

The Catholic University of America Student Government Association 2023-2024 Senate Session 9-2



October 23, 2022
8:15 p.m. – 10:15 p.m. EST

ROLL CALL

Vice President - Alex Harvey

Secretaries

Catherine Weatherwax and

Santiago Quiros

Parliamentarian - Matthew Cutrona

Class of 2024

Anthony Arreaga-Cacao X

Matthew Michels X

Class of 2025

Neil D'Attelo X

Jeffrey Lance X

Class of 2026

Bennett Bert X

Michael Kish X

Class of 2027

Jack Hermes X

Clare Tong X

School of Architecture

Elisabeth D'Albero X

School of Arts and Sciences

Correy Crawford X

Jordan Gehrig X

School of Business

David Fritz X

Max Morris X

School of Engineering

Allison Ewing X

Maria Hargrave X

School of Music, Drama, and Art

Anthony Graf X

Kyle Holcomb X

School of Nursing

Whitney Paulson X

Mary Grace Raddell X

School of Philosophy

Kolbe Tucker 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 Ewing recites a general opening prayer and a Hail Mary, calling for solidarity towards peace in the Middle East and all Catholic University affairs.

1. Public Comment 8:20 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.

Anthony Curioso, a sophomore Music Education Major, rises in favor and support of both new pieces of legislation.

SGA President Fahey rises to welcome Senators. She gives a few quick updates about the first Nugent Dinner, stating that there is another one in the works, as well as progress updates on the new Senate appointments.

2. Adoption of Agenda 8:25 PM

Motion from **Senator D'Attelo** to pass the agenda, seconded by **Senator Corey**.

Vote on agenda adoption → Passes unanimously

Agenda adopted

3. Approval of the Minutes 8:28 PM

Motion to approve the Minutes by **Senator Michels**, seconded by **Senator Suarez**.

Voice Vote on approval of the minutes → Passes unanimously

Meeting Minutes approved

4. Senate Speaker 8:30 PM

- A. Father Aquinas Guilbeau, University Chaplain and Vice President of Ministry and Mission

Motion to suspend the rules by **Senator Michels**, seconded by **Senator Suarez**.

Vote on suspension of the rules → Passes unanimously.

Rules suspended for guest speaker

Fr. Aquinas Gilbeau stands to give his presentation.

“Thank you for the invitation and for having me. I wanted to take some time to appreciate the history of the Dominicans at CUA, who have been here for a century now. We initially arrived in 1905, when we moved our house of studies from Ohio to DC, making additions in 1950 and then again in 2008. We have been heavily involved since the beginning, specifically in the philosophy and music departments. We think the structure of campus ministry is very important, as well as our involvement with those who live there. The

President himself believes that the faith is very alive here and he ensures that it is carried out. As a priest this is a very wonderful place to be, and we have had a great time partnering with the school and carrying out its mission of faith. I have tried to organize the campus ministry into 3 groups: prayer, serving, and preaching the Gospel. There are many opportunities here to bring people together in the faith, whether that be Mens and Womens Groups, OCIA, and lots of general access to learning about the faith. We have worked hard to make prayer and liturgy accessible to all, and it is a blessing to see all that we have done. Service, as well, is a manifestation of love in action, and we have a robust service program including mission trips and lots of ways to get involved on campus. I am looking to expand the service program with new and more diverse opportunities. The most impressive part of campus ministry is the student ministry program. Like nowhere else, peer ministry is rooted in the residence halls as an extension of the campus ministry. We are working on expanding access to more students like grad students, commuters, and more. In closing, there are some new faces in campus ministry. This includes the five new chaplains, the two sisters from the Society of Mary (Sister Chiara and Sister Annunciata), Elizabeth Dern, Kari Flynn, and Allie Dunbaugh. We are here for you, thank you for the prayers and support, and please know we are supporting you as well. We are looking forward to this year and many great years to come serving the Lord!”

Senator Kish rises to mention his resolution regarding the Novus Ordo and asks about the implementation timeline.

Fr. Aquinas responds that there are many masses available, but our goal is to offer as many diverse opportunities for prayer as possible. President Kilpatrick brought the Novus Ordo to our attention, and implementation is in progress. Additionally, we hope to open the Caldwell Chapel in the spring.

Motion to reinstate the rules by **Senator D’Atello**, seconded by **Senator Corey**.

Vote on reinstatement of the rules → Passes unanimously.

Rules reinstated.

5. New Business

A. Committee Chair Updates 8:50 PM

i. Senator Michels, Rules and Administration

Senator Michels announces that the Rules and Appropriations committee had their first meeting, establishing their vision for the rest of the year. He talks about each member's doings. **Senator Bert** wants to speak with **Associate Vice President of Public Safety and Emergency Management Kirk McLean** about current active shooter drills. **Senator Holcomb** and **Senator Paulson** are looking to change credit requirements for students who need to overlect. The Committee is also looking into the possibility of double enrollment for booking finals.

ii. Senator Gehrig, Academic Affairs

Senator Gehrig presents her committee's progress and thanks her members for a great first meeting. She describes how there were many good ideas and conversations, such as the implementation of a headshot photo booth in the CACS office, new details for an Italian mass, and more. All senators are actively looking into possibilities.

iii. Senator Kish, University Services

Senator Kish presents his committee's progress with great passion. The Committee on University Services had a groundbreaking first meeting. They began by discussing passed and in-the-works resolutions. He calls out the University's current parking ticketing system as a possible resolution idea. Closes off by mentioning the lack of water with the fountains currently broken in Caldwell Hall and Gibbons Hall.

iv. Senator Ewing, Student Resources

Senator Ewing presents her committee's progress. She describes **Senator Tong's** efforts to look into more possibilities for AP class transfer credits from high school. Committee also looking into improvements for community progress. Closes off by stating that anyone is free to reach out at any time.

v. Senator Corey, Campus Life

Senator Corey presents his committee's progress. **Senator Lance** is working on a resolution to have all washing machines in residence halls undergo proper cleaning through facilities. **Senator Hermes** is working on a resolution to make protein drinks and other energy products available for purchase in the Kane Fitness Center.

B. Senator Correy Crawford, Arts and Sciences (Resolution 002) 9:00 PM

i. A Resolution to Advocate for a Standing Disability Support Services Faculty Committee

Senator Crawford rises to introduce his resolution. He emphasizes the need for a Standing DSS Faculty Committee because 13% of students work with the DSS and that this percentage is not the maximum as students may become disabled through injuries and other circumstances. Senator Crawford also expresses that the sole test facilitator proctored over 100 tests in a week during midterm season, and that the wait time to ask for accommodations averaged 5-7 days. This is because students are forced to wait on professors to provide accommodations, and this reliance on professors makes it difficult for students to communicate with DSS. He asserts that the goal of this resolution is to ensure faculty's response to DSS because it is a big issue for students, and it is our responsibility to advocate for them.

Senator D'Albero asks why the committee would only consist of one student rather than one from each academic school.

Senator Crawford says that a singular student can bring a united voice and be a focal point for conversation between the student body and faculty.

Senator Paulson points out that when students get accommodations, it is their responsibility to advocate for themselves, and asks what the point of the committee is if this is the case.

Senator Crawford says that the goal is to tackle big projects. The Americans with Disabilities Act is new and sometimes faculty is new, so they need help adjusting to expectations regarding DSS accommodations. The committee would not handle specific cases, but rather big structural issues including making faculty aware of expectations.

Senator Michels expresses his full support for the resolution. He points out that other committees exist with only one student, and it is a good starting point at the very least. He asks how the faculty members would be picked.

Senator Crawford says he wants to keep it vague to avoid too many restrictions. Leaving it open ended gives it a better chance of passing and making a difference.

Senator Gehrig says that as the Dining Services Advising Director, she has friends with concerns. She says that she can speak from experience to say that the committee will still hear concerns even if it's just one person. Additionally, it's most likely that faculty who work with

dss for many years would be selected for this role.

Senator Hermes asks for examples of other committees with 1 person? Also, there are already three organizations for DSS? He asks what authority would it have that DSS doesn't already have.

Senator Crawford says that several Advising Committees meet with faculties and administration. He says that he was the DSS Executive Initiative Director last year, and that some overlap is good because the Director of the EI can be a liaison, contributing to outreach through SGA. However, the Standing Committee can talk to faculty. This will help with faculty responding to testing accommodations requests.

Senator D'Albero expresses her concern that faculty doesn't respect DSS. She says that there's no check for DSS with the Executive Initiative, and asks whether this committee can handle this, or if there is another organization already that is capable of this.

Senator Crawford asserts that DSS accommodations are federal law, and the DSS would still remain the students' first point of contact, as well as the Dean of Student Services, or the Department of Justice. If necessary, it is possible to file a civil rights complaint regarding the ADA.

Senator Morris asks what hole this committee would be filling. He asks why it is so vague, expressing his preference for specifics, such as how many people would be on the committee, how they are chosen, and how often they would meet.

Senator Crawford says it's about what DSS and the EI can't do. Currently, DSS has 6 members. Test proctors are struggling to keep up with demand and we are in need of more resource management. This committee can help by getting students' perspective and by working directly with faculty. The vagueness is because he just wanted to present the general idea.

Senator Hermes asks if the 3 different organizations relating to DSS could cause a conflict of interest. If all the organizations are working on the same thing, why not combine them all? He mentions the example of fixing accessibility to the 24 hour chapel and how the issue was fixed within a few days.

Senator Crawford says that the chapel situation was a small scale issue, and that cooperation with DSS and the EI is crucial. Students are more likely to reach out to other students, and this will act as a forum for students to speak directly to faculty.

Senator Gehrig clarifies that this would not be a separate triangle; they will work together. DSS has so much on their plate and it takes a long time to get things done, so it would help immensely to have a singular line of communication.

Senator Hermes asks why not just abolish the Executive Initiative? He asks what is unique

about this committee and why we need yet another organization, rather than adding new faculty or resources to DSS.

Senator Crawford explains that the DSS and EI work hard to connect with students. The use of this committee is that it will work directly with faculty.

Senator Gehrig adds that DSS also needs more support. She mentions that students bring concerns to dining services all the time, and their communication is streamlined so it works well. One singular student voice can streamline communication in DSS too.

Senator Morris says he thinks it is a solid idea, just that it's being implemented too late. He expresses that he thinks it's unnecessary.

Senator Crawford says that both he and DSS agree that it is necessary.

Senator Michels says that while Senator Morris brings great points, the debate is going in circles. He encourages a vote.

Motion to vote by **Senator D'Atello**, seconded by **Senator Corey**.

Ayes: 14

Arreaga-Cacao, Michels, D'Attelo, Lance, Bert, Kish, Tong, D'Albero, Crawford, Gerhig, Ewing, Hargrave, Holcomb, Corey

Nays: 3

Hermes, Morris, Paulson

Abstentions: 4

Fritz, Raddell, Tucker, Suarez

With 14 Yays, **Resolution 002: A Resolution to Advocate for a Standing Disability Support Services Faculty Committee**, passes.

C. Senator Correy Crawford, Arts and Sciences (Bill 001) 9:20 PM

i. A Bill to Update Senate Bylaws Language to Accommodate Persons with Disabilities

Senator Crawford gives a brief inspiring speech to present the bill. Includes, "I have a disability and get accommodations myself. It is important to understand that the reason I have an iPad [during meetings] is thanks to the Vice President's discretion." He states that the lanaguge of the bill does not try to uphold Vice President Harvey's authority. ADA must be upheld. **Senator Crawford** hopes this bill will foster discussion to answer questions.

Senator Holcomb is recognized and shares his admiration for Senator Crawford's continued work and advocacy towards a matter he cares much about. Sometimes, he states, we forget the purpose and idea of the Senate.

Senator Hermes is recognized. With strong rhetoric, he proposes an amendment to the constitution, as the 2nd clause says "unless unable to do so", but the 3rd clause makes no such reference. It is also worth mentioning, he exclaims, that Anthony Curioso was able to be recognized without having to stand up or without any of the changes to the language of the rules proposed by the bill, making the bill useless.

Senator Crawford responds that if **Senator Hermes** wants an amendment, he can go ahead and make a motion for one. The meaning of the language would still be the same for the bill. The goal is to work proactively.

Senator Hermes reiterates how the public that is unable to stand can just raise their hand, but we should still add to the wording because it can be positive.

Senator Crawford says that we do not know who will be here in each meeting, so forth the purposeful wording of the bill.

Senator Michels is in favor of a new clause, and would be happy to add one. He expresses his love for reorganizing.

Senator Gehrig motion to Vote, seconded by **Senator Paulson**.

Ayes: 21

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 1
Graf

With 21 ayes, **Bill 001: A Bill to Update Senate Bylaws Language to Accommodate Persons with Disabilities**, passes.

6. Vice President, SGA Updates 9:35 PM Vice President Harvey reads the Vice Presidential Updates.

"Congratulations again to Senator Crawford on the passage of his first two pieces of legislation. Our next committee meeting will be Monday, October 30th in McGivney Hall- continue to

brainstorm your resolution ideas in the meantime- and be sure to reach out to fellow senators to cosponsor and provide feedback for any legislation ideas you may have. In my next email, I will include some information about the proper use of abstentions in a parliamentary procedure.”

7. Open Floor 9:40 PM

Senator Michels rises to say he appreciates the clarification regarding abstentions. He offers his support to any who would like to amend the bylaws.

8. Adjournment 10:15 PM

Motion to adjourn by **Senator Gehrig** and seconded by **Senator Corey**.

Vote on meeting adjournment → Passes

Meeting adjourned.