In 2007 Underwriter Laboratories issued notice stating these lamps pose a fire hazard and recommended that consumers immediately stop using them.

The plastic shades can melt and possibly cause a fire hazard. Other universities have reported close call incidents where melted plastic from the shade burned a hole in a bedspread and another where a student turned on the lamp and within 15 minutes, the shade melted and the heat began to turn a poster on the wall brown. Shade melting was reported on different brands/models but all shared the common plastic shade. It should be noted that damage was found to have occurred even when the proper watt bulbs were being used in accordance with the manufacturer’s directions.

We are recommending all lamps of this nature be removed from student rooms and other areas on our campus. If you have further questions, please contact the Fire and Life Safety Manager in Environmental Health, Safety & Emergency Management at (828) 262-4007.