

Resolution 010

A Resolution to Add the Metro U-Pass to 2026-2027 University Budget and

Explore Corporate Sponsorship

Sponsored by: Senator Hermes

Co-Sponsored by: Senator Colquitt, Senator Bonney, Senator Janssen,

Senator Sinodinos

Whereas,

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) offers a U-Pass program that grants full-time students unlimited rides on Metrorail and Metrobus during the semester for a fee equivalent to about \$1 per day, included in tuition or student fees.¹

Whereas,

Participating in U-Pass programs has been shown to increase public transit use, reduce reliance on single-occupancy vehicles, lower parking demand, and support equitable access to jobs, internships, and cultural resources across metropolitan regions.²

Whereas,

The Catholic University of America is uniquely situated in Washington, D.C., with direct access to the Brookland–CUA Metro Station on the Red Line, and already promotes sustainable transit options including the campus shuttle and Capital Bikeshare partnerships.³

Whereas,

In 2017, SGA Senate 2 passed Resolution 2-027, formally requesting Catholic University to join the WMATA U-Pass program for the first time.⁴

Whereas,

Four years later, in 2021, SGA Senate 7 passed Resolution 7-026, formally requesting Catholic University to join the WMATA U-Pass program.⁵

Whereas,

Four years have passed since Resolution 026, resulting in complete undergraduate student body turnover, with current students having had no opportunity to formally express their position on this critical transit affordability issue.

Whereas,

In 2024, SGA conducted campus-wide polling which showed overwhelming student support for the U-Pass, demonstrating that demand for affordable metro access remains strong among current students.

¹ <https://www.wmata.com/fares/Metros-University-Pass-Program.cfm>

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal_transit_pass

³ <https://transportation.catholic.edu/transportation/sustainable.html>

⁴ <https://sga.catholic.edu/senate/legislation/legislation-2016-2017/resolution-2-027-sent-to-committee.pdf>

⁵ <https://sga.catholic.edu/senate/2021-2022-senate-legislation-tracker.pdf>

Whereas,

Recent SGA Executive Teams have consistently prioritized transit affordability in their platforms, held discussions with University administration, and laid groundwork for formal proposals of U-Pass.

Whereas,

University administration has recently indicated openness to reconsidering U-Pass implementation, making this a critical moment for the current student body to reaffirm their support and provide an updated democratic mandate for this initiative.

Whereas,

The Catholic University of America's location in Washington, D.C. provides access to a wide range of major employers and government agencies, many of which already recruit Catholic University students for internships and full-time positions, presenting opportunities for mutually beneficial partnerships that could help offset student costs for the U-Pass program.

Be it resolved 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 approve the addition of the WMATA "Metro Pass" into the 2026-2027 Budget.

Be it further resolved 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 actively explore strategic partnerships with major employers and organizations in the Washington, D.C. area, whereby companies could sponsor or subsidize the cost of the U-Pass program in exchange for mutually beneficial opportunities such as internship placements, recruitment pipelines, or community engagement initiatives.

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

Michael Kish

President of the Student Government Association

Catherine Weatherwax

Vice President of the Student Government Association