

Resolution 020

A Resolution to Enhance the Center for Academic and Career Success

Sponsored by: Senator Schlee

**Co-Sponsored by: Senator Farrell, Senator Drauschak, Senator Kazanci,
Senator Bowman, Senator Martin, Senator Besendorfer, Senator Crnkovich,
Senator Buckley, Senator Lackey, and Senator Holcomb**

Whereas,

The Center for Career and Academic Success (CACS) is an office on campus that provides students with resources for academic and career advising, academic planning, and career development for all undergraduate students.¹

Whereas,

CACS is meant to provide students assistance as they navigate requirements prescribed both by the liberal arts curriculum and by their program of study.

Whereas,

This past year the office as a whole has experienced significant turnover with their staff and advisors, leaving large populations of the student body without an advisor during course registration periods.

Whereas,

This turnover has been negatively impacting the student population for some time as many upperclassmen students have had up to three different CACS advisors over the course of their three years attending the University.

Whereas,

During the weeks leading up to registration periods for the next semester's courses, scheduling a meeting with an advisor in CACS is difficult, as the availability is limited due to much higher demand.

Whereas,

Students do not always need a full meeting to be ready for course registration, rather only need a few minutes of their advisor's time to ask a few questions.

Whereas,

Advisors within CACS often do not have all the updated information regarding major, minor, and liberal arts curriculum requirements and which specific courses qualify for certain requirements.

Whereas,

The University website is not consistently updated to reflect the changes in requirements that are being made in specific programs to account for the courses that are being currently offered at the university.

¹ <https://success.catholic.edu/>

Whereas,

There are little to no user-friendly resources for students to see their own course requirements and how to build their own course schedule in a strategic manner in order to graduate on time. In addition, the online tracking system for advisors and faculty to see a student's requirements has become outdated and no longer usable.

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. Long term goals be as followed:
 - a. The University takes steps to shift the primary responsibility for major-specific academic advising away from the Center for Academic and Career Success to the departments within each academic school after the first semester.
 - b. The University adjusts their future budgets to account for the transition of providing a central advisor, for each academic school or department who can have the specialized knowledge in those related subjects in order to provide a higher calibre of advising.
 - c. The University establishes a streamline procedure for selecting advisors within each department to ensure that all students receive a high quality advising experience.
 - d. Especially within a student's final two years of education at the University, CACS should prioritize taking an active role in assisting students to plan out their post graduation related endeavors, which includes, but is not limited to, providing robust professional development and connections to internship opportunities.
2. Short term goals be as followed:
 - a. That there be greater communication between heads of each department and their designated advisors in CACS. This would be done by providing a monthly update to their advisors at CACS regarding updates or changes.
 - b. That a user-friendly and clearly communicated tracking resource in the form of an electronic sheet or physical document be created by CACS in conjunction with the various departments. Additionally, that this resource be fully advertised and circulated to all students for their own personal course planning.
 - c. All CACS advisors organize a set of Pop-Up Advising hours located in the Pryzbyla Center or other common spaces outside of the CACS office. This would be for students to drop by for short questions and concerns that do not require a full meeting and those hours would be clearly communicated and marketed to all students.
 - d. More resources and information be provided to students regarding the preparation necessary for any additional educational opportunities like Law School, Medical School, accelerated graduate programs, and fellowships.
 - e. That the University website and Cardinal Station be consistently updated whenever changes in graduation requirements or courses provided by the University are made. In addition, an audit of all course registration related electronic resources be completed each semester at least a week before the earliest class registration date.
 - f. Due to its essential role in career advising, CACS actively seeks the recruitment of advisors experienced in the various professional fields that students are interested in

working in for the purpose of having more success applying for internships and jobs related to the field.

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

Abigail Anger
President of the Student Government Association

Monica Wallace
Vice President of the Student Government Association

