

# The Catholic University of America Student Government Association 2023-2024 Senate Session 9-4



December 4th, 2023  
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  

Jacob Henry   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**

David Norcross   X  

Kolbe Tucker   X  

### **School of Social Service**

Kendall Germain   X  

Gabriela Pereira-Ruano   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 Corey** recites an opening prayer to the Holy Spirit.

**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.

**Jamie Mersel**, Sophomore Nursing Major, is in opposition of **Resolution 005**, describing how its merits would not outweigh the importance of Starbucks. A significant amount of the community takes advantage of Starbucks: their custom orders and the use of dining dollars. A small independent coffee job would not be able to meet large demands that Starbucks can, she states.

**Bridget Hamburger**, Sophomore Business Marketing Major, is in opposition to **Resolution 005**. As a Cardinal/ORIENT Ambassador, she knows families and visitors like the presence of a

Starbucks on campus, having a home feeling to its environment.

**Adriana Salerno**, Cornerstone scholar, states that coffee is not and should not be political, and neither should SGA. She understands the points made by the opposition but supports the resolution, describing how implementing a CUA student-run coffee shop will offer great benefits. Student jobs stem internal capital, Planned Parenthood will lose a sliver of funds caused by Starbucks's removal, and the University can be changed for the better, returning power to small businesses.

**Justin Lambro** is in opposition of **Resolution 005**, pointing out that Starbucks respects the dignity of all humans, currently supporting a human aid organization.

**Judith Prebo**, English Major, supports **Resolution 005**, describing how more student employment is needed, something that is very visible in the school community.

**Joseph Donnelly**, Honors History Major, is in support of **Resolution 005**, pointing out that the U.S Supreme Court has overturned the decision made in Roe vs. Wade. Since Starbucks supports Planned Parenthood as an active partner, this should be reason enough to not renew CUA's contract with them.

**Luca Albany**, Business Major, is in opposition of **Resolution 005**. He explains how part of why he came to Catholic University is because of the familiar feeling that Starbucks brings. Every morning he goes to Starbucks to get coffee. As a devout Catholic himself, he explains, we are not looking at the whole picture. He understands the point that Starbucks supports Planned Parenthood, but the money raised that goes to that cause does not make a significant change. Also, tax dollars go to Planned Parenthood so a student-run cafe does not guarantee good quality coffee.

**Anthony Curioso**, Sophomore Music Education Major and former Senator, is in support of **Resolution 007** sponsored by **Senator Graf**. The water situation in Ward Hall is a disaster. Water is needed now.

**Matthew Blomgren**, Accounting Major, is in support of **Resolution 005** as it makes good business sense. It provides students the ability to work on a school-sponsored project, producing reasonably-priced coffee while another Starbucks remains available just across the street. He ends off stating that he hopes the resolution passes.

**Matthew Priskowski**, Philosophy Major, supports **Resolution 005**. As the Catholic University

of America we oppose abortion. Therefore Starbucks, supporting Planned Parenthood, is a betrayal to our identity.

**Daniel Masekal** is in favor of **Resolution 005**, explaining how Starbucks is in opposition to the integrity of our school and Catholic Social Teaching.

**William Shroeder**, a Sophomore Marketing Major, states that we should act as the Catholic University of America in resolving the issue at hand in **Resolution 005**. It is good for student-workers creating new job opportunities, he explains, and also we should not be giving money to companies and actors that do not support Catholic Values in the first place.

**Therese Sanctafamilia** supports **Resolution 005**, as Starbucks' values are contrary to the Catholic Church, and we should act as Catholics in this issue, she states. The Church affirms the moral evil of abortion, in the context of the 1025 that take place every day. Our teaching against this is unchangeable under moral law. She ends by stating that Starbucks is bad quality coffee to begin with.

**Michael Ellison**, Junior Philosophy Major and Director of Executive Initiative for Wellness, expresses his love towards **Resolution 004** and **Resolution 007**. He had the pleasure to talk with senators on these matters for the wellness of our campus, stressing the importance of the issues they handle.

**(name unintelligible)**, a senior, supports **Resolution 004** and **Resolution 005**. Regardless of financial commitments, Starbucks supports practices contrary to our Catholic values. If you like Starbucks that much, they explain, you can just go across the street since we have a small campus.

**Ben Reese**, Senior Biology Major, supports **Resolution 005**. Having two Starbucks on campus, with another one right across the street, does not make much sense. The majority of people, 80 percent he states, either want change or do not care what happens, a recent poll showed. Saxby's, a possible option to help set up a student-run cafe, gives good value to the student body as it gives academic credit to employees.

**Helen Herowsknik**, a Sophomore Politics Major, is in opposition of **Resolution 005**. Murphy's is currently understaffed, she explains, especially during the morning. A student-run cafe will create more jobs, creating a hassle.

**Riley Novak**, Politics Major, lists the companies that support planned parenthood including Ben

and Jerry's, Amazon, Adobe, Microsoft, Nike, Starbucks of course, Apple, and Patagonia. She hopes no one in opposition to **Resolution 005** uses their products.

**Evan Field**, Philosophy Honors Major, invites the Senate and crowd present to imagine that Starbucks supports the slaughtering of 3 year-olds. Under the Catholic Church, all humans, including embryos, are equal in value. With this in mind, we should not support Starbucks who supports Planned Parenthood, as done by **Resolution 005**.

**Casey Reid**, Freshman Business Major, supports **Resolution 005**. One day, he states, we each will have to meet God and answer if we did everything we could to protect human life.

**Grace Moreno** is greatly in favor of **Resolution 005** to make more money and create job opportunities for students under federal work-study. At the Kane Fitness Center, she states, we are currently over employed and always fully staffed. Personally, she would love to work at a new student-run coffee shop.

**(name unintelligible)**, a senior Theology Major, is in support of Resolution **005**. They say they go to Starbucks all the time, but support Catholic values at the same time. On campus we must reflect our values, for which a student-run cafe that replaces Starbucks would be most convenient.

**President Fahey** takes a moment to appreciate what the Senate does, stating that this is democracy at work, congratulating them on finishing the year off strong in this last meeting of the semester. She appreciates all the feedback and inputs given by the students present in today's meeting. She moves on to describe how both minority and Catholic students complain about the counseling services, as a recent poll showed. She ends off by advocating for epipens to be available on campus and wishing the Senate good luck.

## **2. Swearing in of Appointed Senator 8:40 PM**

**President Harvey** presents **Senator David Norcross's** senate biography.

Motion to vote on the confirmation of **Senator Norcross** by **Senator Hermes**, seconded by **Senator Suarez**.

A voice vote is taken, passed unanimously.

**Senator Norcross** recites the oath of office and is appointed to the University Services Committee.

### **3. Adoption of Agenda 8:41 PM**

Motion to adopt the agenda by **Senator Crawford**, seconded by **Senator Kish**.

Voice vote on the Adoption of the Agenda → Passes unanimously

Agenda adopted

### **4. Approval of the Minutes 8:41 PM**

Motion to approve the minutes by **Senator Michels**, seconded by **Senator D'Attelo**.

Voice vote on the Approval of the Minutes → Passes unanimously

Minutes approved

### **5. New Business**

#### **A. Committee Chair Updates 8:42 PM**

##### **i. Senator Michels, Rules and Administration**

**Senator Michels** shares his excitement for the newest addition to the committee, **Senator Norcross**. He then describes how he met with multiple senators and administrators to discuss the implementations of Bill 002 and discussed them in the last committee meeting. There were talks of putting up a digital fire wall for anyone without CUA credentials and a compromise achieved thanks to the **Kish Amendment** that was already passed after it was talked about in the last Senate meeting after all debating was hashed out.

##### **ii. Senator Gehrig, Academic Affairs**

**Senator Gehrig** describes how the Committee had an incredible and fruitful meeting. There were talks of a monthly Italian mass worked on by **Senator Suárez**. **Senator Hargrave** is working to improve the implications of the SGA express program to finance travel to buses and to the airport. **Senator Fritz** is looking to extend the hours of the Kane Fitness Center on Friday's. Senator Gehrig herself is currently working on the headshot booths and funding for practice exams for students. She ends by congratulating the committee's two resolutions going on the floor tonight, **Senator Graf's** and **Senator Raddell's**.

iii. Senator Kish, University Services

**Senator Kish**, with excitement and passion, welcomes **Senator Norcross** to the Senate. He explains how the committee deals with pretty much everything you can imagine under University Services, currently working on parking and banner issues.

iv. Senator Ewing, Student Resources

**Senator Ewing** congratulates the committee on a great meeting. Their newest member of the fantastic team, **Senator Henry**, she explains, hit the ground running working on a reform to combine the three dining applications we currently use. There was also discussion about the lack of bike racks on campus. Senator Morris has a bill on voting, previously introduced before, and Senator Tong has a resolution about counseling sheets going on the floor tonight. Senator Ewing, meanwhile, is working to fix the printers in Leahy Hall.

v. Senator Corey, Campus Life

**Senator Corey** is proud to welcome **Senator Pereira-Ruano** as a great addition to the team. **Senator Lance** has a resolution on the floor tonight to fix the water fountains in Ward Hall. **Senator Hermes** is working to introduce a resolution in January to improve the Kane Fitness Center, ending Senator Corey's report of the great progress going on in the committee. He ends off by welcoming **Senator Norcross** and hoping for a wonderful Senate meeting.

**B. Senator Jeff Lance, Class of 2025 (Resolution 004) 8:50 PM**

i. A Resolution to Clean Undergraduate Residence Hall Washing Machines

**Senator Lance** begins his opening remarks. The resolution is finally here! It's time, he eagerly exclaims, having been passionate about this since his freshman year. There has been a large concern among students over the non-working washing machines and their terrible smell. The students are asking for help, so this is an opportunity for us to do the right thing for residence halls. He met with the facilities directors as well as Mr. Tim Carney who was very supportive of these efforts.

**Senator D' Albero** explains how hopefully these efforts will clean up the smell and bring much-needed maintenance to facilities. The washing machines, he explains, break often which increases the regularity of maintenance in the first place.

**Senator Graf**, with a serious tone of humor, states that washing machines are meant for cleaning. An unclean thing cannot make another thing clean, he explains, ending off with a momentous “thank you” generating laughs from the rest of the senators and the crowd.

**Senator Paulson** expresses how a bimonthly cleaning of the washing machines would be great. Just a bit concerned, she asks if all the washing machines would be shut down at once when cleaning or if some would remain available.

**Senator Lance** responds that he was not told the exact process, but he does know that the cleaning would take place early in the morning, that the whole room would be closed, that all laundry remaining would be removed, and that all the washing machines would be cleaned the same day by maintenance.

**Senator Michels** explains how he legislated on this exact same issue two years ago. Students have to learn to move their clothes and other materials from the laundry room. As explained by the sponsoring senators, the machines do break often. **Senator Graf** said it best. They can count on his full support on this resolution.

**Senator Corey** commends the rest of the senators to please vote yes. The current washing machines are disgusting. He compares the ones in Opus Hall as being in the trenches.

**Senator Kish** gives his full endorsement for the resolution. He asks if the cleanings would be twice a month or once every two months.

**Senator Lance** responds that this would mean the machines would be cleaned once every other month.

Motion to vote by **Senator Suarez**, seconded by **Senator Corey**.

A roll call vote is taken.

Ayes: 26

Arreaga-Cacao, Michels, D’Attelo, Lance, Bert, Kish, Hermes, Tong, D’Albero, Henry, Crawford, Gehrig, Fritz, Morris, Ewing, Hargrave, Graf, Holcomb, Paulson, Raddell, Norcross, Tucker, Germain, Pereira-Ruano, Corey, Suarez

Nays: 0



Abstentions: 0

With 26 Yays, **Resolution 004: A Resolution to Clean Undergraduate Residence Hall Washing Machines**, passes.

**C. Senator Mary Grace Raddell, School of Nursing (Resolution 005) 8:55 PM**

i. A Resolution to Support the Establishment of a Student Engagement Cafe in the Pryzbyla University Center

**Senator Raddell** stands to introduce her resolution. She explains that the purpose of coffee shops is to serve as an epicenter of college campuses and a place for students to spend time and dining dollars. She suggests that the idea of a coffee shop can be expanded to be so much more than that. A coffee shop can help support small businesses, uphold university values, and overall be better suited to our campus' life and community. Senator Raddell says that many local collaborations are possible, including Saxby's and Ebenezer's, which supports the national church community and aids the local area. She expresses that by replacing the Starbucks with a student run cafe, we can make a great impact in our community. For starters, architecture students would gain hands-on experience in designing and building the cafe, art students would get a chance to showcase their work, and work-study students would benefit from the work opportunities. She emphasizes that it is not her intention to put the current Starbucks employees out of jobs, but if the resolution passes, we could implement a mixed model to best fit the needs of the campus, although a mixed model would not be compatible with Saxby's if that is the replacement chosen. The next reason she recommends replacing Starbucks is because their corporate values do not align with that of the university or Catholic Church. She says that by replacing the Starbucks we can make both the coffee shop and the campus more personal. Senator Raddell asks that senators keep the debate factual rather than opinion based, or focused on the issue of abortion. She emphasizes that we should be asking whether Starbucks is the best fit for our school, and how we can make the most positive change on campus. She asks that we join her in this opportunity to optimize intentional space. She then adds that Senator Lance also brought up the idea for meal swipes to be available for use in the new coffee shop.

**Senator D'Albero** thanks everyone who spoke in public comment. She emphasizes that the benefits of the replacement outweigh the disadvantages. It would bring the university community together, between architecture, engineering, business, and art students, as well as those involved in work-study. Students would learn how to work with small businesses. She encourages students and senators to be proud of what we can do together as a university community.

**Senator Lance** reiterates that the new cafe would create opportunities for every student. It can be a project to work on together. There could also be the option to use a meal swipe, which would compensate for the overcrowding dining halls as the student population grows in the future.

**Senator Crawford** expresses his support for the concept of locally owned businesses. However he fundamentally disagrees with the proposed piece of legislation . He says that it is not within his power to say what values the Catholic Church supports. He thanks Senator Randell for sending him 3 articles about the concerns about Starbucks as it relates to Planned Parenthood. Senator Crawford then states that he reviewed every financial disclosure from Starbucks in the last 5 years, and that they had never given a single cent to Planned Parenthood. He explains that they never actually gave money or matched a single donation. He then goes on to list other foundations that Starbucks gives money to and questions why CUA wouldn't support these causes. Finally, he also spoke to the fact that Starbucks doesn't pay for employees to get abortions, their insurance simply says that Starbucks will pay for treatments that are found outside of the community, which CUA's insurance does as well.

**Senator Raddell** thanks Senator Crawford for his research, and confirms that Starbucks has been matching donations since 2013. However, a big part of the issue is their vocal support because Starbucks is then acting as a middleman for people to give to Planned Parenthood. They supported the foundation before other corporations did, and even if they don't give money, their vocal support is strong enough to oppose the teachings of the Catholic Church.

**Senator Kish** states the clear benefit of returning power to the hands of students. He states that the empowerment of students is crucial in making lasting change on campus. He says that this coffee shop has the potential to say that CUA students support the right to life and the Catholic Church. He makes the argument that it's not about every cent going toward Planned Parenthood, but rather about avoiding apathy.

**Senator Holcomb** says that it can take anywhere from a semester to a year to construct. He brings up the point that we will already have construction going on with the new bookstore and asks whether this is a practical step to be taken. He also mentions that he has heard about more engagement from the constituents than ever before, mainly in opposition. Senator Holcomb says that we can achieve the same number of opportunities by updating the Starbucks rather than replacing it entirely.

**Senator D'Albero** clarifies that with a design build, there would be minimal demolition and no big signs of construction.

**Senator Bert** says that the resolution leaves him with more questions than answers, and asks

what he would be voting for. He asks how long the new cafe would take to be built by students. He states that a lack of a decisive plan will fail to garner support from the student body and that the resolution is already unpopular among the constituency.

**Senator Raddell** reiterates that the contract with the Starbucks is up, making this the perfect time for implementing more student engagement and supporting local charities. She acknowledges that the resolution is vague, but clarifies that the intention of that was to create a list of priorities she wanted to present to the Senate in support of.

**Senator D'Albero** clarifies that students would not actually be building the new cafe, rather that they will be working with professors and professionals to learn trades and new skills. This allows students to have hands-on experience in the construction process. She says she doesn't know how long it would take, but that a schedule can be set.

**Senator Lance** emphasizes that this resolution is only an idea, and that not every logical aspect will be decided by the senators right then and there. Everything will be decided by the university, and if it passes, the university will decide whether to implement it.

**Senator Bert** restates that he views the resolution as too broad to support. All the options are vastly different. He brings up Murphy's, which is an example of a student run restaurant on campus. He says that Murphy's is frequently understaffed and that the food is substandard, and he suggests revamping Murphy's before figuring out the new cafe. Senator Bert also suggests that Saxby's looks like a great addition to Starbucks, instead of a replacement. He says that many universities such as Westchester and Drexel have both shops, and that increasing enrollment means more demand, so it would be more efficient to add another shop somewhere else on campus such as the library or law school.

**Senator Raddell** says that the initial idea was an additional coffee shop, but asks whether we need 3 shops within a quarter of a mile of each other. She says that it's great that enrollment is increasing, and acknowledges that there is a need for more food near Maloney Hall, but says that to her current knowledge there is no space available. She says that the current spot in the Pryz is ideal and reiterates that these are just ideas to look into. She says that the administration will decide but that they want students to be involved in the idea phase.

**Senator Ewing** brings up the point of marketability in admissions. She mentions that often on campus tours, potential students do not pay attention until they see the Starbucks sign. She says that if increased enrollment is the goal, senators should consider the marketability of the Starbucks in the Pryz.

**Senator Raddell** says that while she understands the initial grandeur, it wears off eventually and

that it is not valid for a student to come to our university for a coffee shop. Starbucks has a spot in 300 other university campuses, so there is not much stake in happiness here.

**Senator Suarez** says that first, this is a pro-life campus, and Starbucks is vocal about supporting Planned Parenthood and abortion. She says that while the Starbucks is good for admissions, people who are authentically catholic will not be excited to see it on a campus tour.

**Senator Corey** expresses that all of his constituents are in strong support of this resolution and have a lot of hope for the engagement opportunities it will provide. He encourages senators to take initiative and make change. He says that this is CUA, not Starbucks, and that the CUA marketing would benefit from putting a new shop in that ideal spot in the Pryz.

**Senator Kish** states that he will not be a corporate bootlicker. He asks if senators have considered how much more connected the campus could be. He says that there is still the option of the Starbucks across the street, and that we have been given the chance to be unique at this school and to say that students here create things of their own volition.

**Senator Graf** says that only 10% of the Starbucks profits go to the university. He says that we love the small community of our school, and it is a big part of CUA's identity. He says that we will not ruin Starbucks by removing it from campus, yet we would gain connection significantly.

**Senator Michels** says that the resolution asks for a lot. He states that it is vague, and that sometimes it is okay to be vague, but that now is not the time. He asks when the Starbucks contract will expire and whether those people will lose their jobs. Senator Michels says that if these people rely on their jobs and the resolution is vague, he will vote against the resolution. He also asks the feasibility of architecture students being involved and whether it has been done in other buildings as well.

**Senator D'Albero** says that she studied the Conway School of Nursing and Garvey Hall while they were under construction, and that the idea is to give students larger hands in smaller projects. She says that while student involvement is not feasible for large buildings, it is absolutely possible for individual rooms. It would allow students to learn many new skills while being supervised, and big decisions would not be left to students. Senator D'Albero adds that next year, President Kilpatrick's living facilities will include students' design ideas. She gives the caveat that the university could still say no, but even a small role in designing the new cafe would be enough.

**Senator Michels** asks whether students will be involved or not, and why this has not been done with other spaces. He expresses his concern that this will not be feasible and that the wishlist of the resolution is too extensive.

**Senator D'Albero** explains that students have not previously been involved in projects like this because buildings are often built in their entirety by one architecture company, where all the spaces are built to work in accordance with each other. Since all the spaces were being built with the whole building in mind, students were not able to work with just one space. She admits that while the whole resolution is a big ask from the university, it is a chance to prove we are capable of a project like this.

Motion to extend the meeting until 10:45 by **Senator Michels**, seconded by **Senator Arreaga**.

Voice vote on the extension of the meeting until 10:45 PM → Passes

Meeting extended until 10:45 PM

**Senator Paulson** says that last meeting, a lot of time was spent discussing representation. She states that it is the senators' job to represent the students, so she will not vote based on her personal opinion but rather for her constituents.

**Senator Hermes** says that the Senate is a representative body and not direct ballot access. He says that if the intent was for students to have direct access to the ballot, there would be an online voting system. He states that he took an oath to promote the interest and welfare of students, not to vote for what everyone here wants. He says that he will vote to promote the welfare of the students, and that if the overwhelming majority wants something that does not promote their interests, that he will vote against it.

**Senator Crawford** says that when the Starbucks was closed all summer for renovations, the free coffee offered was horrific. He says that there have already been many renovations on the top floor of the Pryz and asks whether it is an effective use of time and money to re-renovate another space. He says that the only requirement is coffee, and that it doesn't matter where the coffee is from.

**Senator Raddell** says that yes, it is worth the new renovations because now is the time. She explains that the contract has been paused because of the deeper look into further renovations, and that the administration has already been considering expanding. She says she was not aware of the renovations from over the summer, but that the main idea is finding a cafe that better fits the university.

**Senator Michels** says that there is inadequate information to move forward with the resolution. He says that the senate should not risk having inaccurate information being presented because

that threatens the integrity of the SGA. He encourages the end of debate because it will not change anyone's minds.

**Senator D'Atello** says that he identifies himself as super catholic, and expresses that he is very public about his faith. He says that while he is not proud of going to Starbucks, we are all guilty of going. He expresses his concerns about a lack of support from students and the fact that Starbucks generates a lot of money for the school.

**Senator Raddell** says that any options would generate money, and that there will always be a coffee shop- it'll just be a different company. She says that the current workers' employment is still under consideration by the administration.

**Senator Gehrig** expresses her concerns about the vagueness of the resolution. She says she loves the idea of more student engagement, but has more questions about the ratio of students to outside workers and about student pay. She also says that while she does not drink coffee, she will go to the Starbucks across the street if she ever wants Starbucks. She admits that while it takes time, so do classes in far buildings. She adds that Starbucks is a want, not a need, and that coffee is available in many other places across the campus. Senator Gehrig says that in order to build on this idea, more details about student workers are necessary in order to put the best resolution forward.

**Senator Raddell** says that the student worker model is an ongoing conversation with administration and that it's a guarantee that students will have a part in it. She clarifies that Saxby's is entirely composed of student employees who earn a set salary for the semester, while work study employees receive a different amount. If a local shop is implemented, that will mean a conversation about the DC minimum wage. She asks that everyone contributes to the decision of which shop replaces Starbucks.

**Senator Morris** states that small businesses make a big difference, and that while the new coffee might be worse, Starbucks is expensive. He says that if people feel inclined to walk across campus to the Starbucks instead of going to the new shop, that will indicate to campus that the new shop needs to improve. The new shop will raise competition while lowering prices.

**Senator D'Albero** reminds senators that if the resolution fails to pass, it can be brought back with edits made. She says that she does not want the resolution to pass as a result of confusion and vagueness.

**Vice President Harvey** clarifies that if the resolution is removed from the agenda, it can be brought back with edits.

Motion to vote by **Senator Hermes**, seconded by **Senator Morris**.

A roll call vote is taken.

Ayes: 17

Arreaga-Cacao, Lance, Kish, Hermes, Tong, D'Albero, Henry, Fritz, Morris, Hargrave, Graf, Raddell, Norcross, Tucker, Germain, Corey, Suarez

Nays: 9

Michels, D'Attelo, Bert, Crawford, Gehrig, Ewing, Holcomb, Paulson, Pereira-Ruano

Abstentions: 0

With 17 ayes, **Resolution 005: A Resolution to Support the Establishment of a Student Engagement Cafe in the Pryzbyla University Center**, passes.

#### **D. Senator Clare Tong, Class of 2027 (Resolution 006) 10:30 PM**

##### **i. A Resolution to Provide Updated Course Tracking Sheets for Major Advisors**

**Senator Tong's** prepared remarks:

“Good evening President Harvey, my fellow senators, and members of the student body. I will keep my remarks brief but also want to provide some broader context and background to this resolution. After talking with numerous members of the student body, it became clear to me that the issue of course tracking sheets were important for these students. The students I talked to felt that by being provided a course tracking sheet from their major advisor, they would better be able to understand the classes they needed to take. While there are some departments that already do this, not all do which can make students feel unequipped to follow the courses they need to take. This is especially a problem in some of the looser majors where students have more choices in the courses they want to take. This could lead to students being unaware of changing requirements and ultimately affect their graduation status. Another problem is that while there may be departments that provide these course tracking sheets, they can be extremely outdated or not made available to the students. Therefore, by implementing a practice that would allow for students to be able to track their courses and find this sheet in a place that was easily accessible and updated, students could be better equipped to understand their requirements. For our returning senators I understand that this may feel like deja vu as I understand that a very similar resolution was passed last year. However, after looking at it it seems to me that this previous resolution was a bit broader and was aimed more at the CACS advisors while this one

specifically focuses on the major advisors. Also, to my understanding the one passed last year has not really been implemented in all departments. Therefore, I feel that the fact the student body is still calling for this change should speak volumes to the administration. Also, this resolution is very specific and would call for the academic departments to provide and update these course tracking sheets each semester to their major advisors. It is my understanding that the administration is very receptive to this idea, and perhaps seeing something passed by us again this year could encourage action to finally be taken on this issue. Thank you and I am happy to answer any questions.”

**Senator Hargrave** explains how the resolution passed by last year’s Senate was indeed good, but was not well implemented. Students should be prepared to know what classes they need to take. Currently, Majors are uninformed and the timing of when classes need to be taken is unclear. Supporting Senator Tong’s legislation, she states that this new resolution will fix that.

**Senator Paulson** describes that she does not really need help since Nursing Majors are provided with an email of the courses they need to take. Even so, she points out that a resolution like this has been passed many times before, even before Senate 8 last year. She asks, “Do we know where the disconnect is? Why has it not worked in the past?”

**Senator Tong** thanks Senator Paulson for her comment. Although she is happy nursing students do not have an issue with knowing the courses they have to take, the case presented is still a big problem. Senator Tong herself is a freshman. If she has questions over courses, she needs someone to talk to that is not her parents miles away. The academic counselors advise many students, making it difficult to maintain communication with all of them without the right tools. Being in a small university means the students have an important say. She takes into account that legislation like this has been passed many times before, making it a problem because it should be implemented once done so. She hopes that we would have support from the president of the university to implement her resolution’s execution.

**Senator Crawford** understands where **Senator Tong** is coming from, explaining how he felt completely lost his freshman year. A course tracking sheet would have been very helpful.

**Senator D’Albero** understands the need for this resolution, although the problem does not apply to her, similarly to **Senator Paulson**. She thinks that help for choosing minors should be taken into account as well to be able to help students. If counselors were asked to post tracking sheets each semester, would they be available before it is time to register for courses? Also, what would they look like?

**Senator Tong**, as a Biology Major, responds that she has no clue where her tracking sheet is. Considering a minor as well, she is forced to figure out how all the moving pieces fit together.



She explains that she does not know if there would be a deadline for the tracking sheets or how they would look like, this being above her paygrade. She is not here to tell professionals how to do their job, just to show support for them to take action.

Motion to extend the meeting until 10:55 by **Senator D'Attelo**, seconded by **Senator Paulson**.

Voice vote on the extension of the meeting until 10:55 PM → Passes

Meeting extended until 10:55 PM

**Senator Holcomb** completely supports the resolution and thanks her for bringing this issue to the Senate, but would like to further expand on it. He believes it is not too big of an ask to look at minor requirements too, for which he asks if **Senator Tong** is open to amending the last clause of the resolution to “major and minor”. As a Music Major and Politics Minor, it is difficult to get help for his minor just like many other students, he explains.

**Senator Tong** agrees with **Senator Holcomb's** proposition. She asks if we can motion to amend the resolution to read “major, minor, or certificate”.

Motion to amend the resolution by **Senator Holcomb**, seconded by **Senator Suarez**.

Voice vote on the entertainment of an amendment → Passes

Period of debate follows

**Senator Gehrig** points out that we should also include accelerated programs.

Motion to amend the resolution to read “major, minor, certificate, or accelerated programs” by **Senator Gehrig**, seconded by **Senator Crawford**.

A voice vote is taken to entertain the motion to amend → Passes

Motion passes

Motion to vote on the amendment by **Senator Crawford**, seconded by **Senator Michels**.

A roll call vote is taken on amendment → Passes unanimously

Ayes: 26

Arreaga-Cacao, Michels, D'Attelo, Lance, Bert, Kish, Hermes, Tong, D'Albero, Henry, Crawford, Gehrig, Fritz, Morris, Ewing, Hargrave, Graf, Holcomb, Paulson, Raddell, Norcross, Tucker, Germain, Pereira-Ruano, Corey, Suarez

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

With 26 ayes, the amendment is adopted. The Senate amends the resolution.

Motion to vote on the resolution by **Senator Corey**, seconded by **Senator Raddell**.

A roll call vote is taken.

Ayes: 26

Arreaga-Cacao, Michels, D'Attelo, Lance, Bert, Kish, Hermes, Tong, D'Albero, Henry, Crawford, Gehrig, Fritz, Morris, Ewing, Hargrave, Graf, Holcomb, Paulson, Raddell, Norcross, Tucker, Germain, Pereira-Ruano, Corey, Suarez

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

With 26 ayes, **Resolution 006: A Resolution to Provide Updated Course Tracking Sheets for Major Advisors**, passes.

**E. Senator Anthony Graf, School of Music, Drama, and Art (Resolution 007) 10:41 PM**

i. A Resolution to Increase Water Accessibility in Ward Hall

**Senator Graf** stands to give his opening remarks. He states that while many buildings are in need of this update, Ward Hall, being in the far corner of campus, is in special need of updated and additional water fountains. He says that many music and musical theater majors spend 10 hours at a time in Ward Hall, in addition to frequent rehearsals that often last up to 4 hours long. He emphasizes that these rehearsals are active and require ample hydration, yet there is no access to water anywhere in the building. He says that this

resolution would be placed in the lower lobby, near room 210, and two flights of stairs up from the lobby.

Motion to extend the meeting until 11:15 by **Senator Crawford**, seconded by **Senator Suarez**.

Voice vote on the extension of the meeting until 11:15 PM → Passes

Meeting extended until 11:15 PM

**Senator Paulson** says that her experience getting water in Ward Hall has been extremely difficult and that many times, she has had to walk through the dungeon just for water. She adds that this resolution would not only affect the Rome School, but also all the student organizations that use Ward Hall as a gathering place.

**Senator Morris** asks how much the updates will cost.

**Senator Graf** says he is unsure.

**Senator Holcomb** says there is no specific number, but that the project has been done in other buildings previously. He clarifies that the university has already shown willingness to invest in this project.

**Senator Crawford** says that water fountains can be bought privately on Amazon for \$2,000. He says that he thinks it should be done, whatever the cost.

**Senator Graf** says he has linked the product in the resolution and that senators will be able to check the pricing there.

**Senator Corey** says that if Musical Theater majors need water, we should give it to them.

Motion to vote by **Senator Crawford**, seconded by **Senator Raddell**.

A roll call vote is taken.

Ayes: 25

Arreaga-Cacao, Michels, D'Attelo, Lance, Bert, Kish, Hermes, Tong, D'Albero, Henry, Crawford, Gehrig, Fritz, Morris, Ewing, Hargrave, Graf, Holcomb, Paulson, Raddell, Tucker,

Germain, Pereira-Ruano, Corey, Suarez

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

With 25 ayes, **Resolution 007: A Resolution to Increase Water Accessibility in Ward Hall**, passes.

**F. Senator Max Morris, Busch School of Business (Bill 002) 11:00 PM**

i. A Bill To Allow Freedom of Deliberate Votes

**Senator Morris** stands to give his introductory remarks. He says that after Bill 002 went to committee on Monday, senators were able to reach a compromise. He proposes the idea of a firewall that would prevent people without CUA credentials from accessing the minutes of previous senate meetings. He says that this double protection measure maintains the integrity of the bill while enabling compromise with those in opposition to the bill.

**Senator Kish** thanks Senator Morris for bringing the bill back to the floor. He emphasized that the bill does not add anonymity or cloud transparency.

**Senator Gehrig** mentions that GWU has a firewall and that when she tested it, it worked completely. She says that having been through extensive background checks herself, she understands the necessity of protection. She says that she has heard from many constituents that students want to know how each senator voted. Senator Gehrig says that she thinks the firewall will provide enough protection and will vote against the bill because she wants her constituents to know how she is voting.

**Senator Morris** suggests that if students are frequently asking senators how they are voting, to just tell them. He says that the firewall is intended to be an extra layer of protection on top of the bill in case of failure.

**Senator Kish** reminds senators that the meetings are always open to the public and the minutes are always accessible online. He reminds everyone that the bill doesn't have any negative effect, rather that it just serves as an extra layer of protection.

**Senator Paulson** shares her concerns about former students who still have access to their old CUA credentials. She brings up the question of whether it is morally right to access something they are not meant to access.

**Senator Tong** says that ideally no, but that in order to network, personal connections are necessary. She says that knowing someone on the inside is crucial to getting into a three letter agency.

**Senator Crawford** encourages the end of debate.

**Senator D'Albero** reminds senators that they all represent different schools, students, and situations. She encourages everyone to vote in accordance with their constituents' interests.

Motion to extend the meeting until the agenda is complete by **Senator Suarez**, seconded by **Senator D'Albero**.

A roll call vote is taken.

Ayes: 8

Lance, Bert, Hermes, D'Albero, Henry, Holcomb, Norcross, Suarez

Nays: 18

Arreaga-Cacao, Michels, D'Attelo, Kish, Tong, Crawford, Gehrig, Fritz, Morris, Ewing, Hargrave, Graf, Paulson, Raddell, Tucker, Germain, Pereira-Ruano, Corey

Abstentions: 0

The motion fails.

Motion to extend the meeting until 11:16 by **Senator Crawford**, seconded by **Senator Paulson**.

Voice vote on the extension of the meeting until 11:16 PM → Passes

Meeting extended until 11:16 PM

**Senator Holcomb** expresses his support for the firewall. He says the bill will only result in less transparency. He encourages each senator to take SGA seriously and asks for another bill that incorporates the firewall.

Motion to extend the meeting until the completion of the vote by **Senator Kish**, seconded by **Senator Corey**.

Voice vote on the extension of the meeting until completion of the vote → Passes

Meeting extended until the end of the vote.

**Senator Kish** says that he does not appreciate Senator Holcomb's attempt to filibuster Bill 002.

Motion to vote by **Senator Tucker**, seconded by **Senator Ewing**.

A roll call vote is taken.

Ayes: 15

D'Attelo, Lance, Kish, Hermes, Tong, D'Albero, Henry, Fritz, Morris, Hargrave, Norcross, Tucker, Germain, Corey, Suarez

Nays: 11

Arreaga-Cacao, Michels, Bert, Crawford, Gehrig, Ewing, Graf, Holcomb, Paulson, Raddell, Pereira-Ruano

Abstentions: 0

With less than a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority, **Bill 002: A Bill To Allow Freedom of Deliberate Votes**, fails.

## **5. Vice President, SGA Updates 11:17 PM**

**President Harvey** gives the SGA updates.

“First of all, congratulations senators on an incredibly productive final meeting of the semester. With five newly passed pieces of legislation, this is a true testament to your hard work these past few weeks. While we will not have another committee meeting before the end of the semester, our first committee meeting of the spring semester will be on January 15th. Our first senate

meeting of the spring semester will be on January 22nd back in Great Room B. I will update the senate meeting dates sheet with the dates for the spring semester.

On a separate note, I wanted to give a shout out to Senators Graf and Holcomb who sang in the annual Basilica Christmas concert last Friday. I attended alongside many of you, and it was a truly phenomenal experience, so well done to you both.

Congratulations again to tonight's sponsors- if you passed a piece of legislation this evening, please see Secretary Polking afterwards to provide a brief update to be posted on our Instagram.

As always, thank you all for your hard work- I hope we can keep the momentum going through the start of the new year.”

## **6. Open Floor 11:18 PM**

**Senator Bert** says that this is his last meeting because he is going abroad in the spring semester and wishes everyone good luck.

**Senator Hermes** says it's clear we had a filibuster and encourages each senator to go into the new semester clean of heart and with a forgiving mindset because the most important objective is being productive.

**Senator Crawford** says there should be no sides in student government as we are all here for the students. He wishes everyone a Merry Christmas.

**Senator Morris** thanks everyone for giving his bill a shot and says that the senators can still work together.

**Senator Gehrig** invites everyone to let her know of any questions or concerns in preparation for her upcoming meeting with dining services.

**Senator Corey** congratulates Senator Lance.

**Senator Paulson** invites everyone to come see Center Stage's production of Gruesome Playground Injuries.

## **7. Adjournment 11:21 PM**

Motion to adjourn the meeting by **Senator Crawford**, seconded by **Senator Corey**.

Voice vote to adjourn the meeting → Passes unanimously

Meeting adjourned