

Resolution 028

A Resolution to Implement an Asian American Studies Program

Sponsored by: Senator Marsden

Co-Sponsored by: Senator Ahearn, Senator Birth, Senator Holcomb, Senator Sijgers, Senator Zentz

Whereas,

Asian American Studies draws on courses from multiple disciplines to study the unique experiences, cultures, history, and lives of the Asian American community in the United States while recognizing and educating on the diversity within the Asian American community.

Whereas,

The Catholic University of America does not currently have an Asian American Studies Minor.

Whereas,

The current Asian Studies Program is centered on East Asia and does not encompass the diversity within Asia nor address the unique breadth of experiences of the Asian American community in the United States.¹

Whereas,

Universities that Catholic University often compares itself to have Asian American Studies Programs such as Boston College,² University of Maryland, College Park,³ and George Washington University is in the process of implementing a program.⁴

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.⁵

Whereas,

¹"Minor in Asian Studies," School of Arts & Sciences (Catholic University), <https://arts-sciences.catholic.edu/academics/interdisciplinary/asian-studies/index.html>

²"Asian American Studies Program," Morrissey College of Arts & Sciences (Boston College), <https://www.bc.edu/bc-web/schools/mcas/sites/asian-am-studies.html>

³"Asian American Studies Program," Office of Undergraduate Studies (University of Maryland), <https://www.aast.umd.edu>.

⁴Carly Neilson, "Officials Reviewing Asian American Studies Minor Proposal," The GW Hatchet (https://www.gwhatchet.com, November 2, 2020), <https://www.gwhatchet.com/2020/11/02/ccas-officials-vetting-asian-american-studies-minor-amid-student-push/>.

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

The University already offers some regularly taught courses that may be used for the formation of this minor.⁶

Whereas,

Education is formative, therefore, every student needs mechanisms to be able to explore their identity and ancestors in an academic context.⁷

Whereas,

Catholic Social teaching emphasizes the Call to Family, Community, and Participation;⁸ The Catholic University of America course offerings should be representative of every member of the University community.

Whereas,

The entire University community can benefit from having an Asian American Studies Minor through an interdisciplinary approach where some classes may count toward other major requirements while educating the student body on the culture, history, experiences, and diversity within members of the Asian American community in the United States.

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 implement an Asian American Studies Minor in the School of Arts and Sciences.

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

Gemma del Carmen
Vice President of the Student Government Association

⁶"Catholic University Potential Course Offerings for Asian American Studies," March 2021. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Hpg-6DZsjtwe-MhVRUQ74Tdu39gkxxxanivdk3SqHZY/edit?usp=sharing>
⁷ 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.
⁸ "Call to Family Community and Participation," Community/Participation (United States Catholic Conference of Bishops), <https://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/call-to-family-community-and-participation>.