

**A Resolution Recommending Updates to the University Department of Residential Life  
Drug Policy  
F 17-11-15 C**

1. WHEREAS, the Student Government Association (SGA) represents all undergraduate students at the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP); and,
2. WHEREAS, the SGA serves as an active voice for the interests of all undergraduate students at UMCP; and,
3. WHEREAS, the College Park Resident Life Drug Policy was drafted and approved by the University President in August 1991 and has not been since amended (1); and,
4. WHEREAS, this policy states that “possession/use of any illegal drug is prohibited” and “drug paraphernalia [in the residence halls] is prohibited” with offenders being sent to the Office of Rights and Responsibilities, the Code of Student Conduct, and potentially, the University of Maryland Police Department (2); and
5. WHEREAS, in April 2014, the State of Maryland decriminalized the possession of 10 grams or less of marijuana for individuals over 21, making it a civil infraction punishable by a fine of up to \$100 (3); and,
6. WHEREAS, in 2016, the Maryland General Assembly passed SB 517, which decriminalized the possession of marijuana paraphernalia, such as rolling papers, pipes and bongs, making it a civil offense punishable by a fine up to \$500 (4); and,
7. WHEREAS, these laws would no longer categorize the possession of marijuana by individuals over the age of 21 or marijuana paraphernalia by any individual as illegal, therefore changing how they would be considered under the University policy; and,
8. WHEREAS, the aforementioned policy is concerned with the “destructive effects of drugs on society, in general, and the individual in particular” (5); and,
9. WHEREAS, numerous studies have indicated that marijuana is the safest of any drugs and safer than alcohol and cigarettes, therefore, it would not be destructive as the drugs covered by the aforementioned policy (6); and,

10. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the SGA formally and publicly recommend to DRL, OSC and the University Senate to update the College Park Resident Life Drug Policy, the Residence Hall Rules Structure, the Code of Student Conduct (as seen in Addendum B), and any other relevant policies to remove the possibility of housing termination, suspension, and/or expulsion for any student possessing marijuana paraphernalia in any residence hall; and,
11. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the SGA recommend that DRL clarify and publicize its drug policies and recommended sanctions, especially regarding possession of marijuana and marijuana paraphernalia in the residence halls; and,
12. THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the SGA recommend to the OSC and the University Senate to update the Resident Life Drug Policy and any other relevant policies to remove the possibility of housing termination, suspension/expulsion, and random drug testing for any student possessing 10 grams or less of marijuana in a residence hall, but keeping the recommended sanction of a six week substance abuse program. □

Sponsor: Barteldes (BSOS)

Committee: Student Affairs 15-2-1

Vote: In Favor 25 Opposed 1 Abstentions 1

Therefore, the bill: **PASSES** FAILS

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Jonathan Allen  
Speaker of the Legislature

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AJ Pruitt  
Student Body President

## Addendum A

1. <https://president.umd.edu/administration/policies/section-v-student-affairs/v-100e>
2. *ibid.*
3. [https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/md-politics/pot-decriminalization--for-small-amounts--takes-effect-in-maryland-on-wednesday/2014/09/30/bc379534-48a5-11e4-891d-713f052086a0\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.95f8d0e330a3](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/md-politics/pot-decriminalization--for-small-amounts--takes-effect-in-maryland-on-wednesday/2014/09/30/bc379534-48a5-11e4-891d-713f052086a0_story.html?utm_term=.95f8d0e330a3)
4. <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/politics/bs-md-vetoes-overturned-20160121-story.html>
5. <https://president.umd.edu/administration/policies/section-v-student-affairs/v-100e>
6. <https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/legal-pot/no-high-risk-marijuana-may-be-less-harmful-alcohol-tobacco-n312876>

## Addendum B:

<https://president.umd.edu/sites/president.umd.edu/files/documents/policies/V-100B.pdf>

**ACTION PLAN:** The sponsor of this legislation will work with the Vice President of Student Affairs in regard to this action plan:

1. Work with the SGA Director of Shared Governance to coordinate action with the Residence Hall Association and University Senate.
2. Mobilize interested student groups, including ProtectUMD, College Park Young Americans for Liberty, Our Revolution, Students for Sensible Drug Policy, Prison Resistance Project, and the University Student Judiciary to continue dialogue about responsible and relevant drug policies that best benefit students. □
3. Continue SGA dialogue with the Director of Resident Life for Student Conduct, Keira Martone, and the Marijuana Committee of DRL to convey student input and suggestions about marijuana policy.
4. Discuss with RHA, DRL and Capstone Management the possibility of increasing access to substance-free and smoke/drug-free housing, including the possibility of substance-free and drug-free housing in Courtyards and South Campus Commons.
5. Discuss and plan joint programming with DRL, RHA, OSC, USJ, etc. to inform students about their rights and responsibilities around drugs, including, but not limited to, sessions at freshmen and transfer orientations, UNIV100, and an SGA town hall.