

**Resolution 002**  
**A Resolution to Implement an Africana Studies Program**  
**Sponsored by: Senator Marsden**  
**Co-Sponsored by: Senator Ahearn, Senator Sijgers, Senator Bracey, Senator Birth**

***Whereas,***

The Catholic University of America does not currently have an Africana Studies Program.

***Whereas,***

Universities that Catholic University often compares itself to have Africana Studies major and minor programs, such as Boston College,<sup>1</sup> George Washington University,<sup>2</sup> and Villanova University.<sup>3</sup>

***Whereas,***

The University only offers two courses with a specific focus and intent to educate about the Black community.<sup>4</sup>

***Whereas,***

The University has several programs that explore cultural or racial identity and history for specific communities such as Irish, French, Islamic World, and Latin American Studies.<sup>5</sup>

***Whereas,***

Education is formative, every student needs mechanisms to be able to explore their identity and ancestors in an academic context.<sup>6</sup>

***Whereas,***

Catholic Social teaching emphasizes the Call to Family, Community, and Participation;<sup>7</sup> The Catholic University of America course offerings should be representative of every member of the University community.

***Whereas,***

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<sup>1</sup> “African and African Diaspora Studies,” Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences (Boston College), accessed October 16, 2020, <https://www.bc.edu/bc-web/schools/mcas/sites/aads.html>.

<sup>2</sup> “Africana Studies,” Columbian College of Arts & Sciences (The George Washington University), accessed October 16, 2020, <https://africanastudies.columbian.gwu.edu/>.

<sup>3</sup> “Africana Studies Program,” Liberal Arts & Sciences (Villanova University), accessed October 16, 2020, <https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/artsci/africana.html>.

<sup>4</sup> (Catholic University SGA Research Committee, n.d.), [https://docs.google.com/document/d/11Q2\\_N\\_Z-8-OchfE3WjgrJF-TQ7fFEhF1hytD6pnUhg4/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/11Q2_N_Z-8-OchfE3WjgrJF-TQ7fFEhF1hytD6pnUhg4/edit?usp=sharing).

<sup>5</sup> “Undergraduate Minors and Certificate Programs,” Arts and Sciences (The Catholic University of America), accessed October 17, 2020, <https://arts-sciences.catholic.edu/academics/undergraduate-programs/minors/index.html>.

<sup>6</sup> Beverly Daniel Tatum, “A Psychologist's Perspective,” in *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?: Revised Edition* (New York, NY: Basic Books, 2017), pp. 74-79.

<sup>7</sup> “Call to Family Community and Participation,” Community/Participation (United States Catholic Conference of Bishops), accessed October 16, 2020, <https://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/call-to-family-community-and-participation>.

Catholic University is located in the neighborhood of Brookland, a largely Black community, and has a responsibility to educate and participate in the community of which it resides in as a University.

**Whereas,**

An Africana Studies program will educate and benefit all students about the African Diaspora and history without the context of colonization that is most widely used in education systems.

**Whereas,**

There are currently no academic programs at our University that represent the history, culture, and academia specifically about and in the context of African civilization and taught by Black people.

**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 begin an Africana Studies program at the Catholic University of America.

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*

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Gemma del Carmen  
*Vice President of the Student Government Association*

