January 13, 2016

Dear SUNY Potsdam students:

Due to serious safety concerns and fire risks, SUNY Potsdam is prohibiting all hands-free, self-balancing scooters (more popularly known as hoverboards) from campus residence halls. Effective immediately, hoverboards cannot be used or kept in the residence halls.

This decision came based on concerns raised by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and the National Association of State Fire Marshals. These devices are associated with increased reports of injury and fires across the country.

It is our priority to maintain a safe learning, living and working environment for our students, faculty, staff and visitors. We are joining many campuses across country, including nearby Clarkson University, and SUNY Plattsburgh, who have also prohibited hoverboards.

If you own one of these devices, please do not bring them to campus upon your return from winter break. Residents or guests with hoverboards will be issued a warning if found with one of these devices, and if they do not comply, the device would be confiscated and returned to the owner at the end of the semester.

If you have any of these units at home, here are some safety tips from the Consumer Product Safety Commission to help reduce the risk of an accident: http://www.cpsc.gov/en/About-CPSC/Chairman/Kaye-Biography/Chairman-Kayes-Statements/Statements/Statement-from-the-US-CPSC-Chairman-Elliot-F-Kaye-on-the-safety-of-hoverboards.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Torey Russell
Director of Environmental Health and Safety

Eric Duchscherer
Director of Residence Life