thursdays from 4 - 5 p.m. in the RHA Office (above South Campus dining hall)!

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**Resident Life Advisory Team (ReLATE):** works directly with the Department of Resident Life to understand the issues faced by the on-campus residents and solve them.

- Assessing this year's housing selection process
  - Collaborating with DIACOM on reviewing break housing policies
  - Discussing recent incidents with electric micro-mobility vehicles and corresponding policy
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**Resident Facilities Advisory Board (ReFAB):** works with the structures and attributes that directly affect students living in the residence halls.

- Learned about future plans in residence halls: 2-ply toilet paper, automatic soap dispenser, and softer paper towels

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE OR CONTACT EACH COMMITTEE](#)

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## Photo Gallery

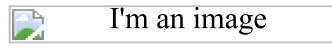
Maryland Beautification Day - 3/10/24



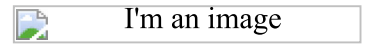
(Photo: Ilene Stark)



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*Missed a previous newsletter? Click [here](#) to see all of the RHA newsletters from this school year.*

*Have an on-campus idea, comment, or concern? Contact us or visit our website!*



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College Park, MD 20742*