

Resolution 011

A Resolution to Expand and Relocate the Cardinal Closet for Greater Student Accessibility

Sponsored by: Senator Bonney

Co-Sponsored by: Senator Janssen, Senator Vanraes, Senator Shehadeh

Whereas,

The Cardinal Closet serves as a vital campus resource by providing free, good-quality clothing, accessories, and professional attire to students who may otherwise face financial barriers to obtaining such items, thereby fostering equity, inclusivity, and student well-being.¹

Whereas,

The current location of the Cardinal Closet is not centrally situated and may present accessibility challenges for students, particularly those with limited mobility, busy class schedules, or work commitments, thereby limiting the number of students able to benefit from this essential resource.²

Whereas,

The existing hours of operation for the Cardinal Closet are limited, reducing opportunities for students to visit, donate, and engage with this service outside of their academic and employment responsibilities;

Whereas,

Relocating the Cardinal Closet to a more visible and accessible area—such as within or near a central student hub, like the Pryzbyla Center—would significantly enhance its presence, improve access, and encourage broader student engagement and participation.³

Whereas,

Expanding the Cardinal Closet aligns with the mission and values of The Catholic University of America, particularly the principles of service, stewardship, and care for creation, by promoting responsible resource use and the equitable distribution of essential goods.

Whereas,

Fast fashion and the rapid turnover of low-cost clothing have well-documented negative environmental impacts, including textile waste, water pollution, and unsustainable labor practices, and increasing awareness of these issues through campus initiatives such as the Cardinal Closet directly contributes to the University's sustainability goals.⁴

Whereas,

Encouraging a culture of reuse, clothing donation, and second-hand shopping supports environmental sustainability while fostering a compassionate and community-oriented campus culture that benefits all students.⁵

Be it enacted that,

¹ <https://ministry.catholic.edu/serve/charitable-services/cardinal-closet/index.html>

² <https://cuatower.com/2023/10/how-has-cardinal-closet-changed-this-year/>

³ https://business.catholic.edu/news/2025/04/getting-dressed-for-success.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com

⁴ <https://www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling/textiles-material-specific-data>

⁵ <https://facilities.catholic.edu/sustainability/get-involved-students.html>

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 Office of Student Affairs, in coordination with the Center for Student Engagement and Facilities Management, identifies and approves a new, more accessible location for the Cardinal Closet that ensures visibility, ease of access, and appropriate storage capacity.
- The University establishes expanded and consistent operating hours for the Cardinal Closet to allow for more regular access by students, including potential weekend or extended evening hours.
- The Student Government Association collaborates with the Cardinal Closet and the Office of Sustainability to develop a long-term promotional campaign that educates the student body on the environmental and social benefits of clothing reuse, donation, and sustainable consumption.
- The University considers allocating funding or student employment positions to support the sustained operation and management of the Cardinal Closet.

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

Matthew Moskowski
Vice President of the Student Government Association