

# THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE

## CAMPUS BICYCLE USE POLICY

**Number** 06.07.06

**Division** Police Department

**Date** April 24, 2017

**Purpose** To regulate the use of bicycles, which, as defined here, includes all pedal driven, human powered vehicles, on the UAH campus in order to:

- enhance pedestrian and rider safety on campus, with heightened emphasis during peak motor vehicle and pedestrian traffic periods;
- provide for the safe and free ingress/egress to and from University buildings and facilities;
- provide for accountability of bicycles located on campus
- reduce the number of bicycle theft reports and vandalism losses;
- eliminate the number of unserviceable bicycles abandoned on campus;
- establish and publish written guidelines and regulations to facilitate the safe movement of bicycle traffic on campus.

**Policy** This policy applies to all University employees, students, and visitors who ride, park or store any bicycle or other pedal driven, human powered vehicles on the campus of The University of Alabama in Huntsville.

### **Registration of Bicycles Required**

Persons having a bicycle on campus must register it and affix to it a permit issued by the UAH Parking Management Office. There is no fee associated with registration of a bicycle. Through registration, UAH will have an efficient process to establish the ownership of a bicycle that is improperly parked or abandoned. In the event a bicycle is stolen and later recovered by law enforcement, registration makes it easier for the Police to prosecute the thief and return the bike to its rightful owner.

By registering a bicycle, the owner also acknowledges that he/she has read and understands the University's Campus Bicycle Use Policy and agrees to abide by the rules and regulations set forth herein, including applicable Alabama laws addressing Bicycle Safety: Alabama Code 32-5A-260 through Section 32-5A-266, and 32-5A-280 through 286. (<http://law.justia.com/codes/alabama/2009/Title32/Chapter5A/Chapter5A.html> ).

Such laws generally entitle cyclists to the rights of vehicle drivers, but also require cyclists to comply with the duties of vehicle drivers. Cyclists are also acknowledging that they must use bicycle paths, when available. State law also requires riders under sixteen to use helmets and the use of restraints for children under 40 pounds. Violations may be enforced by law enforcement officers, according to the code.

### **Bicycle Registration**

- Students and employees should log in to their myUAH account and select the link Parking Management under Campus Services.
- Permits are not transferable. In the event of the sale of a bicycle, or transfer of ownership, the new owner must register it in his/her name and a new permit will be issued. The permit period is identical with that of the university motor vehicle registration period, expiring on August 31 of each year, and the bicycle must be re-registered by that time.

### **Safe Operation of Bicycles**

As a cyclist on campus, all provisions of the State of Alabama Motor Vehicle Code and the rules and regulations of UAH apply. Bicycle riders must obey the rules of the road as would the operator of a motor vehicle, i.e., cyclists must stop at stop signs, travel in the correct lane, and yield to pedestrians who have entered a cross-walk. Failure to do so may result in issuance of a citation.

Cyclists must remain on marked bicycle paths or on the streets operating on the far right side or the right lane. Cyclists who find themselves sharing a sidewalk with pedestrians should dismount and walk their bicycles until clear of congested areas.

Operation of a bicycle in an unreasonable manner as to be considered reckless conduct or that may cause injury to another person or damage to property could be cause for the offending cyclist to be subjected to criminal penalty as well as civilly liable for damages as a result of any negligence.

### **Parking and Securing of Bicycles**

In order to decrease the opportunity for theft and reduce the hazards caused by bicycles that are improperly affixed to stair rails, light poles, street signs, trees, etc., the University has strategically placed structurally sound bicycle parking racks at convenient locations around the campus.

Bicycles must be secured to a bicycle rack each time they are left unattended on campus for any period of time. Bicycles left unattended that block a stairway, sidewalk, pedestrian pathway, door entrance/exit or inside a building hallway or common area are in violation of this policy and the owner is subject to a citation as well as removal and impoundment at the owner's expense (see Impoundment Procedures).

To protect a bicycle against theft, it should be locked to a bicycle rack. Locking devices and methods may vary, but a steel core, U-shaped type of bicycle lock is the recommended type of locking device. A bicycle should not be secured in a manner that can allow it to be disassembled and removed. For example, lock the bicycle to a bicycle rack using the frame of the bike and not a wheel or handlebar.

### **Enforcement**

The Parking Management Enforcement Staff are charged with enforcement of University parking regulations only. These individuals are also authorized to remove bicycles that are parked and/or secured in an inappropriate manner and/or at a location that creates a safety hazard. They may also remove any bicycle that appears to be unserviceable or abandoned after proper notice is given (see Damaged and Abandoned Bicycles). Violations of state law regulating motor vehicles will be addressed by law enforcement officers. Moving violations such as running a "red" light or failing to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk may subject the cyclist to a moving citation, which is normally adjudicated in the municipal or state court. In some circumstances where a student habitual violator is identified, a referral to the Dean of Students may subject the accused person to disciplinary action through the Student Code of Conduct.

### **Damaged and Abandoned Bicycles**

Any bicycle observed with significant damage, whether locked or not locked to a secure bicycle rack that would reasonably be considered unsafe to operate or abandoned due to the length of time it has remained in its same condition and location may be removed and placed in the Impoundment Area. There is no fine, penalty or charge resulting from this action, and it should be understood that the action may be taken to protect the registered owner's property from theft or vandalism. It will also clear space in the affected bicycle racks for registered, serviceable bicycles to be parked.

Typically, an unserviceable bicycle that remains in the same location for at least thirty days will be tagged by Parking Enforcement. Attempts will be made to contact the registered owner. The tag will serve as notice to the

owner that the University intends to remove the bicycle after fifteen additional days have expired. A removed bicycle will be placed into the Impoundment Area and maintained there for six months. After the six month period of time has expired, the bicycle may be sold or used for official University business, i.e., parks, recreation, etc.

### **Impoundment Procedures**

Once the decision is made to impound a bicycle, a lock, chains or other devices used to secure the bicycle will be forcibly removed. Any resulting damage to the bicycle or locking mechanisms is not the responsibility of UAH or the UAH Police Department. The bicycle will be transported and placed in the Impoundment Area.

An unregistered impounded bicycle will be released upon proof of ownership and payment of a \$5.00 impoundment fee.

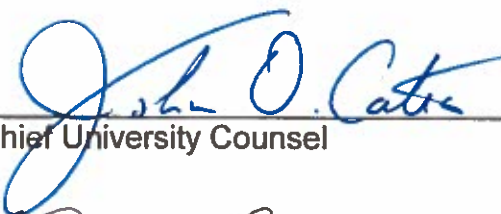
### **Waiver of Liability**

UAH assumes no responsibility for the loss, damage, theft, care or protection of any bicycle or attached accessory, including locking devices or contents, at any time. Individuals who bring a bicycle onto the campus assume all risks of loss of or damage to the bicycle. All persons on campus should be reasonably aware of his/her own safety, whether as a pedestrian, cyclist, or vehicle operator.

### **Review**

The Office of the President is responsible for the review of this policy every five years, or whenever circumstances require.

### **Approval**

  
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Chief University Counsel

4/24/2017  
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Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Betsy Metten  
Vice President for Student Affairs

4-21-2017  
Date

**APPROVED:**

Robert A. Attenbuhl  
President

4/24/17  
Date