

A Resolution to Call Upon The Ohio State University to Increase the Lyft Ride Smart Program Discount

Josh Hickman (for himself, Declan Alford, Isaiah Baughman, Rayvon Braziel, Spencer Colish-Patrick, Madelyn Davis, Hanniel Diaz Elizarraga, Kiara Dixon, Lily Evans, Sami Ginsberg, Nevaeh Hawthorne, Caitlyn Moloney, Dahlia Moskowitz, Shyla Mudundi, Kritiyug Nischal, Keyanah Peters, Hayden Price, Deondray Radford, Sunny Saini, Briana Walkup, and Aryav Yadapadithaya, on behalf of Paul Huang, Esther Rein, and Lorelai Turner) introduced the following resolution to the Student Affairs Committee where it passed. Then, to the Steering Committee where it passed, and to the floor where it passed.

* * *

Whereas the Undergraduate Student Government represents all undergraduate students at The Ohio State University; and

Whereas The Lyft Ride Smart program began in 2019 as a replacement for the university’s Safe Ride service and offered a total of 10,000 rides a month with \$5 discounts from the hours of 9 P.M. – 3 A.M.¹; and

Whereas The Lyft Ride Smart program was later amended to provide students with a \$6.50 discount per ride¹; and

Whereas Ohio State students redeemed nearly 600,000 rides through the Lyft Ride Smart program in the 2022-2023 academic year¹; and

Whereas The Ohio State University reduced the Lyft Ride Smart program discount from \$6.50 to \$4.00 at the beginning of the 2023-2024 academic year¹; and

Whereas the CABS On-Demand service still fails to provide adequate services to more than 65% of Ohio State students who live off-campus² and only provides transportation between most campus buildings between the hours of 9 P.M. - 7 A.M.; and

1. <https://www.thelantern.com/2023/08/lyft-ride-smart-program-discount-decreased-for-semester/>
2. <https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges/ohio-state-6883/student-life#:~:text=The%20Ohio%20State%20University%20has,of%20students%20live%20off%20campus>
3. <https://tm.osu.edu/ride-smart>
4. <https://safety-security.uchicago.edu/en/transportation/lyft-ride-smart-program>
5. <https://transnet.usc.edu/index.php/how-to-use-lyft/>
6. <https://parking.utexas.edu/ut-night-rides>

Whereas the current Lyft Ride Smart program is offered between the hours of 7 P.M. – 7 A.M. and has a service area that extends to off-campus housing located to the East of High St. and down to the Short North³; and

Whereas the University of Chicago offers students seven free Lyft rides per month (up to \$10 off per ride)⁴; The University of Southern California offers students, faculty, and staff free Lyft rides to a maximum monthly benefit of \$1,000⁵; The University of Texas at Austin offers students \$100 in Lyft credit each month for rides taken within the campus geofence⁶; and

Whereas the Undergraduate Student Government applauds The Ohio State University for announcing substantial investments in campus safety on September 14, 2023⁷ and asks the university to recognize its Lyft Ride Smart program as an important mechanism for reducing crimes in the campus area; and

Whereas most student employees at The Ohio State University receive an hourly wage between \$10.80-\$15.00⁸ and the purchasing power of OSU students has gone down as a result of nationwide inflation⁹; and

Whereas representatives from the Undergraduate Student Government are prepared to work with the administration to find a larger discount for the Lyft Ride Smart program that does not put unnecessary financial strain on the university.

Therefore, Let it Be Resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government supports increasing the Lyft Ride Smart program discount to more than \$4.00 per ride; and

Therefore, Let it Be Resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government calls on The Ohio State University to meet with representatives from the Undergraduate Student Government to review other comprehensive alternatives to the Lyft Ride Smart program and establish a comparable program or widely expand an existing Ohio State program for safe and affordable transportation for all students; and

Let it Further Be Resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government calls on The Ohio State University to meet with representatives from the Undergraduate Student Government to review

3. <https://ttm.osu.edu/ride-smart>

4. <https://safety-security.uchicago.edu/en/transportation/lyft-ride-smart-program>

5. <https://transnet.usc.edu/index.php/how-to-use-lyft/>

6. <https://parking.utexas.edu/ut-night-rides>

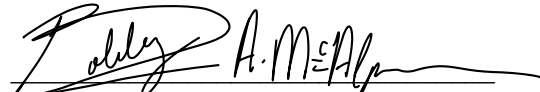
7. <https://www.10tv.com/article/news/crime/ohio-state-announces-new-safety-measures-on-campus-including-columbus-police-patrols/530-3a4ff27c-42c2-4cec-af64-1e1b30a9031f>


8. <https://hr.osu.edu/services/compensation/student-employees/>

9. <https://www.thelantern.com/2022/12/college-students-not-immune-to-inflation/>

the Lyft Ride Smart program and establish a larger discount that will promote campus safety and the financial well-being of students.

Floor Vote: Aye: 25 Nay: 3 Abstain: 0 Present: 28


Bobby McAlpine
President


Alex Poling
Speaker of the 56th General Assembly

Date Adopted: November 29th, 2023

Date Terminated: _____

3. <https://ttm.osu.edu/ride-smart>
4. <https://safety-security.uchicago.edu/en/transportation/lyft-ride-smart-program>
5. <https://transnet.usc.edu/index.php/how-to-use-lyft/>
6. <https://parking.utexas.edu/ut-night-rides>
7. <https://www.10tv.com/article/news/crime/ohio-state-announces-new-safety-measures-on-campus-including-columbus-police-patrols/530-3a4ff27c-42c2-4cec-af64-1e1b30a9031f>
8. <https://hr.osu.edu/services/compensation/student-employees/>
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