

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
UDC Resolution NO. 2020-\_\_\_\_\_**

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING, AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 7, TO IMPLEMENT A UDC STUDENT TRANSPORTATION FEE (UPASS) FOR AY2020-2021**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia, pursuant to the authority set forth under the District of Columbia Public Postsecondary Education Reorganization Act Amendments (Act), effective January 2, 1976 (D.C. Law 1-36; D.C. Official Code §§ 38-1202.01(a)(7); 38-1202.06(8),(13) (2012 Repl.)), has the power to adopt, prescribe, amend, repeal, and enforce bylaws, rules, and regulations it considers necessary for the governance and administration of the University of the District of Columbia (“University”); and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 38-1202.06(8),(13) it is the duty of the Board to fix tuition, and fees and perform such duties and make such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the University and that such regulations are adopted in accordance with the provisions of D.C. Official Code § 2-505(a); and

**WHEREAS**, some students struggle to meet the total cost of attendance, which goes beyond tuition and fees to include housing, transportation and food and with 98% of the University’s students being commuters, transportation is a considerable cost for students and students expressed interest in a discounted transportation rate with Metro; and

**WHEREAS**, the University plan to help students meet those transportation needs by looking at means to reduce their transportation costs and in a recent election the students overwhelming voted to adopt the UPASS program at the University; and

**WHEREAS**, the UPASS program card will allow students unlimited rides throughout the semester on Metrorail and Metrobus (including express and airport shuttle buses) for trips to class, work, practicum/internships and entertainment; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia hereby takes proposed rulemaking action to amend Chapter 7 of the University Rules (Title 8-B DCMR) to implement a student UPASS transportation fee as indicated in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking attached hereto as **EXHIBIT A**; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the General Counsel is hereby directed to publish this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the D.C. Register as soon as is practicable for a comment period of not less than thirty (30) days, in accordance with the provisions of D.C. Official Code §2-505 (a).

Submitted by the Academic & Student Affairs Committee

March 19, 2020

Submitted by the Audit, Budget and Finance Committee and  
the Operations Committee

March 31, 2020

Approved by the Board of Trustees:

April 21, 2020

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Christopher Bell  
Chairperson of the Board

## EXHIBIT A

### UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

#### NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

The Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia pursuant to the authority set forth under the District of Columbia Public Postsecondary Education Reorganization Act Amendments (Act) effective January 2, 1976 (D.C. Law 1-36; D.C. Official Code §§ 38-1202.01(a); 38-1202.06)(8)(13) (2001 & 2011 Supp.) hereby gives notice of its intent to amend chapter 7 (Campus Life) of subtitle B (University of the District of Columbia) of title 8 (Higher Education) of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR) in not less than thirty (30) days from the date of publication of this notice in the *D.C. Register*.

The purpose of the proposed rulemaking is to implement a student UPASS transportation fee for AY 2020-2021 to apply to all students in the associates, bachelor's, master's, doctoral and law degree programs. The fee will cover the cost of the UPASS program providing unlimited rides throughout the semester on Metrorail and Metrobus.

The Board of Trustees will take final action to adopt this amendment to the University Rules in not less than thirty (30) days from the date of publication of this notice in the *D.C. Register*.

**Chapter 7, ADMISSIONS AND ACADEMIC STANDARDS of Title 8-B DCMR, UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, is amended as follows:**

**Section 728, UPASS Transportation fee and Subsection 728.9, a UPASS Transportation fee is added to read as follows:**

**Section 728.9(u), UPASS Transportation fee (per semester) \$300.00**

All persons desiring to comment on the subject matter of the proposed rulemaking should file comments in writing not later than thirty (30) days after the date of publication of this notice in the *D.C. Register*. Comments should be filed with the Office of General Counsel, Building 39- Room 301-Q, University of the District of Columbia, 4200 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008. Comments may also be submitted by email to OfficeofGC@udc.edu. Individuals wishing to comment by email must include the phrase "Comment to Proposed Rulemaking: UPASS Transportation fee" in the subject line.

**Fiscal Impact Statement**

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**TO:** Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Managing Director of Finance *David A. Franklin*

**DATE:** April 21, 2020

**SUBJECT:** UDC New Student Transportation Fee (UPASS) for AY2020-2021

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**Conclusion**

In conclusion, the introduction of a new student transportation fee for AY 2020-2021 will apply to all students in the associate's, bachelor's, master's, doctoral and law degree programs. The fee will cover the cost of the UPASS program, providing unlimited rides throughout the semester on Metrorail and Metrobus. The UPASS program will be paid for by a new student transportation fee, which will be applied to students' accounts. There is no additional cost to the University.

**Background**

Studies across the United States show that college students are struggling to meet their basic needs, and many are leaving college because of financial insecurity, despite being in good academic standing. Many students struggle to meet the total cost of attendance, which goes beyond tuition and fees to include housing, transportation, and food. A recent student survey found that one in four new students have insufficient resources to meet the cost of these basic necessities.

One of the needs the University is attempting to help our students meet is transportation costs. With 98% of our students being commuters, transportation is a considerable cost for students. In several town halls, students expressed interest in a discounted transportation rate with Metro. In a recent poll, 505 students (12.5% of the student population) voted to adopt the UPASS program at the University.

The UPASS card will allow students unlimited rides throughout the semester on Metrorail and Metrobus (including express and airport shuttle buses) for trips to class, work, practicum/internships and entertainment. Metro fares are calculated according to how many stops riders make, and they vary during peak and off-peak hours. The average Metro fare during peak hours is \$4.10, or \$8.20 per day. UPASS will allow all University students, both full-time and

part-time, unlimited rides at a flat rate of \$3.00 per day (including weekends), potentially saving students at least \$5.20 per day. The fee per semester will be \$300.00, which will be applied to student accounts.

**Financial Impact**

The new student transportation fee to cover the cost of the UPASS program will have no financial impact on the University’s budget. The new transportation fee will be billed to students upon registration each semester. At UDC, 64% of our students receive some form of financial aid, with 52% being Pell-eligible. The average financial aid award is \$10,832, and the average refund per semester is \$2,905. The refund may be used to cover any education-related expenses, including transportation.

The current transportation cost estimated for financial aid is \$219 per month, or \$1,953 per academic year. The average cost for round-trip transportation using Metrorail during peak hours is \$656 per semester, or \$1,312 per academic year. The UPASS program will cost \$300 per semester, or \$600 per academic year, potentially reducing students’ transportation costs. The cost of attendance will be adjusted to reflect the transportation savings provided by the UPASS program.

|  | <b>Estimated transportation cost for the DMV per the IRS Public Transportation Allowance</b> | <b>Average Cost of Metro @ 5 days a week (round trip, peak hours)</b> | <b>U-Pass Program @ UDC (unlimited rides, including weekends)</b> |
|--|--|---|---|
| Average Transportation Costs per academic year | \$1,953.00   | \$1,312.00  | \$600.00  |