

Resolution 020

A Resolution to Encourage the University to Launch a Water Sustainability Project

Sponsored by: Senator Mackisey

Co-Sponsored by: Senator Sharpe, Senator Vincent, Senator McGuire, Senator Garfield, Senator Shanahan, and Senator Kilgore

Whereas,

The Catholic University of America has water fountains in most academic buildings and student centers on campus.

Whereas,

Every student at The Catholic University of America deserves access to clean water from a fountain that enhances environmental sustainability by minimizing our dependency on disposable plastic bottles.

Whereas,

Not every academic building and student center at The Catholic University of America has a water fountain.

Whereas,

There are two widely accepted standards for testing water for consumption in the United States; not containing harmful contaminants and the perception standard. The contaminants are regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA),¹ meanwhile the perception standard is a generally accepted practice in order to promote consumer satisfaction.²

Whereas,

Water on the campus of The Catholic University of America passes the first test of not containing any contaminants that are regulated by the EPA.

Whereas,

A high number of water fountains on campus produce water that has suspended particles, unnatural coloring, or an overall cloudy appearance; therefore failing the “perception” standard.

Whereas,

Some buildings where this is the case include but are not limited to Pangborn Hall and McCort-Ward Hall.

¹ <https://www.epa.gov/ccl>

² <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5217815/>

Whereas,

The University has installed Elkay Enhanced EZH2O Bottle Filling Stations in certain places on campus. These units act as both a fountain and a bottle filling station, while producing clean water and counting the number of plastic bottles saved to promote sustainability. Buildings at Catholic University where this Elkay fountain is installed include but are not limited to the Edward J. Pryzbla Center, Flather Hall, and the Kane Fitness Center.

Whereas,

In 2012, Georgetown University launched an initiative to decrease the number of plastic water bottles on their campus. The initiative began with the installation of three new water filling stations. Since then, more than two dozen stations have been installed in public locations across campus, with more planned in coming years.³

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 members of University administration launch a campus-wide water sustainability project to include the following:

1. To install environmentally sustainable and filtered water fountains/bottle filling stations similar to the Elkay fountains installed in the Pryzbla Center and Flather Hall in all academic buildings and student centers on campus where feasible.
2. To replace or repair all water fountains on campus that are dirty, damaged, outdated, or produce cloudy water, including but not limited to the fountains in Pangborn Hall and McCort Ward Hall.
3. To conduct an audit every two years of the drinking fountain water quality and address any problems discovered.
4. To work in conjunction with the Student Government Association in the creation and implementation of this Water Sustainability Project.

³<https://sustainability.georgetown.edu/drinklocal>

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

