



Division of Administrative Affairs

Greetings!

The UMES Athletic Committee is concerned about the general health and safety of the students and faculty at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. In order to create an easy to access, equitable activity, we have focused on creating a walking trail that will be ADA compatible for those who work, for those who study, and for those who wish to visit the campus. Walking is one of the best exercises for most people, and requires just a good pair of walking shoes, and a safe place to walk or roll. Building a circulation trail around campus would provide a safe place for exercisers and pedestrians since we do have campus security in place, as well as keeping a better distance from traffic, including the large trucks used by the surrounding businesses.

A walking trail will promote a healthier life style in addition to physical, emotional and interpersonal well-being, according to our insurance groups. Getting a circulation trail will invite community involvement since we could use the trail for friendly competition for 3K and 5K events, as well as providing an opportunity for collaboration between agencies. We anticipate the trail will have benches for resting and conversing, trail beautification with the addition of community garden spaces with help from the Extension Agency, trail markers, and possible geocaching sites.

We were able to secure a company to design a 1.6 mile trail around the main section of campus, which will be easily accessible to people and their human powered conveyances (bicycles, strollers, scooters and wheel chairs). The trail will provide a safer route from on/off campus housing to the dining hall and other buildings on campus. The trail will extend the Trail Mix that is already in Somerset County, and is near to the bicycle lanes in down town Princess Anne to strengthen the connection between town and gown. The trail will provide a place to have walking and class meetings.

It is with these thoughts in mind that we would like to request a letter of support from you that will be included in our request for a grant from the Maryland Department of Transportation to cover the cost of building the trail.

Please send the letters of support to the chair of the Athletic Committee: Dr. Mark Williams, 2066 EACM, Dept. of Mathematics, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, MD 21853 or by email: mewilliams@umes.edu.

Sincerely,

Lester Primus

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VP of Administration and Finance

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