

Resolution 007
A Resolution to Accommodate Students in Different Time Zones
Sponsored by: Senator Sijgers
Co-Sponsored by Senator Holcomb, Senator Marsden

Whereas,

Many Catholic University Students are taking courses from their homes in a virtual format.

Whereas,

The Catholic University of American has students from all over the United States of America and the world.¹

Whereas,

Students are being asked to take courses synchronously, regardless of their time zone and time difference.

Whereas,

This is a burden on students who must be present for courses at unreasonable times.²³

Whereas,

This burden extends beyond the student and also affects their families who are sharing the same living spaces as the students.

Whereas,

It is already considered unhealthy for students to take classes at 8am and 9am, and students in other time zones are taking classes earlier than 5am.⁴

Whereas,

Students are unable to learn effectively if they are in class at unreasonable hours of the day or night.⁵

Whereas,

There are other ways to ensure that those students learn course material and receive participation without being required to attend class at an unreasonable hour that would require small changes on behalf of the professor. For example: scheduling a weekly meeting during a mutually reasonable hour, recording lectures and posting them to Blackboard where their usage can be tracked, requiring discussion board posts, embedding quizzes in zoom recording, among other solutions.

¹ "At a Glance: The National Catholic University" The Catholic University of America. Accessed 4 November 2020. <https://www.catholic.edu/about-us/at-a-glance/index.html>

² Students having class at 5am, if they have an 8am on West coast, worse for Hawaii, Alaska, Guam, etc

³ "Students adjust to synchronous courses in various time zones" *The Post Athens*. Accessed 3 November 2020. <https://www.thepostathens.com/article/2020/09/synchronous-classes-ou-california-vietnam-timezones-virtual-learning>

⁴ "Early morning classes create a stressful semester" *The Daily Orange*. Accessed on 3 November 2020. <http://dailyorange.com/2020/01/early-morning-classes-create-stressful-semester/>

⁵ "Down With 8 A.M. Classes: Undergrads Learn Better Later In The Day, Study Finds" *NPR*. Accessed on 3 November 2020. <https://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2017/04/19/524348257/down-with-8-a-m-classes-undergrads-learn-better-later-in-the-day-study-finds>

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:

1. The University reminds professors to be considerate of their students that will be returning home to non-Eastern time zones after the Thanksgiving break.
2. Prior to the start of the Spring 2021 semester, Academic Departments reconsider their decision to require all students to attend class synchronously and institute accommodations for students residing in a non-Eastern Time Zone.

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

Gerald Sharpe
President of the Student Government Association

Gemma del Carmen
Vice President of the Student Government Association

