

Resolution 052

A Resolution to Include Content Warnings on Course Syllabi

Sponsored by: Senator Michels

Co-Sponsored by: Senator Birth, Senator Cunningham, Senator Holcomb,
Senator Kwiatek, Senator Suarez

Whereas,

All course syllabi are supposed to include information pertaining to semester plans, university policies, and university resources.

Whereas,

Having outlined courses' plans for the semester in each syllabus, professors are familiar with the content they are presenting and know exactly when certain items will be presented.

Whereas,

Professors are occasionally forced to include sensitive content (i.e. sexual assault, sexual violence, suicide, racism, etc.) in their material as it pertains to the topics that must be discussed in order to meet course objectives. When this transpires, some professors offer students the option to excuse themselves from the room if they wish.

Whereas,

While allowing students to have the option to step out of the room is productive, it can often make many students feel uncomfortable having to identify themselves as people who find the material to be sensitive.

Whereas,

It would be more beneficial for students to be aware prior to class that sensitive content is going to be discussed, as opposed to when the presentation of the content starts.

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:

1. The Office of the Provost requires content warnings to be included in each course's syllabus noting which class meetings contain such content if sensitive material will be presented in the course during the semester.
2. If a professor makes a change to their syllabus after the semester starts, sensitive content warnings shall be included in those changes if applicable.
3. Professors shall be more aware of when sensitive topics come up in discussions and handle them in a professional manner.

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

