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No standing on UUM shuttle buses

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SINTOK, Tues. — No more standing. This is the new ruling Universiti Utara Malaysia has imposed on its 34 shuttle buses ferrying its students.

UUM student affairs department director Mohd Zaini Nasri said the ruling was issued after a bus filled with students went out of control and landed in a river yesterday.

He said drivers must ensure passengers were seated at all times. "Standing will no longer be allowed on our buses."

The bus was carrying 63 passengers although it was only allowed to carry 43.

It was on its way to residential colleges in Bukit Kachi when it went off the road and plunged into a river four metres below at 4.20pm at the main campus.

The driver of the bus turned himself in for questioning two hours later.

Kubang Pasu district police public order chief Assistant Superintendent Mohd Khairi Mohd Kamil said a urine test for drugs was conducted on the driver, 29. It proved negative.

Khairi said the driver, from Padang Sira near here, was released after police took his statement.

The driver is being investigated for operating an overloaded bus.

Five UUM students fractured limbs in the crash. Three were warded at the Alor Star Hospital while 47 others were given outpatient treatment.