

Resolution 028
A Resolution to Increase Transparency with the On-Campus Housing Requirement

Sponsored by: Senator Besendorfer

Co-Sponsored by: Senator Birth, Senator Michels, Senator Schlee

Whereas,

“The Catholic University of America requires that all full-time, degree-seeking undergraduate students live in on-campus housing – to the extent that housing is available – for the first six semesters of enrollment (to include fall and spring semesters only)”.¹

Whereas,

The only exceptions being considered are students who reside with a parent or legal guardian within 20 miles of campus, are 23 years of age or older, are completing a University-sponsored study abroad program during a fall or spring semester, and transfer students who have complete residency at a previous institution.²

Whereas,

The last time the Student Housing Eligibility Policy was updated was November 12, 2021 and while reflected on the university’s website, no further efforts were made to ensure that the student body was aware of these significant changes.³

Whereas,

It is standard that students start to explore future housing options at the onset of the spring semester.

Whereas,

In 2019, The Catholic University of America announced a change to their on-campus housing policy, requiring juniors to live on campus, starting with the Class of 2023.

Whereas,

Before entering the University, the Class of 2024 signed a contract with The Catholic University of America’s housing services agreeing to live in on campus residence housing for their freshman, sophomore, and junior years.

Whereas,

The Class of 2024 entered this contract with the impression that there would be a newly built residence hall by Spring 2022 regardless of any delays the COVID-19 pandemic would cause.⁴

¹ <https://policies.catholic.edu/students/studentlife/housing/index.html>

² <https://housing.catholic.edu/on-campus/forms/residency-exemption-request.html>

³ <https://policies.catholic.edu/students/studentlife/housing/index.html>

⁴ <http://cuatower.com/2020/04/class-of-2023-no-longer-required-to-live-on-campus-for-three-years-policy-shifts-to-class-of-2024/>

Whereas,

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the University has made many exceptions to their on-campus housing requirement to accommodate the Class of 2023's unique circumstance, ultimately allowing more housing freedom for many members of the Class of 2023 by being more lenient with honoring exceptions, especially those who had already entered a contract for other off campus housing.

Whereas,

Now, the Class of 2024 will be the first graduating class to fully experience the effects of the updated housing policy that was enacted in 2019.

Whereas,

There is no precedent as to how the University would typically assign residence halls to sufficiently accommodate three full classes.

Whereas,

Executive Director of Housing Services, Tim Carney confirmed what most students assumed: "The policy goes into effect for the incoming freshman class (fall 2024): without the new building there would not be enough beds on campus".⁵

Whereas,

The University has experienced housing shortages in the past, for example "Back in the 1990s, twenty-six trailers were placed on Curley Court to house an overflow of students—this was before the grand Opus Hall was built to accommodate the incoming numbers".⁶

Whereas,

Due to the potential shortages many members of the Catholic University of America community, especially the Class of 2024 are fearful that there will not be enough space in the residence halls to accommodate all students currently mandated to reside on campus.

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. Housing services explicitly lay out a clear and plausible plan to house the Class of 2024, Class of 2025 and the Class of 2026 in the upcoming academic year, that is shared with the undergraduate student body as soon as possible.
2. If a plan to do this can not clearly be laid out and shared, a similar process should be in place to the leniency that was taken with the class of 2023's housing exemption.
3. Housing Services reconsiders their advertising efforts to clearly communicate and advertise the actual policies and be transparent about the situation.
4. The university continually updates the website to reflect current policy and housing options in a timely manner and communicate these changes to the university community.

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

⁵<http://cuatower.com/2020/04/class-of-2023-no-longer-required-to-live-on-campus-for-three-years-policy-shifts-to-class-of-2024/>

⁶ <https://www.lib.cua.edu/wordpress/newsevents/5997/>

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