

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

Josh Hickman (for himself, Armaan Chaudhary, Shyla Mudundi, Mohamed Ahmed, Fernando Sanchez-Reich, Christopher Cade, Kris Hansen, Jack Swartley, Oliver Griffith, Jesus Valencia, Rayvon Braziel) 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

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

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://ttm.osu.edu/ride-smart>

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 aggravated assault crimes on off-campus premises increased 350% from 2022 to 2023 and Motor Vehicle theft increased by 553.8% from 2022 to 2023 including on and off campus data⁷; and

Whereas according to the Annual Safety report, there has been an overall increase in all crime across the Columbus campus by 17%⁷; and

Whereas the Undergraduate Student Government applauds The Ohio State University for announcing substantial investments in campus safety on September 14, 2023⁸ and asks the university to recognize its Lyft Ride Smart program as an important mechanism for reducing crimes in the campus area; and

Whereas the minimum wage for student employees The Ohio State University is \$13.00⁹ and the purchasing power of OSU students has gone down as a result of nationwide inflation¹⁰; and

Whereas despite the Undergraduate Student Government's 56th General Assembly passing a resolution to increase this discount, no adjustment has been made¹¹; 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

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

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://dps.osu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/annual_security_fire_safety_report.pdf

⁸ <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>

⁹ <https://hr.osu.edu/services/compensation/student-employees/>

¹⁰ <https://www.thelantern.com/2022/12/college-students-not-immune-to-inflation/>

¹¹ <https://usq.osu.edu/documents/56-r-15.pdf>

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: 29 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0 Present: 29

Bobby McAlpine
President

George Bernard
Speaker of the 57^h General Assembly

Date Adopted: 10/30/2024