



# The Catholic University of America Student Government Association 2022-2023 Senate Session 8-6

December 5, 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   A  

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

Jordan Gehrig   A  

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   A  

### **School of Theology**

Ryan Corey   X  

Andrea Suarez   X  

### **Key:**

X- Here, A- Absent

**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.

**CALL TO ORDER -- ROLL CALL** **8:15 PM**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** **8:16 PM**

**PRAYER** **8:17 PM**

**Senator Bert** opens up in prayer with the Our Father.

**1. Public Comment** **8:18 PM**

**Reagan Budasi, a freshman social work major,** rises in support of Resolution 020 by Senator Bert. She says she is a resident of Flather Hall, and several times she has been walking on the sidewalk and almost run over. She encourages others to support the resolution and vote in favor.

**Ines Quiroga, a freshman business major,** rises in support of Resolution 020. She says she has also been almost run over walking up the sidewalk outside Flather Hall. She encourages everyone to vote in favor.

**A sophomore politics major and student minister** rises in support of Resolution 021. He says the University's core value is to grow a relationship with God, and that requires access to sacred texts and prayers. He encourages Senators to vote in favor of the Resolution and says SGA and Campus Ministry will work closely to provide these materials.

**Michael Ellison,** a philosophy major and president of the Theology Club, rises in support of Resolution 021. He says this is the perfect opportunity to bring campus together, providing useful materials and support.

**Executive Treasurer Karla Martinez-Victoria** says it was wonderful seeing Senators join the Treasury Board meetings and reminds everyone tomorrow, December 6 is their last meeting.

**3. Adoption of Agenda** **8:24 PM**

Motion to adopt the agenda by Senator Curioso and seconded by Senator Martin

Vote on adoption → Adoption passes

**4. Approval of Minutes** **8:24 PM**

Motion to approve by Senator Martin and seconded by Senator D'Attelo

Vote on approval of meeting minutes for Senate 8-5 → 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 bill is hitting the floor tonight. The bill clarifies a precedent for the last 8 years. She wishes everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year. She says her tradition in the Senate is to pass out cake pops with a fitting quote on them. She says it was a pleasure working with everyone and looks forward to next semester.

### ii. Senator Gehrig, Academic Affairs

**Senator Gehrig was absent from the meeting.**

### iii. Senator Martin, University Services

**Senator Martin** thanks Vice President Fahey and apologizes for missing the last meeting. She says Senator Zayas is working on a resolution for theology requirements. Senator Kruger is working on a resolution for feedback to be streamlined to DPS. She says Senator Samuels's holocaust resolution will not be returning to the floor.

### iv. Senator Michels, Student Resources

**Senator Michels** thanks Vice President Fahey. He says Senator Bommer is working on a resolution for tracking sheets to be utilized in all departments. Senator Suarez is working to improve the vote-by-mail process for elections. Senator Musick's baby-changing resolution is hitting the floor tonight. He says his resolution on sexual orientation being a protective clause is in research.

### v. Senator Drauschak, Campus Life

**Senator Drauschak** thanks Vice President Fahey and says Senator Bert's first resolution is hitting the floor tonight on pedestrian safety. He encourages his fellow senators to vote in favor. He says his new resolution on the University partnering with the Old Soldiers' Home Golf Course will be presented at the next meeting.

## B. Senator Besendorfer, Class of 2024 (Bill 003)

8:30 PM

### i. A Bill to Establish a Primary Sponsor and Cosponsor of Senate Legislation

**Senator Besendorfer** thanks Vice President Fahey and her co-sponsors. She says the bill is pretty self-explanatory, where for the past 8 years every resolution has had one primary sponsor and the option of multiple co-sponsors. She says this has become a precedent, allowing for collaboration between sponsors. It is a common practice and ensures there is one figurehead of the resolution. She says she is happy to answer any questions.

**Senator Tamayo** thanks Senator Besendorfer and says the bill makes sense. He says he noticed the next resolution has two primary sponsors and asks how this bill would affect that.

**Senator Michels** responds no resolution is enacted until the executive president and

vice-president sign it.

**Senator Henriquez** says he has some issues regarding the bill. He says he found out about the bill through a third party which is unprofessional and insensitive, the senate is all about collaboration. He says there is no importance for the bill, it was not until after people decided to not follow the precedent that this bill was drafted. The bill was not created for the benefit of the senate.

**Senator Besendorfer** responds there is no rule in regards to sharing a resolution or bill with everyone. It can be a collaborative effort, but it's ultimately a personal choice. She says it is important to have one primary sponsor so they know who is making the opening remarks and so contradicting views between the two primary sponsors don't arise. Also, having one primary sponsor is important for advocacy. She says that bills are meant to fix problems that come about, this is the third bill of the year. The senate is new and needs amending when problems or new ideas arise.

**Senator Kruger** says he sees the logic in the bill, but asks what exactly is the utility of the bill. He says the next resolution is a clear example of two senators working together, so he asks for more clarification.

**Senator Michels** responds that one thing the Senate has done differently is the nature of a co-sponsor. He and Senator Besendorfer have collaborated before, as have many other senators. They provide their assistance and do work, but are still a co-sponsor. A co-sponsor can be just as active as the primary sponsor. This year, he says a new culture of the nature of co-sponsors has risen, where they take a less active role. Senators are simply becoming a co-sponsor because they support the idea, not necessarily doing research and helping out. Ultimately, he says having one primary sponsor will help with practical matters, especially making it clear who is speaking first and the overall figurehead.

**Senator Besendorfer** adds where does it stop with two primary sponsors, what then becomes the difference between a primary sponsor and a co-sponsor? She says she has looked at previous legislation where there are no co-sponsors and everything is done by the primary sponsor. Having co-sponsors is great for a collaborative effort.

**Senator Curioso** says having one primary sponsor is the best practice for legislation, especially in regard to Senate recap videos. Having one person makes it easier on Executive Secretary Molly Mullin.

**Senator Kish** rises in support of the bill saying nobody likes group projects, where all the work ends up on one person. He says the accountability of senators shifts by having multiple primary sponsors. Oftentimes, nothing gets done because of the lack of accountability.

**Senator Musick** says she will be voting no on the bill because she believes the bill was not drafted in good faith. She says the bill is misplaced and immature for the senate. She addresses Senator Besendorfer.

**Vice President Fahey** calls for decorum.

**Senator Musick** says the bill appears to be in response to her resolution. She says that Senator Besendorfer had an issue with having two primary sponsors on Resolution 019, but rather than speaking to them and voicing her concerns, she drafted the bill without their knowledge. She says

when reaching out to Vice President Fahey for a general discussion about Resolution 019, she informed them of the bill. Senator Musick says Senator Besendorfer should have reached out regarding her concerns over the two primary sponsors, but instead chose to act without their knowledge. She says her actions were immature and degraded their work. She understands having one primary sponsor is a precedent, but does not see why. She and Senator Henriquez clearly worked together to draft their resolution and figured out who was speaking when. She does not see the issue with having two primary sponsors or the bill itself. She asks if the bill was truly meant to benefit the Senate and the student body or purely against their resolution.

**Senator Besendorfer** thanks Senator Musick for sharing her thoughts. She says that when she first saw the shared Resolution 019, she made an initial comment on the document about the two primary sponsors, but never received a follow-up. She says that there are many times she shares a resolution and nobody opens it, or people do not share their resolutions to begin with. Senator Besendorfer says she cannot speak on when they submitted their resolution, but she submitted hers on Tuesday. She says this bill was not out of spite, but rather a chance to learn and improve the bylaws. She did not think of this issue before the resolution was drafted; therefore, it is more about upholding the protocol in the Senate rather than out of spite.

**Senator Michels** says he spoke with Senator Musick over the phone discussing how this was not in the bylaws, but rather a precedent. He says the bill was brought forward to amend the bylaws for the future, not to degrade Resolution 019. The bill is not an attack or in a negative light to the hard work of Senator Musick and Senator Henriquez, but to clarify the bylaws and fix any confusion. He says their hard work on Resolution 019 will still be considered.

**Senator McCarthy** says the function of SGA is to be a learning tool, to work and collaborate with a large group of people. He says this bill puts a stop to the pressure SGA puts on communication and teamwork.

**Senator Besendorfer** clarifies that all 25 senators can collaborate and be co-sponsors, but there just needs to be one primary sponsor. This does not limit senators' participation or collaboration, they all can work together, but still, have one primary sponsor.

**Senator Kruger** says he is uncertain of the bill and the purpose and function of a co-sponsor needs to be clarified.

**Senator Besendorfer** responds that Vice President Fahey sets the format for resolutions and bills, and it is a precedent to use the same format. She says the role of a co-sponsor can vary, where some are actively involved and others are not. She has been a co-sponsor many times and the roles have varied: she can attend meetings, edit the resolutions, or just provide support in debates. She says she would be happy to work with Senator Kruger at a different time to further clarify the role of a co-sponsor.

Motion to vote by Senator Corey and seconded by Senator Suarez

Vote on Bill 003 → vote passes with 18 yay's, 4 nay's, and 1 abstain

Yay's: Bommer, Drauschak, Besendorfer, Michels, D'Attelo, Martin, Kish, Bert, Djilioni, Bubel, Ewing, Campbell, Curioso, Foley, Tamayo, McCarthy, Corey, Suarez

Nay's: Downing, Phillips, Henriquez, Musick

Abstain: Kruger

### C. Senator Henriquez, Senator Musick, Nursing School (Resolution 019) 8:50 PM

#### i. A Resolution to Add Baby Changing Stations in Men's Bathrooms

**Senator Musick** says she and Senator Henriquez are excited to present their first resolution. She begins with a bible quote from Psalm and states that the University is pro-life and pro-family. The University started The Guadalupe Project to welcome and support families on campus, and this resolution further advances this idea. She says they are not asking for much and this is not a new idea, they simply want to further support male caregivers on campus with the baby changing stations. Senator Musick says that if it was not for Senator Henriquez, this idea would not have been brought up. The absence of changing stations in men's bathrooms places fathers and children at a disadvantage and a potential safety hazard. She urges her fellow senators to vote in favor of this resolution and further support the University's mission of creating a welcoming space for families.

**Senator Henriquez** thanks Senator Musick and says he is happy to be here with her. He says he had a thought one day in the Pryz, wondering where the baby changing stations were in the men's restroom. He says that he always sees kids in the Pryz and assumed the changing stations were in the women's restroom, but that places fathers at a disadvantage. He says that the lack of changing stations creates a problem for fathers, especially if they are the sole caregiver, forcing them to awkwardly change their kids. Having these stations will create a comfortable and clean surface for children to be changed, further supporting the University's family-oriented mission. He encourages the other senators to vote yes.

**Senator Curioso** says there are no baby changing stations in Garvey, which is all the more reason to vote yes.

**Senator Martin** thanks the senators and says she brought a similar resolution to the floor last year about adding changing tables in women's restrooms, and agrees they too should be in men's. She asks if they spoke with someone in the Pryz regarding their resolution because her changing stations still have not been implemented in the Pryz.

**Senator Musick** responds they spoke to facilities, but received no clear answer. She says that the University and The Guadalupe Project are dedicated to this idea, but have mainly placed it on the back burner, so this is the perfect opportunity to put it on the forefront. She says that the Opus Prize and the opening of Garvey Hall shifted the focus of facilities, so this resolution will help refocus them.

**Senator Besendorfer** thanks Senator Musick and asks if they looked into the cost of adding changing tables or the feasibility of clearance when the doors are pulled down. Also, she wonders if adding them is necessary in Garvey Hall because it is not very versatile, you have to swipe in. She says it makes sense to have them in the Pryz because it is versatile, but suggests having them in the CACS center.

**Senator Musick** responds the prices vary, with a range from \$100-\$1500. She says the University will be implementing this idea, much like the Cardinal Ambassadors resolution, the money is already set aside. This mainly gives SGA's stamp of approval and expedites the project.

She says Garvey Hall is a huge hub on campus, so many children, students, and faculty will be there. The Guadalupe Project focuses on supporting all people on campus, so having them in Garvey Hall will further support this idea.

**Senator Bommer** thanks Senator Musick and asks if she could touch upon why the three specific buildings were chosen for the resolution. He also asks if any other universities in DC have changing stations in men's or gender-neutral restrooms. And he ask what the process of replacing a changing station would be if a college boy would sit on one and break it.

**Senator Musick** responds the Pryz is a huge hub on campus, many people are passing in and out of it each day. Garvey Hall is the primary dining spot, so it is also a big hub for families, students, and faculty. Father O'Connell Hall is where the admission officers are located, so many families with young children will be there on tours. She says this shows prospective students how welcoming and supportive the University is of families, especially being pro-life and pro-family. Also, she says in regards to replacing the changing stations, she assumes facilities will handle this and the University has money to fix these things.

**Senator Drauschak** thanks Senator Musick and says this is an important policy. He says there is a gender-neutral bathroom located in the Pryz, so he asks if the Pryz would be removed from the resolution for the sake of cost.

**Senator Musick** responds she was not aware of a gender-neutral bathroom in the Pryz.

**Senator Drauschack** says it is located past the Cardinal Food Pantry and down the hall, so it might be redundant to have them both there and on the middle floor.

**Senator Musick** responds she was not aware of this, and in this case, the changing stations would be removed from the middle floor in the Pryz. Also, she says in regards to Senator Bommer's question, both George Washington University and American University have changing stations in men's and gender-neutral bathrooms.

**Senator Bubel** says the gender-neutral bathroom in the Pryz is mostly reserved for ECS workers and other offices. He says it is not a good bathroom for the public, so they probably should not put one there.

**Senator Musick** responds she does not want to interfere with ECS or other offices, so they will stick with the resolution's original plan.

Motion to vote by Senator Besendorfer and seconded by Senator Tamayo

Vote on Resolution 019 → vote passes with 21 yay's and 2 nay's

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

Nay's: Bommer, Besendorfer

#### **D. Senator Bert, Class of 2026 (Resolution 020)**

**9:12 PM**

- i. A Resolution to Improve Pedestrian Safety on Flather Hill

**Senator Bert** begins and says that while working on this he had a meeting with Kirk McLean who has been monitoring this hill. He says he also met with Luke Alar, the director of EHS, who said they have plans to build a parallel pathway to the hill. Therefore, this bill is just an affirmation of that as extra encouragement to the administration. He says it would also implement more safety measures, including the knock-down bollards at the top and bottom of the hill that is being proposed.

**Senator Curioso** says he uses the hill to get to St. Vincent's chapel. He says this hill is very steep for his wheelchair and he is always concerned about safety. It is not possible for him to move off the path when a car is on the hill. He says this bill is a great idea, one that he should have thought about sooner. He thanks Senator Bert for bringing it to the floor.

**Senator Draschak** says this Resolution addresses the many safety concerns that people have voiced over the years. He encourages all senators to support it.

**Senator Kruger** adds that he uses this hill many times throughout the day. He says facilities use the hill in the golf carts. Also, drivers for DoorDash and Uber have also used the hill in the past, even though they are not permitted to. Students have also used this hill for their cars in the past out of laziness. He says he has seen this problem firsthand and it must be addressed. He supports the resolution

**Senator Downing** thanks the sponsors for bringing this resolution to the floor. However, he says he will most likely oppose the bill because DPS needs to use the hill to respond to an emergency. The knock-down bollards, if implemented, will pose an obstacle to their route.

**Senator Bert** clarifies that the bollards being proposed are knock-down bollards, which are meant to be pushed over without damaging a vehicle. He adds that first responders and any emergency vehicles would know that knock-down bollards are easy to push over. He says DPS proposed these in the first place, so they would approve of them.

**Senator Foley** thanks the sponsors. He has a question about the bollards. He asks if the golf carts on campus would be able to drive over them.

**Senator Bert** says golf carts could go around them because of their size but they'd also be capable of being knocked down.

**Senator Kruger** agrees with Senator Bert.

**Senator Kish** says he does not like to walk on the grass after it has been raining. In addition, cars on the hill can splash mud at students.

**Senator Bert** agrees and says the mud could also cause issues for students with disabilities.

**Senator Besendorfer** says she is unsure of how she'll vote and she says it may be more fruitful to put up a sign on the hill rather than bollards. She says the bollards may be an eyesore. She says cars need to use the hill during orientation, along with DPS, and the red carts for luggage during move-in would also be a problem.

**Senator Bert** reassures the senators that the knock-down bollards would only be temporary until the path is built. He says signage does not work, many people still use the CV loop even though the signs prohibit it.



**Senator Bommer** says he plans to oppose this as well. He says the campus shuttle regularly takes this path and this would cause confusion during orientation. He says many people use this when moving into Flather and it wouldn't be feasible for families and the elderly to deal with these bollards.

**Senator Bert** says the bollards are easy to navigate and that they are only temporary.

**Senator Draushack** says there are plenty of other roads around the school that families, students, and others can drive on. He says we shouldn't encourage people to drive on Flather hill, it is not safe and there are plenty of other ways to navigate campus.

**Senator Musick** says she is wondering if the bollards could be taken down for orientation and other large-scale events for a short period of time.

**Senator Bert** says that they can be taken down during orientation and other large events where the hill needs to be used. Once the event is over, facilities would put them back up for orientation and it could be taken down.

**Senator Draushack** says in regards to golf carts they can go around bollards. They could also drive in between them because the gap should be large enough.

**Senator Corey** says thank you he has one concern he fails to see the purpose of the knock-down bollards and what the point, if they can just move to the path we built a road for a reason and signage, would be better if they can be knocked down and put back up why have em in the first place

**Senator Corey** says that he doesn't see the purpose for these knock-down bollards given that a path is being constructed. He asks if the bollards will be effective given that they can be knocked over.

**Senator Bert** says once again they are temporary. He adds that all un plated vehicles like golf carts and side-by-sides can go around the bollards via the grass. He says the only plated vehicles permitted to use them would be DPS.

**Senator Martin** says she has a question. She asks if there is a date for this pathway to be put in place. She says if the date is close then the bollards aren't a big deal. She says if it is next year or in the fall, however, that is a long period of time.

**Senator Bert** says it would most likely be built in the summer of 2023 after the budget is enacted on May 1, 2023.

**Senator Downing** asks what the costs are of the construction of these bollards.

**Senator Bert** says he doesn't know the price.

**Senator Druashack** says there's no cost that should be too high for a person's safety. He says that keeping students safe is important and there shouldn't be a price for it.

Motion to vote by Senator D'Attelo and seconded by Senator Kish

Vote on Resolution 020 → vote passes with 18 yay's and 5 nay's

Yay's: Drauschak, D'Attelo, Kish, Bert, Djilioni, Kruger, Phillips, Bubel, Ewing, Campbell, Curioso, Henriquez, Musick, Foley, Tamayo, McCarthy, Corey, Suarez

Nay's: Bommer, Besendorfer, Michels, Martin, Downing

**E. Senator Foley, School of Philosophy (Resolution 021)**

**9:30 PM**

i. A Resolution to Increase Access to Catholic Spiritual Resources

**Senator Foley** thanks them and is excited for his 1st resolution of the year. He says that campus ministry is an important part of the catholic identity of this school. It is a large and comprehensive organization. They celebrate our catholic identity through many events and advertisements. They also supply physical resources like prayer cards. He says campus ministry has not made magnets of mass schedules for a long period of time, but they are planning to return them in the future. He says they have many resources like rosaries, prayer cards, and books that could be distributed to students. He says putting these resources on a shelf in the back of St. Vincent's chapel would be the best place for this, as it gets a lot of traffic from students celebrating mass.

**Senator Martin** stands and says she supports this and says it is important to know when students are off for mass and to know the location and times. She fully supports this resolution.

**Senator Foley** says they need more encouragement to have people take rosary beads on the shelf, but they are a great way to celebrate one's faith.

**Senator Kish** thinks this a fantastic resolution and asks if the sponsors of the resolution will choose the readings and books for the shelf or will campus ministry.

**Senator Foley** says that Fr. Aquinas has many books that need to be handed out so they can use those. He says if they run out then they will decide with campus ministry which ones they should buy.

**Senator Bommer** says it may be a good idea to also distribute these materials in residence halls and to students who live off campus, to make them accessible for everyone.

**Senator Foley** says that since campus ministry is funding this, they will decide how the materials get distributed. As it stands, the resolution does not entail students who live off campus.

**Senator Musick** says she has a question about the first Be it Enacted clause. She says in regards to residence halls, how would the materials be distributed to residents. She says as an RA, she knows how much RA's struggle to get attendance at their own events, so how could they effectively distribute these materials.

**Senator Foley** says many of the doors in residence halls are metal. In CV, the magnets are meant for the doors. In other residence halls, they are meant for the fridge. He says it could be up to the student ministers to decide how resources are distributed in residence halls.

**Senator Curioso** adds that those who transfer into CUA could receive them without having to wait until the spring, which is a good addition.

**Senator Kruger** says his RA's and student ministers were very active and enthusiastic about distributing resources. This is not only a good thing for campus ministry and the materials, but it also helps students build a relationship with their student ministers and RA's

Motion to vote by Senator D'Attelo and seconded by Senator Besendorfer

Vote on Resolution 021 → vote passes with 23 yay's

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

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

**9:50 PM**

**Vice President Fahey** says that the last treasury board meeting is tomorrow in Pryz room 331. She says all who are attending must arrive at 8:15. The meeting will end at 10:15. Presentations last 15 minutes and will be reviewed in the spring.

She says she wants to reiterate to all senators that they must keep all decorum and respect on the Senate floor. All personal disagreements and arguments must not be present during meetings. She says the Catholic Values Initiative is holding 40 hours of adoration for all students. She notifies the senators that Senator Ash Samuels has resigned from the Senate, and President Crnkovich will work to fill the role and appoint a new senator. Lastly, she thanks the Secretaries and Parliamentarian for their work. She thanks all senators for a great first semester.

## **7. Open Floor**

**9:12 PM**

**Senator Curioso** says he is working on his next resolution to bring epi-pens to dining facilities.

**Senator Suarez** says she's working on a resolution to improve the experience of mail-in ballots because some students did not receive them during the last election. She says if any senators are interested, she hopes they will reach out.

**Senator Besendorfer** says to all who may not be aware, Dean Abela in the business school are holding Cardinal closet, a business clothing drive. It takes place in gibbons hall B17 from 11-2 on Thursdays. She says if anyone has new or used business clothes they would like to donate, they are encouraged to do so.

**Senator Foley** thanks everyone for passing his resolution, he is excited to see this implemented.

## **8. Adjournment**

**9:54 PM**

Motion to adjourn by Senator Martin and seconded by Senator Michels

Vote on meeting adjournment → Passes

Meeting adjourned