

Resolution 007

A Resolution to Include Retreats as an Excused Absence

Sponsored by: Senator Besendorfer

**Co-Sponsored by: Senator Bert, Senator Corey, Senator Curioso, Senator Kish,
Senator Suarez**

Whereas,

We are The Catholic University of America (CUA), uniquely being the national university of the Catholic Church founded by U.S. bishops and the only university affiliated with the Vatican.

Whereas,

On CUA's website, part of our mission is stated as "The Catholic University of America is committed to being a comprehensive Catholic and American institution of higher learning, faithful to the teachings of Jesus Christ as handed on by the Church. Dedicated to advancing the dialogue between faith and reason, The Catholic University of America seeks to discover and impart the truth through excellence in teaching and research, all in service to the Church, the nation and the world."¹

Whereas,

As our excused absence policy currently stands, it only includes "Students who represent the University in intercollegiate competitive events or in artistic performances at which their presence is requested by a University official are entitled to excused absences from classes missed [and] Students who are members of the Department of Defense as military personnel (defined as Active Duty, National Guard or Reserve component service members) are entitled to excused absences from classes missed with the production of military orders or a unit battle assembly/drill schedule."²

Whereas,

Campus Ministry puts on many events, some of those including religious retreats for discernments being offered, that many students would like to attend as they wish to continue to grow their Catholic faith.

Whereas,

Currently, religious retreats for discernments are not a valid excused absence, forcing students to choose between their faith growth and being marked for unexcused absences in their classes.

Whereas,

Many students choose to attend CUA knowing the unique opportunities offered here to allow them to continue their education and grow their faith without having to compromise either.

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 <https://www.catholic.edu/about-us/at-a-glance/index.html>

² <https://policies.catholic.edu/students/academicundergrad/classabsenceintercollegiateevents.html>

1. The University amends their excused absences policy to also include students who are attending religious retreats for discernments.

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

Anthony Crnkovich
President of the Student Government Association

Maevis Fahey
Vice President of the Student Government Association

