



# The Catholic University of America Student Government Association 2022-2023 Senate Session 8-3

October 24, 2022  
8:15 p.m. – 10:15 p.m. EST

## ROLL CALL

**Vice President** - Maevis Fahey

**Secretaries** – Gary Van Pelt and

Natalie Zentz

**Parliamentarian** - Jon Norman

### **Class of 2023**

Curtis Bommer   X  

Matthew Drauschak   X  

### **Class of 2024**

Jamie Besendorfer   X  

Matthew Michels   X  

### **Class of 2025**

Neil D'Attelo   X  

Ashley Martin   X  

### **Class of 2026**

Michael Kish   X  

Bennett Bert   X  

### **School of Architecture**

Hess Djilioni   X  

Marisol Zayas   X  

### **School of Arts and Sciences**

Jordan Gehrig   X  

Jack Kruger   X  

### **School of Business**

Ryan Downing   A  

Samantha Phillips   X  

### **School of Engineering**

Luke Bubel   X  

Allison Ewing   X  

### **School of Music, Drama, and Art**

Anthony Curioso   X  

Daniel Campbell   X  

### **School of Nursing**

Cristian Henriquez   X  

Olivia Musick   A  

### **School of Philosophy**

Liam Foley   X  

Charlie Tamayo   X  

### **School of Social Service**

Michael McCarthy   X  

Ash Samuels   X  

### **School of Theology**

Ryan Corey   X  

Andrea Suarez   X  

### **Key:**

X- Here, A- Absent

**CALL TO ORDER -- ROLL CALL**

**8:15 PM**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**8:16 PM**

**PRAYER**

**8:17 PM**

**Senator Philips** opens up in prayer with a Hail Mary.

**1. Public Comment**

**8:18 PM**

**Corey Crawford**, Director of Disability Support Services Executive Initiative, speaks in support of Resolution 008. As he speaks tonight, Millennium North's elevator is currently out. He says this is a serious issue and encourages those to support the resolution.

**3. Adoption of Agenda**

**8:24 PM**

Motion to adopt the agenda by Senator Suarez and seconded by Senator Besendorfer

Vote on adoption itself→ Adoption passes

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**8:24 PM**

Motion to approve by Senator Michels and seconded by Senator Martin

Vote on approval of meeting minutes for Senate 8-2→ Approval Passes

**5. New Business**

**A. Committee Chair Updates**

**8:25 PM**

i. Senator Besendorfer, Rules and Administration

**Senator Besendorfer** thanks Vice President Fahey. She says her committee did not meet this week as there were only a couple of days in between meetings. The committee members have numerous resolutions in works, including a bylaw change.

ii. Senator Gehrig, Academic Affairs

**Senator Gehrig** thanks Vice President Fahey. They also did not meet this week, but the senators are working on great resolutions. Senator Ewing is working on expanding the market hours. Senator Henriquez is working on adjusting the nursing schools registration. Also, Senator Samuels first resolution is hitting the floor tonight. She says she is proud of all the senators and the work they have done.

iii. Senator Martin, University Services

**Senator Martin** thanks Vice President Fahey. The committee did not meet this week, but have many resolutions in work. She says she is working on increasing international credit options in

the school of art. One senator is working on recycling bins.

iv. Senator Michels, Student Resources

**Senator Michels** thanks Vice President Fahey, and says his committee did not meet this week. The senators have several resolutions they are working on. Senator Bommer is working on tracking overhaul with advising all on the same page. Senator Michels says his resolution about Title IX is hitting the floor tonight.

v. Senator Drauschak, Campus Life

**Senator Drauschak** thanks Vice President Fahey. He says his committee also did not meet. He has a few updates: Senator Curioso has his first resolution hitting the floor tonight about elevator safety and maintenance, and has worked closely with DSS. Also, Senator Bert is looking into expanding visitation hours during holidays and another senator is working on expanding gluten free options in the pryz.

**B. Senator Curioso, School of Music, Drama & Art (Resolution 008) 8:30 PM**

i. Resolution to Ensure the Safety and Maintenance of Campus Elevators

**Senator Curioso** thanks Vice President Fahey. This is his first resolution as the main sponsor, and he thanks his fabulous co-sponsors. He cares deeply about this resolution as it directly impacts him. He explains one instance where the elevator in the pryz was out of service, along with the elevator down to Murphy's Grill. He was unable to get food that night. He came back the next day and the elevator was still not operating. Senator Bubel, working at the help desk, told him he could use the service elevator to get up to the Eatery. Unfortunately, the elevator had a strong smell of cigarettes and the Eatery workers were upset with him using it, as it leads directly into the kitchen. Once again, he was unable to get food. He explains many students have complained about the elevators not working. For example, Millennium North's elevator is broken as he speaks, and the Flather elevator broke the second week of classes. He states the original resolution discussed many items, but through speaking with DSS and his committee chair, they decided to focus on elevators at the current moment. He spoke with Karen Porter, Executive Director of Facilities Maintenance and Operations, who explained the elevator maintenance reports are filed in the Facilities Department and is willing to place them in the elevators. Also, he says information posters will be made to explain what to do in an event the elevator breaks down. He concludes this resolution promotes a culture of life on campus, providing accessibility to all students.

**Senator Besendorfer** applauds Senator Curioso on his first resolution. She states you can tell Senator Curioso is very dedicated to the resolution, placing great thought and research into it. She says she cannot imagine the burden of the elevators not working and not having access. She concludes her cousin got stuck in the Millennium North elevator.

**Senator D'Atello** applauds Senator Curioso for the resolution. He says Senator Curioso included specific language in the resolution, making it easy to understand. He says inspections are a great idea, so elevators like Flather do not break down. He concludes the resolution was well done and is a great idea.

**Senator Samuels** states the resolution was well done, very detailed and clear to the point. They personally has a first floor accommodation for Millenium North, and could not imagine not having an operating elevator. They has a difficult time climbing stairs, so they could not enter their room without the elevator.

**Senator Bubel** says the resolution is great and will definitely vote yes. He appreciates the shout out from Senator Curioso in his speech. He says Senator Curioso had great research and is very passionate about the resolution.

Motion to vote by Senator Besendorfer and seconded by Senator Foley

Vote on Resolution 008 → vote passes with 24 yay's and 2 absent

Yay's: Bommer, Drauschak, Besendorfer, Michels, D'Attelo, Martin, Kish, Bert, Djilioni, Zayas, Gehrig, Kruger, Phillips, Bubel, Ewing, Campbell, Curioso, Henriquez, Foley, Tamayo, McCarthy, Samuels, Corey, Suarez.

Absent: Downing and Musick

### **C. Senator Michels, Class of 2024 (Resolution 009)**

**8:40 PM**

- i. A Resolution to Ensure the Campus Community is Adequately Informed on Sexual Offense Procedures

**Senator Michels** thanks Vice President Fahey. He says half a century ago, in 1972, Title IX of the Civil Rights Act was passed, protecting discrimination based on sex. He reads what Title IX states, "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." However, Senator Michels says this is a federal statute, not set by the University. He says the University has two separate grievance procedures when filing complaints. Offenses outside Title IX are sent to the University's own Grievance Procedure for Non-Title IX Sexual Offenses. This is not just for sexual offenses, but also gender equality. He states past students have made reports that the administration has misguided them to file Title IX complaints that did not meet the parameters. Senator Michels says he has personally met with Dean Love and learned the process. He explains how a report is made: a formal complaint is filed, then DPS opens an investigation and determines if the offense meets the Title IX parameters. Oftentimes, a complaint is filed as Title IX, but does not actually meet the requirements, so then it is dismissed. He says this is a strenuous process for students, and it does not help if the administration is not well informed. Senator Michels states the resolution will help provide accurate information and appropriate support for students.

**Senator Kruger** thanks Senator Michels and says he supports the resolution. He asks for clarification of the third Be It Enacted clause, asking what the public announcement will look like. Will it be through social media, or a PEERS event?

**Senator Michels** responds he has not gone into detail with PEERS regarding this announcement. He says he does not have legislation over them, so it is up to them to decide, but they will work together. He states PEERS and Dean Love hold many workshops, so the announcement might fall in one of those. Senator Michels the announcement could be word of mouth, one of these

workshops, or a PEERS campaign.

**Senator Bommer** says during team captain orientation, Dean Love addresses the proper course of action and includes flow charts. He says this speech was extremely helpful, providing captains the steps to aid fellow teammates and students.

**Senator Curioso** commends Senator Michels for the resolution. He says it speaks for many students who have never gone through the process. He states the process is confusing for someone who just experienced a horrific event.

**Senator Michels** responds the initial report can be a lot. He says they give you a packet with policies and two separate procedures: Title IX and Non-Title IX. He states staff should not be advising students for Title IX if it does not meet the parameters.

**Senator Kish** thanks Senator Michels and says he supports the resolution. He says the resolution is thorough and shows great care for this issue. He asks who in the administration you talk to about this, and if RA's are a part of the process.

**Senator Michels** responds that these instances fall with the Dean of Students and associates. He says RA's only report cases to administration, they do not provide advice on how to file reports.

**Senator Gehrig** says she is an RA and is trained in this area. She says once an RA is told something, they report it. She says last year she navigated a situation like this. It was stressful as a new freshman, so the resolution will make the process easier. Student's will not go through a process that does not need to happen.

**Senator Phillips** says she appreciates the resolution, and tells Senator Michels he did a great job and has her full support. She says she understands how sad this can be for students, and PEERS does a great job. She questions the legality of this resolution, specifically the third Be It Enacted clause. Based on legality, she asks if this clause can be done.

**Senator Michels** responds he would be willing to work with her regarding legality. He says the University is there to step in when the law is not being utilized. He states students should know the University is there to support them. He says the resolution provides students with the appropriate advice and guidance.

Motion to vote by Senator Martin and seconded by Senator Drauschak

Vote on Resolution 009 → vote passes with 24 yay's and 2 absent

Yay's: Bommer, Drauschak, Besendorfer, Michels, D'Attelo, Martin, Kish, Bert, Djilioni, Zayas, Gehrig, Kruger, Phillips, Bubel, Ewing, Campbell, Curioso, Henriquez, Foley, Tamayo, McCarthy, Samuels, Corey, Suarez.

Absent: Downing and Musick

#### **D. Senator Samuels, School of Social Service (Resolution 010)**

**9:55 PM**

- i. A Resolution to Update the On-Campus Holocaust Memorial

**Senator Samuels** says she'll be brief because she thinks the resolution explains this well. She says many people she spoke with did not know what this Holocaust Memorial was, and those who did know there was a statue in that location did not know it was a Holocaust memorial. She says if want to honor the victims of the Holocaust and truly stand by our message that this will never happen again, the memorial should be renovated.

**Senator Curioso** says this is a great cause and is happy to cosponsor this resolution.

**Senator Kruger** supports this resolution and its cause and commends Matt Walsh, who spoke out against anti-Semitism at a recent event on campus.

**Senator Campbell** thanks the sponsors, but he says he did not know this statue existed at all. He says we need to do more to condemn the Holocaust. He asks for specifics about the resolution. He asks where the memorial would be placed, what will it look like, how much will it cost, and when will it happen.

**Senator Samuels** says she reached out to someone who oversees all memorials on campus and she then passed it on to her team. She says they were unclear on what is the easiest thing to do with the memorial. She says it would not be hard to move this memorial, given its small size, and she wants to be involved in the process but she'll leave it up to those who have to move it to do what is best for it. Therefore, she wanted to leave out specifics.

**Senator Besendorfer** says she has concerns about the lack of specifics, she asks what the costs of this would be. Additionally, she asks if this will affect any walkways on campus, given that there is already so much construction.

**Senator Samuels** says she is not part of budgeting and does not think it will affect walkways. She says she too was upset with the lack of response that she got, but she was told it was okay to bring forward the resolution to the Senate.

**Senator Curioso** says if this resolution is passed, details of this resolution will be discussed.

**Senator Bommer** asks where would this statue be placed, given that the McMahon parking lot will not exist, according to CUA's 10-year plan.

**Senator Samuels** makes an assumption by saying that the most likely option would be to add to the current memorial rather than move it.

**Senator Drauschak** says this is a great resolution but is concerned with the lack of information from the administration and the sponsors. He says it would be best if this resolution was sent back to the committee, and motions to do so.

Motion to send Resolution 010 back to committee by Senator Drauschak and second by Senator Gehrig → Passes

**Senator Besendorfer** says that the message is great and thinks it should be done correctly and in detail, but given all the assumptions about money structural changes she cannot vote for the resolution as it currently stands, and therefore will vote to send it back to the committee.

**Senator Bert** says there is a lack of information on this resolution. He suggests that an event to commemorate the Holocaust would be better than moving the memorial as a whole.

**Senator Corey** says an event could be better, but he does not like that the memorial is so hidden and says we need to give this memorial the honor it deserves rather than holding events. He says the details of this resolution need to be sharpened.

**Senator Djilioni** says he is in favor of this resolution, but the location of the new memorial needs to be clarified before he votes on the final resolution. He says sending the resolution back to the committee would be best.

**Senator Ewing** thanks Senator Samuels and says this memorial should be significant. She agrees that this resolution should go back to committee.

**Senator Kish** says going back to the committee is something he will support, adding that he always looked at this statue and wondered what it was. He says the location may not be so bad and says we are called to respect everyone's dignity. He says expanding the current memorial could save time and money

**Senator Samuels** clarifies and says this would not go through the SGA's budget.

**Senator Foley** says he agrees with almost everything that his fellow Senators have said and says if it goes back to committee, the senate could refine the details. He says if the sign next to the memorial was bigger, it would be more noticeable. He says a new garden and new statue would bring greater honor and remembrance to the victims of the Holocaust. He says memorializing the Catholic martyrs that were killed in the Holocaust will be fitting as well.

Motion to vote by Senator Besendorfer and seconded by Senator Bommer

Vote on Resolution 010 → vote passes with 24 yay's and 2 absent

Yay's: Bommer, Drauschak, Besendorfer, Michels, D'Attelo, Martin, Kish, Bert, Djilioni, Zayas, Gehrig, Kruger, Phillips, Bubel, Ewing, Campbell, Curioso, Henriquez, Foley, Tamayo, McCarthy, Samuels, Corey, Suarez.

Absent: Downing and Musick

- i. A Resolution to Establish the Usage of an Online App for the On-Campus Starbucks

**Senator Drauschak** explains that his resolution is straightforward. The on-campus Starbucks location does not currently have the option for students to mobile order. He says the reserve has the option to pay on their phone and says it would alleviate stress for students and workers orders could come in in advance, rather than having a big line. He says he had a successful meeting with Sarah Guixens, the Resident District Manager of Dining Services. He says he learned that this mobile ordering feature will be implemented in January regardless of whether the resolution passes.

**Senator Martin** says she enjoys going to Starbucks and believes this resolution will be beneficial.

**Senator Curioso** says this resolution mostly serves only people who live off campus and also says he is concerned that this may be a problem for the employees, who will have to adjust to the new feature. He says he will not support the resolution.

**Senator Drauschak** says this resolution will be beneficial to anyone who wishes to use it. He says whether a student lives on or off campus, being able to order drinks in advance will be convenient. He says when he talked to the workers, the manager expressed that they would be happy to take in mobile orders, as this would make the line even smaller and allow workers more time to make drinks.

**Senator D'Attello** says this feature will be tailored for those using the credit card on the app and asks if students will have the ability to use dining dollars on the app. He asks if the boost app would be more beneficial.

**Senator Drauschak** says the Boost app already slows down the Chick-Fil-A lines and it would not help Starbucks. He says the normal Starbucks app does cater to off-campus students who do not have dining dollars. He says this app would make it smoother for them.

**Senator Besendorfer** says more than half of the CUA community lives off campus and we have to consider what is good for all the students and for visiting families and professors. She says thousands of families visit during campus events and this could be appealing to them. She asks will the app allow students to pay with dining dollars and then scan their rewards on the Starbucks app. She says the mobile orders counter at the off-campus Starbucks takes up a lot of space. Given that the counter in the Pryz Starbucks is small, she asks if there will be a designated area to place these mobile orders.



**Senator Drauschak** says the space will be expanded slightly and there will not be problems with orders taking up space. He says this will not affect anyone very much in a negative way. He says those who look at the long lines in Starbucks and decide not to go inside will be benefited from this resolution. He says he is not sure about whether students can use dining dollars and rewards. Senator Drauschak says students can pay with a credit card and then get Starbucks rewards, therefore she is confident that Dining Dollars will work with rewards.

**Senator Zayas** says she is in full support of this resolution but wants clarification on how ordering with Boost works and why it gets overwhelmed, resulting in students getting their food late. She also adds that the on-campus Starbucks location will have the ability to shut mobile ordering off if they get overwhelmed with orders.

**Senator Drauschak** says the on-campus Starbucks will be able to decide when they turn the app on and off through trial and error.

**Senator Martin** says that anyone who has access to the app can turn it off at any time.

**Senator Drauschak** adds that Starbucks gets shipments three times a week. He says it would be beneficial to know ahead of time if they do not have ingredients at a specific time.

**Senator Samuels** says this resolution will not work logistically, she says it is not a real Starbucks, it is a licensed Starbucks location. She asks if Senator Drauschak spoke to Curtis, who manages Starbucks, about this. She adds that the prices of Starbucks on campus are higher than any typical Starbucks off campus.

**Senator Drauschak** says Curtis is the supervisor, not the manager. He says he spoke to the woman who oversees all parts of Dining Services and she met with Starbucks, who approved of it. He says Starbucks still makes money from these locations, and reminds everyone that this option to mobile order has nothing to do with prices, it is simply a change to turn on the software.

**Senator Kruger** asks if this resolution is to simply advocate for the mobile ordering option given that this will be implemented regardless of the resolution's passage.

**Senator Drauschak** says he still went forward with the resolution to promote the upcoming mobile ordering. He says by bringing this resolution to the Senate, will increase awareness.

**Senator Bommer** says he is on the Pryzbyla relocation committee and knows this resolution will benefit the store in many ways. He will support the resolution.

**Senator Drauschak** agrees and says this resolution is very simple.

**Senator Ewing** says she supports this resolution and goes back to the comments made by Senator

Samuels. She says Starbucks rewards are based on the price that a customer pays. So while the prices at the location on campus are higher, students will earn more rewards.

**Senator Drauschak** says this will lead to many happy students and families and could increase university enrollment.

Motion to vote by Senator Samuels and seconded by Senator Djilioni

Vote on Resolution 011 → vote passes with 21 yay's, 3 nay's, and 2 absent

Yay's: Bommer, Drauschak, Besendorfer, Michels, D'Attelo, Martin, Kish, Bert, Djilioni, Zayas, Gehrig, Kruger, Phillips, Bubel, Ewing, Campbell, Henriquez, Foley, Tamayo, McCarthy, Suarez.

Nay's: Curioso, Samuels, and Corey

Absent: Downing and Musick

## **6. Vice President, SGA Updates**

**9:40 PM**

**Vice President Fahey** says "Meet Your SGA Day" is coming up and invites the Senators to dive into ideas this week she says multiple senators are working on things such as dining, so she encourages them to collaborate with one another on similar topics. She tells the Senators that their duties do not have to be limited to just meetings and committees. She says she is always open to suggestions about rules and procedures. She says now that another resolution has gone back to the committee, make sure you work on the details of resolutions. She thanks the senate for another great meeting.

## **7. Open Floor**

**9:47 PM**

**Senator Curioso** says he is working on two resolutions, including one to change the way students know who the RA on call is. The current system is not updated often. He recognizes that it is Vice President Fahey's birthday week.

**Vice President Fahey** thanks them.

**Senator D'atello** says someone wants to reform the meal plan given that some items not included in the meal plan are very expensive to buy with dining dollars.

**Vice President Fahey** invites those with meal plan resolutions to reach out to Senator Besendorfer.

**Senator Drauschak** says he brought this up but sadly some equipment in these restaurants is not equipped to add certain items to the meal plan.

**Senator Suarez** says the Theology Club is touring the Dominican House of studies, and encourages those interested to attend.

**Senator Besendorfer** shares updates regarding new gluten-free options at true burger and Murphy's. She says any dining-related suggestions can be sent to her. She says if anyone wants to voice their opinions directly, they can do so at the monthly meeting of dining services. She says these meetings are held once a month on Thursdays from 4-5.

**Senator Kish** says his WiFi resolution has received a lot of attention. He encourages everyone to take a WiFi speed test in their dorm and email it to him to collect data.

**Senator Bommer** thanks everyone for coming today. He says he and Senator Drauschak have comprehensive exams on Friday and they are stressed, so he commends both of them on being here. He says he is working on a tracking sheet resolution. He says that he was told he had to take a class that he didn't have to take to fulfill his degree, which he says should never be the case. He says if anyone is interested in anything treasury related, they can reach out to him.

**Senator Campbell** says he spoke with the library today and is interested in making a resolution to spread awareness about the library's hours.

**Senator Besendorfer** says she has heard that senators are working on a resolution to extend the hours of visitation during holidays; she says that resolution was passed three years ago. She encourages them to look back on this resolution.

**Senator Djilioni** says there are three working laundry machines in his dorm and it's so stressful and angering to only have three. Therefore, he is working on a resolution to make sure laundry machines are being inspected.

## **8. Adjournment**

**9:50 PM**

Motion to adjourn by Senator Bommer and seconded by Senator Michels

Vote on meeting adjournment → Passes

Meeting adjourned.