

PROHIBITION OF SELF-BALANCING SCOOTERS (HOVERBOARDS) ON CAMPUS

Policy---Clayton State University is implementing a prohibition on the use, possession, and storage of self-balancing scooters, commonly known as hoverboards, on campus, effective as of Monday, March 7, 2016.

In December 2015, the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) publicly announced that it was investigating 28 fires in 19 states caused by hoverboards. There were reports of the lithium ion batteries, that are required for the operation of hoverboards, spontaneously igniting during use or while being charged. Over 60 airlines have banned the transport of hoverboards, both as carry on items and as checked cargo, citing the same safety concern.

Most recently, the US CPSC sent a letter dated February 18, 2016, to all manufacturers, importers, and retailers of self-balancing scooters, advising of increased reports of hoverboard fires from consumers, including the destruction of two homes and an automobile. The letter urged all recipients to review their product lines to ensure that they are in compliance with the applicable safety standards. The letter further stated that those products that don't meet these standards pose an unreasonable risk of fire to consumers.

As a result of the increasing nationwide safety concerns about the use and possession of hoverboards, and as a prudent safety measure for our campus community, the University is implementing a prohibition on the use, possession, and storage of hoverboards anywhere on campus (including in vehicles), effective Monday, March 7, 2016. Should evidence become available indicating greater safety of the product (associated with more advanced technology), the University will consider a review of this policy.