



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

February 6, 2023
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 A

Class of 2026

Michael Kish X
Bennett Bert A

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 A

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
Frances Noory X

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.

Any legislation or business being presented has been provided to the Vice President at least 48 hours prior to tonight's meeting and to all other members of the Senate at least 24 hours prior to tonight's meeting. The Vice President reserves the right to postpone debate of legislation based on the time constraints of the Senate meeting

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE **8:16 PM**

PRAYER **8:17 PM**

Senator Suarez opens with a prayer of thanks to God, speaking about building a strong, unified community at the University.

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

A. Public comment will be taken at the start of the session. Comments will be limited to one minute per person. Persons making comments will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record, and if applicable naming the college or organization they represent. In accordance with Senate bylaws, the Vice President may prohibit comment if the content of that comment is a topic that is not relevant to, or within the authority of this body, or if the content is willfully disruptive of the meeting, irrelevant, repetitious, slanderous, offensive, inflammatory, irrational or amounting to personal attacks or interfering with the rights of other speakers.

Corey Crawford, Director of Disability Support Services Executive Initiative, says in 1973 the queer community fought for their civil rights. He says the disabled community united with the queer community to save them, providing necessary resources. He says that tonight these two communities are united, as he rises in support of what would have been a resolution supporting the queer community at the University.

Justin, a junior politics and social work double major, rises to criticize the administration's decision to block a resolution on LGBTQ+ students and members of the community. He says Pope Francis recently stated that LGBTQ+ discrimination laws are a sin, for God loves all people and we are all God's children. He says that if we cannot support the leader of the church, why are we calling ourselves the Catholic University of America?

Executive President Anthony Crnkovich thanks everyone for attending the meeting and says he is glad to have Vice President Fahey back. He encourages everyone to fill out the student health survey and provide great feedback. He also thanks Clare Delmore, the Catholic Values Initiative, and the Knights of Columbus for organizing an event celebrating religious life around the world.

Matthew Blomgren, a freshman accounting major and Treasury Board director, rises in support of Executive Treasurer Karla Martinez-Victoria's State of the Treasury. He wishes her the best of luck.

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

Motion to adopt the agenda by Senator D'Attelo and seconded by Senator Suarez

Vote on adoption itself→ Adoption passes

3. Approval of Minutes

8:24 PM

Motion to approve by Senator Curioso and seconded by Senator Besendorfer

Vote on approval of meeting minutes for Senate 8-7→ Approval Passes

4. Senate Speaker

8:25 PM

A. Dean Jennings, Associate Vice President for Student Engagement

Motion to suspend the rules by Senator Kish and seconded by Senator Corey

Vote on suspension of the rules → Suspension Passes

Dean Jennings introduces herself and her family: her husband and three adopted children. She attended Fordham University for broadcasting and attended graduate school at the University of Maine, studying higher education. She has been working at Catholic for 17 years. When she started she got to see many different people, but now she mostly sits at her desk in meetings. She works closely with the administration, helping to improve student lives and help build future programs. She says she started in 2006 when she moved from Maine because her husband was in the Coast Guard and stationed here. She believed they would only be here for 6 months and then move back to Maine. However, that never happened because of this job at the University. She was in charge of orientation and started the sexual assault and alcohol/ drug training for incoming freshmen.

She says she has had a lot of different opportunities here, where she has developed an array of expertise and has greatly grown. She worked for the Dean of Students, then to campus activities, back to the Dean of Students for seniors, and finally student engagement. Through this time, she built the following new programs: the Center for Cultural Engagement, CACS, the Office of Military and Veteran Student Services, and the orientation sexual assault and alcohol/drug training.

She says what she loves the most about her job is working with students in the office of the Dean of Students. She loves having one on one action with students, and being a part of different student activities. She helps with orientation advisors, National Student Scholars, the Center for Cultural Engagement, especially their Take Flight Program, CACS, and OMOVSS and the ROTC students.

She says the office of the Dean of Students provides multiple services to students, such as supporting and working with them while adjusting to college, academic and social issues, harassment, academic leave, and personal issues. This office is the starting point for students, they will make sure that all students get access to all the resources they need across campus and the appropriate follow-up. They will help you through the process, going over the policies and procedures.

She next talks about the staff in the office of the Dean of Students and how the process works. She says that each staff member participates and gets assigned cases from the Dean of Students. The cases rotate between each of the four staff members. They meet every morning to talk about cases and students, then proceed to work on the cases that come in throughout the day. She says that cases come from all different groups, where they get rotated and the staff follows up on them. The lengths of support for students can vary, sometimes they meet once or twice, or they meet every week for all four years. She says that there is a difference between meeting with the Dean and student conduct. If a student gets asked to meet with her, it is

typically not about conduct. They can support students through the conduct process, but don't work directly with them regarding it. She says that in the year 2021-2022, they had 1900 cases divided between the four of them.

She talks about academic leave, where they will meet with students before they leave and discuss it with them. Also, they help students with incompletes, guiding them through the process and making sure grades get turned in. She says that the four of the staff members are on call 24/7, each one takes a week and it rotates. Sometimes they help RA's on call, giving them guidance on how to handle issues. And sometimes they respond to campus, but she has only done that three times before.

She next speaks about SGA over the years. She says Dean Sawyer, Bill Jonas, and herself can find any record or email about the history of SGA, they are a wealth of knowledge. She says that if it is not in the campus activities files, then it's in one of their emails. She says that SGA has gone through many changes throughout the years, where it was completely changed twice and the Treasury Board a couple of times. She encourages the senators to do their research and talk to the necessary people before they do a resolution. She says that very frequently things can be solved through a conversation with someone, or it's brought to awareness and it's an easy fix. She says that if senators are having a hard time getting in touch with someone, that is where she comes in. The advisors can help get the conversation started, and Maevis and Tony do a good job of giving them a heads-up.

She talks about her two favorite resolutions that went really well. The first was the shuttle and shuttle tracker, and the second is RAVE Guardian. She says the student body and senate felt very strongly about these two things and worked hard with the administration and President Garvey to establish committees for these items. She says these two resolutions are great examples of working together within SGA and the administration and DPS. And because it went so well, we still have them today. She says that what the Senate does has a long-lasting effect on peers for years to come.

Senator Bommer thanks Dean Jennings for her great speech. He says that one of President Kilpatrick's goals is to increase enrollment size. He asks if the Dean of Students has worked with this.

Dean Jennings responds that President Kilpatrick has big visions for the University. She says he has only been here for six months, so she is still trying to figure out his vision and what he wants. She says it is gonna take time to learn these things. She could tell you what former President Garvey was gonna say before he said it. She does not have a good sense of President Kilpatrick's language yet, or how he likes to frame things. She says he has a lot of really big goals and is excited if he could accomplish all of them. She says in response it increasing enrollment size, they are working on expanding the International Student and Scholar Services program. Dean Jennings says that President Kilpatrick is committed to expanding the offices that need the support. They will work on looking internally to see if the model still fits, or if things need to be adapted.

Senator Foley thanks Dean Jennings for her time. He asks what happened with the previous SGA structure, was it dissolved?

Dean Jennings responds that the most recent change was eight years ago, she says that one did not dissolve. She says they rewrote the government while the government kept running. Before 2008, the government was dissolved for a year under Bill Jonas. They all came to an agreement to dissolve, and a group of students was chosen to work with Bill Jonas. They met with other universities and learned what worked best for the government, taking into account larger and smaller schools. That was SAGA, but we now have SGA. She says that previously there was no representation from each school, so the majority of senators were politics majors. This made it unfair to some schools and had very little say, which is why she believes the current representation is great.

Senator Curioso asks what are the best next steps to avoid another crisis.

Dean Jennings responds that SGA has been functioning really well in the past eight years. She says that the resolution track record has been good. She says that going forward senators should focus on forming good relationships across the University, that is how they can improve. She says that faculty turnover can be hard, and history can be lost, so that is why it is important to form relationships across the University. She says that establishing strong relationships and showing good work is important, things need to be taken seriously with good conversations. A lot of what SGA does affects other groups, especially GSA. She says SGA represents a large class section, so strong representation, good communication, and taking it seriously are important.

Motion to restore the rules by Senator Bommer and seconded by Senator Besendorfer

Vote on restoring of the rules → Passes

5. New Business

A. Committee Chair Updates

9:00 PM

i. Senator Besendorfer, Rules and Administration

Senator Besendorfer thanks Vice President Fahey and Dean Jennings for her great, informative speech. She says her committee did not meet last week, but has been at work. She is working with Senator Musick on a bylaws change and is excited to work with her on this. She says she is also working on a resolution to get a printer in Maloney Hall, and will keep everyone updated.

ii. Senator Gehrig, Academic Affairs

Senator Gehrig thanks Vice President Fahey and says her committee had a fruitful meeting. Senator Henriquez is working on a resolution about an interfaith chapel on campus. Senator Ewing is working on a resolution about hand dryers in the bathrooms. Senator Downing is looking into Garvey Hall and honoring Ms. Willie. Senator Campbell is looking into more vegetarian options. Senator Noory is working on a mural in Shannan Hall.

iii. Senator Martin, University Services

Senator Kruger says their committee had a productive meeting. One senator is working on an LC resolution. Senator Zayas is working on a resolution for architecture students. He is working on a resolution about China.

iv. Senator Michels, Student Resources

Senator Michels thanks Vice President Fahey and says they had a good meeting. He is disappointed to not have his LGBTQ+ resolution hit the floor tonight, he was looking forward to discussing it tonight. Senator Bommer has a meeting with Dean Mayor on tracking sheets, and is working on another resolution about menstrual equity. He says that they are waiting for the Diversity and Inclusion Executive Initiative to join them at a meeting and looks forward to it.

v. Senator Drauschak, Campus Life

Senator Drauschak thanks Vice President Fahey and says they had a productive meeting. He says they have been working on Senator Curioso's resolution that was sent back and they voted to bring it back to the floor. He says they will wait a couple of weeks for more research and preparation.

6. State of the Treasury, Treasurer Karla Martinez-Victoria

9:03 PM

Motion to suspend the rules by Senator Gehrig and seconded by Senator Kruger

Vote on suspension of the rules → Suspension Passes

The following is Executive Treasurer Karla Martinez-Victoria's State of the Treasury speech.

“Good evening senators, fellow executive board members, Administrators, and most importantly my fellow students of the Catholic University of America. As you may know, my name is Karla Martinez-Victoria, and over the past Academic year, I have had the honor and privilege of serving as your Student Body Treasurer.

To understand the completeness and efficiency of my term as well as the changes, challenges, and improvements we have made over the past year, I would like to provide context for the Board, as I am aware that the process and functions behind the branch are not always easily understood.

The Treasury consists of eleven people. Myself, the Treasurer, serves as the head of the branch. My duties outside of executive responsibilities consist of forming the Treasury Board and its directors, utilizing the Treasurer's discretion to ensure a fair allocation to student organizations, and maintaining activity on campus, paired with the direct oversight of the Student Activity Fee. The Treasury has an OCA advisor, Maddy Quizinsky, whom I have had the distinct pleasure of getting to know over the past year, as we both navigated this new role together. The Board itself is made of 8 voting directors and a secretary, hailing from different schools, backgrounds, beliefs, and interests, whom I thank for their time, thoughtful insight, care for this campus and its activities, and of course their laughter and joy throughout the year despite difficult decisions or late nights. These individuals gave themselves every week from 8:00 pm to midnight every Tuesday, though some meetings have seen us go well past 1 in the morning, as well as the numerous meetings with club leaders and OCA staff to ensure and improve the CUA community we all know and cherish and ensure it is handled with care and competency. This has been the mission of the Treasury Board: develop, create, maintain, and foster the mission and community of the Catholic University of America through the efficient allocation of the student activity fee. In addition, I had a smaller, yet still important mission for the Board: to optimize the communication between the Board and Student Organizations on campus and provide more robust support to student org leaders.

Both while on the Board as a director and in my role as Treasurer, I observed the struggle that student organizations felt in executing their event planning and the confusion and even frustration that budgeting, requesting, and utilizing funds created for them. A once slow and unengaged campus resulting from a COVID-19 environment became an overprogrammed campus with student leaders pushed to knock out multiple large-scale events a year, many of whom likely began their involvement in these organizations in an online or hybrid environment. Naturally, as Treasurer this was not only difficult to see, but I knew that the Treasury Board could offer more support and more resources for those involved. As a result, I focused heavily on fostering a culture of charity and grace from the Treasury board when communicating with clubs and welcoming them to our meetings, as well as some much-needed formation and clarity to our systems to help evaluate club's concerns and simplify the often confusing and nuanced process of requesting funding. Later on, I will touch on the numerous ways SGA has aimed to elevate this process for students on campus.

To first further understand what the Treasury does, I will outline the steps a Student Organization takes to receive funding. The Treasury Board has allocated large sums of the student activity fee this Fiscal Year, with many more presentations yet to come. This massive feat also saw a wealth of challenges throughout the course of the year. This early start began with summer funding, which saw the early

allocations of organizations such as all Club Sports, OCA, Campus Ministry, and of course Program Board, and Center stage all who create and design events regularly. This uncertainty varies a lot in the total amount of the activity fee, leading the Board to be more frugal and wary of the amount it was spending throughout the year. This uncertainty however did not stop the Board from funding exceptionally well. Compared to Fiscal Year 21-22, we funded at the highest historical funding rate of 90%.

This increase is also due to various other measures the Board has installed over the year. During the Summer with the aid of trustworthy advisors, my newly appointed Treasury Board Directors, and trustworthy, yet frustrated Student organization leaders, launched the Treasury Board Experience Survey, for Student organization leaders to openly express their honest feedback for the Board to take into account. Not only could we review and aim to understand what aspects are most challenging for student organization leaders and areas where Treasury Board and OCA can offer more support but also to discover what areas are effective and simple for student organizations to complete and should remain consistent. I also increased the communication between OCA and the Treasury Board as I have maintained weekly meetings between myself, SGA advisor Maddy and OCA office manager, PJ Connolly. I thank all of them for their time and knowledge, which helped the Board with each prospective presentation. We introduced the opportunity for clubs to submit a preference for a liaison to hopefully result in better relationships built with the Board. We reformed the Treasury Board funding request form on the nest to provide more clarity on the expectations and requirements for presenting. We have also worked extensively with the Lovely SGA Secretary, Molly Mulli, To improve the SGA website specifically the Treasury Board tab and she has continued to post the weekly agenda of the Board on SGA social media accounts every week as well as overseeing the Nest allocations that our Treasury Board secretary, Ava Regiar, overviews every week. Thank you Molly and Ava for your commitment to the transparency of the Board and all of the work you do to support the treasury. Lastly, I wanted to support directors and their experience working on the Board week after week and decided to implement the director check-in system where directors meet 1:1 with myself and discuss their performance, challenges, and successes, and most importantly feedback throughout the month.

These are clearly a testament to our hard work, but there are many other amazing opportunities to grow and improve not only for the remainder of the semester but for years to come.

I would also like to thank the entirety of the SGA executive, The cabinet, the Senate, Executive Initiatives, Student Organizations, the Office of Campus Activities, the Board's Directors, Board Secretary, and the entire undergraduate population for its continued support and forgiving nature to the Board. The Treasury is strong and ready to help student organizations provide and maintain the great campus energy that remains on this campus. With much time still left in the fiscal year, the treasury will continue with absolute delight to support student leaders, fund and aid in the passions of CUA students and the campus community. Thank you all for allowing me the opportunity to share with absolute joy the work that we aim to achieve week after week and now I invite you to ask any questions you may have for me at this time."

Motion to restore the rules by Senator Drauschak and seconded by Senator Michels

Vote on restoring of the rules → Passes

7. Vice President, SGA Updates

9:21 PM

Vice President Fahey begins by noting that for the first time in 8 years, the senate has no resolutions on the floor during the meeting. She says this should serve as a reminder to the senate of what she stated at the SGA winter workshop, that the Senate should prioritize the quality of resolutions over quantity. She says that today's agenda should be a call to action for all senators and that they could do great work this year if

they prioritize resolutions that are effective and truly make CUA better. She says she is trying to make sure that Senate 8 is intentional with bringing good quality resolutions to the floor. She says working with one another and especially working with the administration of the school is of great importance. She looks forward to the rest of the year with SGA and hopes they can build upon the good work they have done so far.

She says in regard to the resolution that was drafted about adding the term “sexual orientation” to the student code of conduct, she hopes the senate can have an uplifting dialogue and debate about this during the meeting. She says that all senators are welcome to respond to her comments during the open floor session, and they are welcome to meet with her outside of the meeting as well. She thanks those who rose to speak in public comment about this issue.

She explains that the resolution is not hitting the floor tonight for several reasons. First, this would mark the third year the resolution has been considered. Because of this, she says the SGA must do introspection and reflection to try and bring the most introspective resolutions to the floor. She says that when she was a senator, she voted for this resolution, and can only share empathy with those who have been discriminated against. She says if she were still a senator, she would support the resolution. But as Vice President of SGA, she has to focus more on prioritizing introspective resolutions on the agenda. She says she shares a similar sentiment that our university should be more welcoming and respectful but at this moment in time, we must look to a higher end of this tough battle and seek out a different means of achieving this goal. Instead of voting on this a third time, she believes we as a community should take a different approach and achieve the goal of this resolution through different means.

She adds that all senators are welcome to share testimonies. In regards to the resolutions planning, she says she met with the sponsors and co sponsors, who met with Dean Sawyer, and she still feels supportive of this mission and has a desire to see this achieved, simply through a different path, however. She says as SGA goes forward, we should be in tune with the same sentiment of prioritizing quality over quantity, and hopes to make the rest of this year better than it has ever been before.

Aside from that resolution, she says there is a new Google form for students to fill out when they meet with members of the administration. She explains that if a student meets with an administrator, they can go onto this form, fill out who they met with, and then write a brief description of the experience they had. She encourages all members of the community to take advantage of this form.

She says as President Crnkovich mentioned, they have rolled out the new survey for Student Health Services, and if anyone visits the SHS and wants to share information about their experience, they can fill out this form.

She thanks the SGA Executive, Karla and the Treasury Board, Dean Jennings, and the Senate for their continued dedication. She concludes by welcoming fruitful dialogue and good debate.

8. Open Floor

9:30 PM

Senator Michels thanks Vice President Fahey and says that he solemnly rises to speak about his resolution that did not hit the floor this evening. He says that he agrees with the sentiment that we need to prioritize quality over quantity, but explains the reasoning for his resolution. He says that the resolution had 8 pages of research attached to it. He adds that he met with the Dean of Students and human resources, and was looking forward to a fruitful debate tonight about the resolution. He appreciates those that reached out in support and in opposition to the resolution. He says he disagrees with the Vice President's decision to block the resolution, but accepts it.

He says he is disappointed in the SGA Executive team and says the Senate and all of SGA should not stand complicit simply because the previous administrations have blocked the resolution. He says that the

absence of any legislation from the agenda this evening speaks for itself. He says that the respect for the LGBTQ+ community on campus has never been more alive, and this resolution would have only helped that.

Senator Curioso says that he wants to bring a more positive tone to the meeting, he says he too is disappointed about the blockage of the resolution. He says that on another note, he was approached by roughly 25 constituents all with a request to place vending machines with Starbucks coffee in the Crough architecture building and in the Ward School, but a resolution of that matter may have to wait until next year if it is not feasible to accomplish this academic year.

Senator Henriquez says that as a member of the LGBTQ+ community, he is angered that the resolution was blocked, and with a new administration there are new views and the student body wants this more than ever. He disagrees with Vice President Fahey's decision to block this resolution.

Senator Kruger says that he feels disappointed with the blockage of the resolution. He says an issue of this matter requires the Senate to push the envelope. He says not even attempting to make a request for this matter is a waste of the Senate's time.

Senator Suarez says that she does not know how to feel about this decision, but feels that it is important to have this dialogue. She says we must all recognize that these members of the community are human, and deserve the same respect as everyone else. She has empathy with those who are suffering and says we should further engage in this dialogue which will only help the SGA in the future. She says we should not see this as a blockage of a resolution, but more of a call to action to engage in this debate. She says in the future, we should find a way to achieve this goal of making sure everyone in our community feels respected because people suffer from this issue and have fears of the school's community and administration, which we should work to end

Senator Musick rises to express her frustration and disappointment in the decision to block this resolution of, what she believes, is fear of the administration's response. She says this decision is cowardly of the SGA Executive and for the members of this community, this is an incredibly upsetting and disheartening decision. She thanks Senator Michels for her hard work and apologizes that his efforts did not come to fruition. She wishes this had a different outcome. She thanks Senators Kruger and Bommer, saying this is disappointing and she apologizes to the student body. While they did not get the result they were looking for, the fight is not over and they will prevail.

Senator Drauschack says that his previous resolution for the Brookland Arts project will be happening soon. He has support from the administration and President Kilpatrick and looks forward to its implementation.

Senator Kish says that he understands that many people are very upset, but he feels that they are upset for the incorrect reasons. He says that the Senate has voted on the sexual orientation resolution twice now, and it was not implemented. He says we must recognize that this must have happened for a reason. He says we must acknowledge that the laws on the federal and state level support the LGBTQ+ community. He says we all agree that human life is sacred and deserves respect. He says that as a Senate, they have failed their constituents because there are no resolutions on the floor this evening. He reminds the Senate that they are all better than this, and his fellow senators must do better to bring resolutions to the floor if they want to speak out against any decisions of the SGA.

Senator Foley says that throughout the challenges of the SGA, we must all recognize that Vice President Fahey has been going through many challenges through the past few weeks, and must be under tremendous stress. He thanks Maevis and the rest of the SGA for their hard work, and commends the kindness they have shown to him throughout the year. He says he is appreciative of all that they have done. He says the week of February 15th is solidarity in suffering week, and he looks forward to all the events surrounding this. He says there are talks of masses and different events, if anyone wants to reach out or has any ideas he

encourages them to reach out.

Senator Tamayo welcomes Vice President Fahey back to CUA and says she has been missed. He thanks her for her dedication to the SGA and CUA throughout this year.

Senator Bommer says he thanks everyone for coming to public comment and he notes that he was a co-sponsor for Michels legislation. He says as someone who advocated for this, he knows that this pressing matter will rage on. He says he is working on a resolution to add menstrual product dispensers to the women's bathroom and will keep working on this resolution and encourages all who are interested to reach out.

Vice President Fahey explains the process of updates about the consideration of this resolution, saying that she shared concerns about it and that is why it has not reached the floor yet.

Senator Noory says that she is working on a resolution to put a diversity mural in Shahan, she looks forward to meetings with the administration and with her cosponsors and encourages anyone interested to reach out to her.

Senator Curioso says that he offers his prayers to all of those going through the application process to campus ministry, orientation advisors, and RA's.

Senator Besendorfer thanks everyone for speaking about this very important issue. She says she is the only senator who has been present for all the previous votes on the resolution regarding sexual orientation. She says she values the turnout of public comment and the debate the senate is currently having. She says over her 3 years she has brought many resolutions to the floor, some of which get implemented, and others do not. But that has never stopped her from wanting to bring up an issue that she feels passionately about. She prides herself on this record, and says that she will never believe that senators should not share resolutions or opinions simply because they may not be received well.

9. Adjournment

9:52 PM

Motion to adjourn by Senator Kish and seconded by Senator Curioso

Vote on meeting adjournment → Passes

Meeting adjourned