



The Catholic University of America Student Government Association 2022-2023 Senate Session 8-4

November 7, 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

Bennett Bert X
Michael Kish 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 X
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 X

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

NOTE: Below is an agenda of all items scheduled to be considered for the present meeting. Notification is hereby proved that items on the agenda may be taken out of the order presented, two or more agenda items may be combined for consideration, and an agenda item may be removed from the agenda or discussion relating to an item on the agenda may be delayed at any time at the discretion of the presiding officer. The Vice President reserves the right to postpone debate of legislation based on the time constraints of the Senate meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

8:16 PM

PRAYER

8:17 PM

Senator Campbell opens up in prayer with the Our Father.

1. Public Comment

8:18 PM

Corey Crawford, Director of Disability Support Services Executive Initiative, rises in support of Resolution 013. He states too many times he has been in Murphy's Lounge and trash is everywhere. He says the lounge needs more trash and recycling options, this will better respect the campus.

Theodore Pasto, a sophomore politics major and a Director of Treasury Board, speaks in support of Resolution 012 to increase the student activity fee. He says this will help combat rising inflation and the growing enrollment at the University.

Executive President Anthony Crnkovich provides updates on upcoming events. Tomorrow, November 8th, from 5:00pm-7:00pm, SGA is co-sponsoring with SAC for students to attend the home opener for the basketball teams. The theme is black-out and encourages everyone to invite their friends, along with RA's inviting their residents. He hopes to have high attendance to show support for the players. Additionally, Friday, November 11th, is President Kilpatrick's installation as the 16th president. There will be many events throughout the day including mass in the Basilica at 10:00am. The Campus Community Showcase on the University lawn at 4:00pm, if there is rain it will be moved inside. Finally, the Installation Gala in the Law School Atrium at 6:30pm, where the first dance of President Kilpatrick's is at 7:15pm. A cash bar will be available for those who are eligible. He encourages everyone to come out and show support, asking everyone to bring friends and peers.

Aidan Harrigan, a freshman business major, speaks his support for Resolution 015. He says he struggles to do homework assignments in his dorm room because of the spotty internet connection. This is a major problem, so he voices his support for the resolution.

Executive Treasurer Karla Martinez-Victoria voices her support for Resolution 012 of increasing the student activity fee. She says she has worked closely with Senator Bommer and the President of the Senate on how to best facilitate the fee. She has also worked with the research and interior departments to examine what was done in the past and what is best for the future. She states great work has gone into the resolution and shows her support for it.

Matthew Blomgren, a freshman accounting major and a Director of Treasury Board, voices his support for resolution 012. He says the resolution is a great way to support student activities, while combating the rising costs due to inflation. He states it is a great way to keep the campus

active and relevant.

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 D'Attelo

Vote on approval of meeting minutes for Senate 8-3→ 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 they did not meet this week, but have many legislations at work. Senator Kish has his wifi resolution hitting the floor tonight. She is personally looking into compensation for tour guides. She encourages the senators to reach out with any bylaw suggestions or concerns, and looks forward to hearing from them.

ii. Senator Gehrig, Academic Affairs

Senator Gehrig thanks Vice President Fahey and says they had a fruitful meeting last Thursday. Senator Downing is looking into the study abroad program for international business majors, along with drinking water in buildings. Senator Corey is looking into expanding the market hours. Senator Campell is looking into expanding the study locations on campus. Senator Ewing is examining DSS enrollment issues. Senator Henriquez is looking into baby changing stations in restrooms. Senator Foley is looking into uniting the disciplines for stronger LC classes. Senator Gehrig says she is looking into the picnic tables around campus. She encourages everyone to reach out if they are interested.

iii. Senator Martin, University Services

Senator Martin says they had a fantastic meeting last week. Senator Kruger's first resolution on waste disposal is hitting the floor tonight, he is also working on supporting Pryz workers. Senator Martin says she is working on increasing internship credits. She talks about Senator Samuels' resolution that was sent back to committee. She says she read the bylaws and found there is no specific deadline as to when the resolution needs to be voted on to send back. They are currently working on improving the resolution and waiting to hear back from some people. She hopes the resolution will be ready for the November 21st meeting.

iv. Senator Michels, Student Resources

Senator Michels thanks Vice President Fahey and says they had a wonderful meeting. He says they are excited about Senator Bommer's resolution tonight. Senator Suarez is looking into switching from Blackboard to Canva. Senator Musick and Senator Henriquez are looking into baby changing stations in bathrooms.

v. Senator Drauschak, Campus Life

Senator Drauschak thanks Vice President Fahey and says they met last Wednesday. He says Senator Curioso is looking to display the RA's on call. Senator Ewing is examining more gluten-free options and speed limit signs. Senator Bert is looking into holiday hours.

B. Senator Bommer, Class of 2023 (Resolution 012)

8:30 PM

i. A Resolution to Increase the Student Activity Fee

Senator Bommer thanks Vice President Fahey. He says upon arrival at the University, he was amazed by the atmosphere on campus, everyone knew each other. He realized that student organizations were the life of the campus. He awaited his first chance to join clubs at Fall Fest, where he signed up for everything. He wanted to draw near to what made the campus so special, so he joined Treasury Board. The activity fee drives campus and the annual fee is vital to the function of the student body. He says that compared to other schools the fee is relatively small, but makes it possible to have concerts, retreats, vans, food, OA's for orientation, and chairs for graduation. After the pandemic, this fee is important to bring back the flourishing atmosphere with new groups and students coming, renewing interest and new faces. He says the one question everyone might have is why raise it. The fee is independent of University control and paid by students. Every four years the activity fee legislation is renewed, and the Treasury Board discusses it. He says he is bringing this resolution to match inflation and the increase in enrollment, to aid the increase in funding and maintenance of events. With the increase in the fee, the study body will greatly benefit as their passions, interests, and hobbies are engaged and explored.

Senator Curioso thanks Senator Bommer for bringing this resolution to the floor. He says he has two questions: why wait until now to bring this resolution to the floor and why not advocate for a larger increase than what is currently detailed?

Senator Bommer responds that after the end of this academic year the student activity fee legislation will be terminated, so it is now or never. He says presenting it now allows time for students to be informed and not rushed. He states that the price chosen remains a comfortable commitment for students, not asking too much but also matching inflation. The price allows for extra room for funding. Also, he says in the next four years the price will be increased again, allowing for growth for future Treasury Boards.

Senator Djilioni asks how this will impact students who are barely getting enough to pay this fee, and how will it affect students' scholarships.

Senator Bommer responds he spoke with Steve Kreider, Director of Campus Activity, who is very sensitive to students' constraints. He says scholarships mainly cover the big ticket items, while this activity fee is more lenient. Also, he says part-time students only pay half the activity fee. He states that those who need help, can get help.

Senator Besendorfer says last year she researched metro passes at other universities, which were included in the student activity fee. She says scholarship coverage still follows this. If you are already getting help to cover fees, and the activity fee increases, the coverage still follows.

Senator Phillips asks that once the activity fee is placed into effect, will there be an announcement or just on Cardinal Station?

Senator Bommer responds the University typically posts updates about these items, so all students are aware of the money they owe. The change will be on Cardinal Station, along with announcements on the Nest and the SGA Instagram page.

Senator Musick asks that if the resolution passes, will it be enacted this spring semester or the next academic year?

Senator Bommer responds the next academic year.

Motion to vote by Senator Drauschak and seconded by Senator Bert

Vote on Resolution 012 → vote passes with 25 yays and 1 Nay

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

Nay: Djilioni

C. Senator Kruger, School of Arts & Sciences (Resolution 013)

8:40 PM

i. A Resolution to Improve Waste Disposal and Encourage Recycling on Campus

Senator Kruger thanks Vice President Fahey and Co-Sponsors. He says the state of waste in Murphy's Lounge is a problem, ECS is fed up with having to constantly pick up trash from the lack of waste disposal in the Lounge. Originally, the University planned to have waste disposal in the lounge, but it never happened. He says this needs to change, especially as we get closer to finals week and people become busier. The picture shown on the resolution is one day of trash in Murphy's, so by adding waste disposal this issue will be alleviated and make it easier for ECS. Also, he states he went around campus taking pictures of recycling bins and areas lacking them. He found many places lacked recycling bins, and had no information placards or outdated information. The recycling rules were changed to include glass, so these placards need updating. He says he spoke with facilities and they are open to fixing these issues, especially because the University pays people to sort through the recycling. He concludes this resolution tackles the problem of waste disposal and encourages recycling, making the campus cleaner.

Senator Musick says that the lounge smells terrible and hopefully this resolution will encourage students to throw out their trash and recycle. She says Disney is a good example of having effective waste disposal, with many trashcans. She states Americans don't like walking with trash, so with more trashcans, they will throw things out.

Senator Bubel says he works for ECS and is constantly picking up trash in Murphy's Lounge. He voices his support for the resolution and encourages other Senators to vote yes.

Senator Bommer says this resolution is a great use of what SGA should be and what it should focus on. He says when he spoke with Steve Kreider, Director of Campus Activity, for his resolution, they also talked about compost and waste management. Mr. Kreider's wife works at The University of Maryland and has initiated many great ideas there, once we can implement here. He voices his support for the resolution.

Senator Zayas asks why trashcans were not initially placed in Murphy's Lounge.

Senator Kruger responds he spoke with Karen Porter, Executive Director of Facilities Maintenance and Operations Teams, who said the plan was to originally have waste disposal in the lounge. Two spaces were created where trashcans could easily go, but for some reason, they decided not to place them there. He says that was a mistake and will be corrected with this resolution.

Motion to vote by Senator Martin and seconded by Senator Besendorfer

Vote on Resolution 013 → vote passes with 26 yay's

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

D. Senator Drauschak, Class of 2023 (Resolution 014)

8:48 PM

i. A Resolution to Institute An Annual DPS Appreciation Day

Senator Drauschack starts by saying that instituting an annual DPS Appreciation Day was something he promised many times when campaigning. He says met with Kirk McLean who expressed interest in the idea. Senator Drauschack says that DPS has done incredible work over the years. He says we have the lowest crime rate of any school in DC and students sometimes take that for granted. He says this event would express our appreciation for these amazing DPS officers, it would also allow students to send in notes of thanks to the roughly 36-40 officers in DPS. He hopes to partner with a student activity organization for this event. Water would come through PEERS and Insomnia may be able to provide free cookies. He says it would be like any event in the Pryz to show appreciation to the DPS officers.

Senator Martin thanks them and says this is a great resolution given that most students do not get to interact with them and says she would encourage everyone to attend the event, she urges the Senate to support the resolution.

Senator Ewing says this is great and she supports it, she says many do not understand how hard of a job security is. She says the resolution calls for the event to be held in the fall. She asks if it would be held this fall semester of 2022 if it was passed, or if is this for years going forward.

Senator Drauschak says he planned to have the event going forward around thanksgiving time, given that many people are giving out thanks. He says he hopes the event would be around that time in the fall but for this year it will most likely be held in the spring and hopefully, in years

ahead it will be in the fall.

Senator Musick asks if this will be published on the nest or on CUA's website. She says it would be great to have students, faculty, and even parents come out and thank them for what they do, and she will support it.

Senator Drauschak agrees and says this will be posted on both websites.

Senator Musick asks what statistic says that CUA has the least amount of crime among all DC campuses.

Senator Drauschak says it considers all the other schools and says the other campus police department. He says when Kirk McLean met with other school's safety departments in a meeting, they compared statistics and CUA had the least amount of crime, which he is very proud of.

Senator Besendorfer says they talked about appreciation and says connecting with DPS. She asks for more clarification. She asks if this would be more of a "praising" event or an event to share concerns with them.

Senator Drauschak says this should be positive. He says this would be catered to more positive feedback. He says that to have DPS take time out of their day to hear criticism of their work would not seem right to do.

Senator Bommer says they are looking into the radio show that DPS used to have to discuss things that happened on campus, they hope to bring it back

Senator Kish says his friend suffered a head injury and had to go to the ER and DPS responded quickly and effectively, he will support the resolution

Senator Foley says DPS officers are incredible people, but he wants to ask where the funding would come from.

Senator Drauschak says this event would be as cheap as possible. He says this would cost less than 200 dollars to hold. He says he is sure Program Board would be open to helping, but pricing should not be an issue. This event would be more about the appreciation and less about the refreshments.

Senator Michels says some students are "quick to criticize DPS" and says this does the bare minimum to share an appreciation for DPS. He says this is a good starting point for SGA to work with DPS and encourage DPS to hear students' concerns.

Motion to vote by Senator Martin and seconded by Senator Tamayo

Vote on Resolution 014 → vote passes with 22 yay's and 4 nays

Yay's: Bommer, Drauschak, Michels, D'Atello, Martin, Bert, Kish, Djilioni, Gehrig, Kruger, Phillips, Bubel, Ewing, Curioso, Campbell, Henriquez, Foley, Tamayo, McCarthy, Samuels,

Corey, Suarez

Nays: Besendorfer, Zayas, Downing, Musick

E. Senator Kish, Class of 2026 (Resolution 015)

9:05 PM

i. A Resolution to Ensure Easy Access to the Internet for All

Senator Kish begins by thanking Maevis and says he does not need to stand here and say how bad the Wi-Fi is on campus. He says the cellular does not allow people to call friends or family. He says this should be fixed. He says there was a resolution to install Wi-Fi boosters around campus, but this was ineffective. He says a wired connection can't be beaten. He explains the process of how a Wi-Fi connection is made when a student is on their computer. Only 30% of the network is used during the day but at night 100% of it is used during busy hours. He says a Wi-Fi report system on the school's website would allow us to show where the Wi-Fi fails and thus the school can see where the problems lie and improve the Wi-Fi. He says in regard to cellular, they're working on putting a cellular dish on top of Opus hall and he would like to see that happen sooner. As the school expands, families will feel dismayed by the lack of Wi-Fi, he says the technical services team is excited about this resolution and the senate should be too.

Senator D'atello asks how the reporting system would work. He asks how it works if the problem lies in an unknown location, and how would this be found. If there is good Wi-Fi in Opus, a cellular dish would not need to be installed.

Senator Kish says in that case, the technical services team can create a heat map and show where the problem lies. He says we could locate the problem. He says the number of reports shows where the "leak is."

Senator Besendorfer asks what the cost would be associated with it. She asks what the cellular dish on Opus would like from an aesthetic standpoint. She says she supports the bill and she had bad WI-FI but she's concerned about the price and the look.

Senator Kish says because Opus is so tall, it wouldn't be far off the top of the building, he says the money wouldn't be a problem because technical services have money set aside for this. He says they have the money ready to go and the equipment ready, they just haven't installed it. He says it is a question of allocating resources we already have, and everyone should use the ethernet cable in the meantime if they want a fast connection.

Senator Bommer thanks Senator Kish and the cosponsors. He notes that Senator Kish mentioned that there is money set aside. He says why is this resolution on the Senate floor if this dish is already being installed.

Senator Djilioni says the technical support team has only 4-5 people. They've had to cut workers over the years. He says the ethernet port is something more people should be using. He

says the WI-FI must travel a lot to reach a student and many students have multiple devices which slows it down even more. He says the ethernet cables would help people improve this issue. It would also save money. He says the tech department has an abundance of ethernet cables that they will provide for free.

Senator Kish goes back to the question of why the resolution is on the floor in the first place. He says Tech Services has a bad system to see where the problem is. He says they don't have a solid communication line for the students. He's pushing for implementation for these cords as well. He says he doesn't think they'll have to use more money than is allocated for them.

Senator Foley says he heard that the ethernet cords are fast and cheap. He asks if the Senators think anything should be done to use more ethernet cords and if money could be saved. Kish says Ethernet cords are a much better option. Senator Kish describes the graph of Wi-Fi traveling to a computer. He says if you go online to the CUA website it would take you to a link that will tell students to use an ethernet cable if they have bad wifi. He says ethernet cables are provided in the dorms, but they are just overlooked.

Senator Curioso says he has a question. He says he's not sure where to get ethernet cords if he wants one.

Senator Kish says it can be found in the community office or the office of Technical Services.

Senator Djilioni says these cords are in the basement of Leahy, he is happy to get one for Senator Curioso.

Senator Musick asks why this would increase the WiFi by 2-4GB, what made them choose that number and how the reporting system work online if the WiFi is down.

Senator Kish says the computers in the library would have to be used if the WiFi is not working. He says the technical services team doesn't know where the problem lies as of now. He says the number of 2-4GB would ensure students can still connect to the WIFI despite it being crowded it would double the amount of WiFi for use and cut speeds in half.

Senator Downing says he has heard that cellular dishes could emit radiation, he asks if this is a concern.

Senator Kish said tech services wouldn't put people in danger, but he doesn't think it would be a problem.

Senator Drauschak says he commends Senator Kish and says this is well done and he hopes for people to recognize his hard work and pass this resolution

Motion to vote by Senator Zayas and seconded by Senator Corey

Vote on Resolution 015 → vote passes with 26 yay's

Yay's: Bommer, Drauschak, Besendorfer, Michels, D'Attelo, Martin, Kish, Bert, Djilioni, Zayas,

Gehrig, Kruger, Downing, Phillips, Bubel, Ewing, Campbell, Curioso, Henriquez, Musick, Foley, Tamayo, McCarthy, Samuels, Corey, Suarez.

6. Vice President, SGA Updates

9:25 PM

Vice President Fahey says that the senate has done great work so far this year and she notes that anything that's been discussed multiple times should be collaborated on. She says every Senator should present something this semester. Maevis says these meetings are notorious for running late, so while it is great that meetings have been ending early she also encourages fruitful debate. She says debate and discussions help senators create their own resolutions in the future. She says it is also helpful if a senator stands to explain why they will not support a resolution. She says it's an exciting week for SGA because the basketball season openers are upcoming. She encourages everyone to support CUA's student-athletes. Secondly, she says the installation is coming up. She says more people need to know about these events.

She says resolutions should be shared with the secretaries and says it's helpful if typed speeches are shared with them as well. She encourages everyone to also utilize the research committee. She says that senators are required to attend one treasury board meeting per semester, given that they work hard, it is the senator's responsibility to know their parts of SGA like research and treasury board. She says the schedule of meetings is announced on Instagram. They should take note of the club and representative. It's a valuable experience she looks forward to people sharing their stories with her.

7. Open Floor

9:30 PM

Senator Martin says she supports President Kilpatrick for recognizing the victims of communism and commends the representatives of the College Republicans, Democrats, and YAF for sending the letter and working together. She says her cooking equipment pilot program has begun. She says she won't be at the next senate meeting, and she wishes them all a happy thanksgiving and safe travels.

Senator Suarez says victims of communism day is important, and as a Cuban American she understands the horrors of these actions, it's a violation of human rights, and she encourages everyone to pray for these victims.

Senator Curioso thanks everyone for the great discussions today and provides an update about a resolution that's in the works to appreciate the arts on campus. He says he'll meet with staff in the Rome School to see how they can help with these efforts.

Senator Besendorder says she is still looking into compensation for tour guides she says if Senators are interested then they can reach out to her. She says the trucks that sit parallel to Opus Hall smell and are an eye sour, she is looking into voicing our concerns about that because it

affects the residence life experience.

Senator Drauschak says he is working on the Brookland Arts school project to have students send in artwork to hang in the school, if anyone's interested, they could reach out to him to collaborate on this.

Senator Phillips says she encourages everyone to come to the basketball games. She worked with athletics and it's difficult to encourage people to attend these games. She encourages everyone to attend.

Senator Bubel says he and Senator Bert were looking into a speed limit sign resolution. He says walking to work, and class can be dangerous and there should be a better effort to hang these signs if anyone wants to reach out to him.

8. Adjournment

9:36 PM

Motion to adjourn by Senator Besendorfer and seconded by Senator Michels

Vote on meeting adjournment → Passes

Meeting adjourned.