

Resolution 034
**A Resolution to Implement the Hall Security Assistant (HSA) Program in All
Residence Halls on Campus**
Sponsored by: Senator Kirby
Co-sponsored by: Senator Longo

Whereas,

There are approximately 1,890 students living at CUA across sixteen of the seventeen residence halls on campus, and student safety is the university's main priority for these students.

Whereas,

“The Public Safety Assistants (PSA) program is part of the Department of Public Safety. PSAs are not security officers or special police officers, and therefore are not expected to enforce or attempt to enforce any laws or make apprehension of suspects who violate the law.

PSAs monitor the entrances of resident halls seven days a week during the academic school year from 4 p.m. to 8 a.m. The PSAs check identification of persons entering the residence hall. Non-residents must sign in and be escorted in by a resident.”

Whereas,

“The HSAs serve as a security monitors who ensure the building is safe and secure, observe concerns or issues that might arise around the building, and report information as necessary to the Resident Assistants or Community Directors. The HSA serves as a resource to the residents and develops relationships within the neighborhood. The HSA serves as a key resource to students who need immediate assistance.”

Whereas,

The HSA program is under Residence Life and the PSA program is under the Department of Public Safety.

Whereas,

There is inconsistency regarding which residence halls have what type of check-in security. Flather Hall, Regan Hall, Ryan Hall, and Gibbons Hall do not have the HSA program, but have PSAs instead, and Seton Wing (of Caldwell Hall), and Caldwell Hall do not have any security program implemented.

Whereas,

There is inconsistency regarding the hours of shifts for PSAs and HSAs. A PSA shift is 4 p.m. - 8 a.m., seven days per week. An HSA shift is 9 p.m. - 3 a.m., seven days per week.

Whereas,

The PSA desk is frequently seen unattended in Gibbons Hall, and often seen unattended in Regan Hall and Ryan Hall.

Whereas,

The presence of PSAs dwindles as the end of each semester approaches due to the restriction on their hours. HSAs, however, maintain their shifts throughout the end of the semester because they do not approach the limit on their hours.

Whereas,

The HSA position is a popular on campus job for students where an HSA team is assigned to a building under the direction of a team lead. HSA shifts are seldom missed; if a shift cannot be covered for an HSA unable to work, then the on-call team lead typically always cover the shift, so the desk is always attended.

Whereas,

The PSAs are given a handbook for their position and receive no in-person training. This has led to Residence Life student staff and PSAs conflicting on University policies and the execution of said policies.

Whereas,

The HSAs experience an in-depth training for their positions run by the Residence Life staff.

Whereas,

The approximate cost for employing a team of HSAs is \$12,000 per building per year. The approximate cost for employing a team of PSAs is \$41,000 per building per year.

Whereas,

The HSA program costs approximately \$108,000 per year for the nine (9) buildings in which HSAs have staffed for this academic year. The PSA program costs approximately \$205,000 for the five (5) buildings in which PSAs have staffed for this academic year.

Be it enacted that,

The Student Government Association Senate, acting in its official capacity as the representative of the student body of The Catholic University of America, in order to promote residence hall safety and consistency, as well as to create more opportunities for student jobs on campus, hereby requests that the following be implemented:

1. To expand the HSA program into all residence halls without said program. These include:
 - a. Flather Hall
 - b. Regan Hall
 - c. Ryan Hall
 - d. Opus Hall
 - e. Gibbons Hall
 - f. Seton Wing, Caldwell Hall (inside the main doors on the first floor of each)
2. To establish the times for HSA shifts as follows:
 - a. Weekdays: 9 p.m. - 3 a.m.
 - b. Weekends: 8 p.m. - 4 a.m.
3. To localize and standardize residence hall security to the HSA program under Residence Life so one department is responsible for residents, guests, and the in-hall security of said individuals.

4. To allocate the funds for the addition of seven HSA teams in the Residence Life budget
5. To replace the PSA program as they individually retire. This would entail:
 - a. The PSA program being consolidated over time by building such that the program would have a decreasing amount of buildings as PSAs retire.
 - b. During the periods in which there are too many PSAs to consolidate to a smaller amount of buildings but not enough to staff the building every night, the shifts would be consolidated to certain nights of the week until it could be taken over completely by HSAs.

Agreed to by a vote of _____ yeas to _____ nays on this date: _____ with _____ abstaining and _____ not present.

Kristina Pinault
President of the Student Government Association

Lauren Werling
Vice President of the Student Government Association

