

Resolution 019
A Resolution to Increase Counseling Services for the Student Body
Sponsored by: Senator Bracey
Co-Sponsored by: Senator Vincent

Whereas,

The Counseling Center has posted on their website:

Because of unusually high demand for services and a potentially longer than usual wait time between intake appointments and assignment to weekly therapy appointments, we are not scheduling new intakes for the rest of the Spring 2019 semester. Currently scheduled intake appointments will remain in place. Students who would like to meet with a counselor are encouraged to come in for walk-in sessions up to once per week as needed (no appointment necessary) between now and the end of the semester. Students interested in weekly therapy services over the summer can contact us about intakes, which we anticipate resuming soon after exam week in early May.¹

Whereas,

Any student who now seeks counseling can only receive counseling through a walk-in appointment once a week, which may be detrimental to students as there is no guarantee of receiving the same counselor, causing a lack of continuity between sessions.

Whereas,

The Counseling Center has recently lost a full time staff member.²

Whereas,

Published trends show that the number of college aged students seeking counseling services has been steadily increasing, and the duration of sessions has been increasing at a similar rate, as the severity of issues being faced by this demographic intensifies.³

Whereas,

There is more need for programming on campus for crisis and grief management.

Whereas,

People process grief in many different ways.⁴ And to assist this, many other colleges have crisis programs that are enacted to help students dealing with grief to process their emotion.⁵

¹ <https://counseling.cua.edu/>

² (Monroe Rayburn, Personal Communication, March 28, 2019)

³ <https://www.aucccd.org/assets/documents/Governance/2017%20aucccd%20survey-public-apr26.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.apa.org/helpcenter/grief>

⁵ Example: Loyola Maryland (<https://www.loyola.edu/departments/counseling-center/students/concerns/grief>)

Whereas,

Students receive support through University Services and look to Catholic University in times of crisis.

Whereas,

There are several student organizations on campus as well as University Services that, by nature of their mission statement could assist students during crisis.

Be it enacted that,

The Student Government Association Senate, acting in its official capacity as the representative of the undergraduate student body of The Catholic University of America, hereby requests that:

1. The Catholic University of America expedite the hiring of a new full-time staff person for the Counseling Center to help with the number of students seeking counseling.
2. The Catholic University of America evaluate the feasibility of further staffing the Counseling Center in the 2019-2020 academic year to ensure that all students have access to the Counseling Center.
3. The Student Government Association and other organization and department sponsors will support the creation of a Crisis Plan for the Catholic University of America to be enacted during crises that affect the student body.

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

Jimmy Harrington
President of the Student Government Association

Weston Kirby
Vice President of the Student Government Association