

Resolution 018
A Resolution to Clarify University Policy on Binge Drinking
Sponsored by: Senator Harrison
Co-Sponsored by: Senator Farrell, Senator Marsden, Senator Paviglianiti,
and Senator Schlee

Whereas,

According to The Catholic University of America's Dean of Students' website, "[b]inge drinking is defined as 5 drinks in one sitting for a man, and 4 drinks for a woman."¹

Whereas,

According to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "[b]inge drinking is defined as a pattern of drinking that brings a person's blood alcohol concentration (BAC) to 0.08 g/dl or above. This typically happens when men consume 5 or more drinks or women consume 4 or more drinks in about 2 hours."²

Whereas,

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), the official governmental agency to "generate and disseminate fundamental knowledge about the effects of alcohol on health and well-being," states the same definition for binge drinking as the CDC.³

Whereas,

Catholic University's definition harbors confusion in what is considered "one sitting," instead of stating a clear timeframe such as the CDC and the NIAAA.

Whereas,

Students frequently participate in activities with their friends that either involve drinking for a span of longer than two hours or going to multiple activities within a two hour span. This creates a discrepancy between The Catholic University of America's policy and the official information provided by the CDC and NIAAA.

Whereas,

Binge drinking is dangerous for both the individual drinking and for the larger University community. As the NIAAA states, "[b]inge drinking is clearly dangerous for the drinker and for society."⁴

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 the University clarify its policy on binge drinking to clearly and accurately reflect the definition provided by the CDC

¹<https://deanofstudents.catholic.edu/wellness/alcohol/misusing.html#:~:text=Binge%20drinking%20is%20defined%20as,4%20drinks%20for%20a%20woman.&text=Drinking%20to%20the%20point%20of%20blacking%20out%20or%20passing%20out>

²<https://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/fact-sheets/binge-drinking.htm>

³https://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/Newsletter/winter2004/Newsletter_Number3.pdf

⁴https://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/Newsletter/winter2004/Newsletter_Number3.pdf

and the NIAAA. This clarification should be reflected across all official University policy, communication, and promotional material.

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

