

The Catholic University of America Student Government Association 2023-2024 Senate Session 9-6



February 12th, 2024
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

Molly Mullin X

Class of 2025

Neil D'Attelo X

Jeffrey Lance X

Class of 2026

Michael Kish X

Arianna Salerno X

Class of 2027

Jack Hermes X

Clare Tong X

School of Architecture

Elisabeth D'Albero A

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

Gabriela Pereira-Ruano X

Maggie Ferrick 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 Lance gives a general opening prayer.

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 on the DSS Executive Initiative, expresses his support for Molly Mullin and Senator Morris's resolution. He says that as an HSA, he constantly receives comments about the water in water fountains not being cold enough.

Emma Murray, a sophomore politics major who interned on Capitol Hill recently, says that she was not paid for her internship, like most Hillterns. She explains that this resolution could encourage future and current students to pursue internships because it covers the cost of transportation.

Helen (last name unknown), a sophomore politics major, rises in support of Resolution 012. She says that although she is a paid Hilltern, she spends \$80 monthly on transportation and is forced to leave early in the morning. She also says that although this resolution will initially only apply to Capitol Hill interns, it could potentially also apply to other majors and students in the future.

Julia Pandolfi, a senior history major, rises in support of Molly Mullin.

Riley Novak, rises in support of Resolution 012. She says she likes the safety factor, as a woman who has experienced many concerning things on the CUA campus. Potential criminals in the metro, for example, do not discriminate. She says she is glad someone is looking out for students' safety.

Maria Ducky, a senior, rises to support Molly Mullin, saying there is no one better to represent the senior class.

President Fahey rises to give the SGA updates. She says that SGA appreciates everyone's input and encourages each senator to keep working hard on pursuing their ideas. The spring semester now being in full swing, she looks forward to advocating for the senator's propositions. She says that recently there was a wonderful focus group with the counseling center, and there will be another focus group in the near future concerning the DSS. She wishes the Senate appointees best of luck.

2. Confirmation and Swearing in of Appointed Senators 8:24 PM

- i. Molly Mullin, **Class of 2024**
- ii. Maggie Ferrick, **School of Social Service**

Motion to vote on the confirmation of **Senator Mullin** and **Senator Ferrick** by **Senator Paulson**, seconded by **Senator Crawford**.

A voice vote is taken, passed unanimously.

Senator Mullin and **Senator Ferrick** recite the oath of office and are appointed to the Senate.

3. Adoption of Agenda 8:26 PM

Motion to adopt the agenda by **Senator Suarez**, seconded by **Senator Henry**.

Voice vote on the Adoption of the Agenda → Passes

Agenda adopted

4. Approval of the Minutes 8:27 PM

Motion to approve the minutes by **Senator Arreaga-Cacao**, seconded by **Senator Norcross**.

Voice vote on the Approval of the Minutes → Passes unanimously

Minutes approved

5. New Business 8:27 PM

A. Rules and Administration Committee Chair Election

Senator Gehrig nominates **Senator Holcomb**, describing his passion as unmatched and his experience as highly valuable, and encourages his election.

Motion to vote by **Senator Crawford** and seconded by **Senator Corey**.

Voice vote on the election of **Senator Holcomb** as Rules and Administration Committee Chair → Passes unanimously

Senator Holcomb is officially elected as the President Pro Tempore.

B. Committee Chair Updates 8:50 PM

i. Senator Gehrig, Academic Affairs

Senator Gehrig is glad to say the Committee had a fruitful meeting! She welcomes Senator Ferrick with excitement to the group. She shares the following updates: **Senator D’Albero** is working on facilities, **Senator Salerno** is working on communications, **Senator Suarez** is looking into cyberbullying on Fizz, **Senator Raddell** is working on establishing civil dialogue on campus for the upcoming election season, while **Senator Gehrig** herself continues to work on the CACS headshot photo booth.

ii. Senator Kish, University Services

Senator Kish shares that, not unlike an orchid bearing fruit, the Committee on University Services also had a fruitful meeting. He announces that **Senator Norcross** is looking for ways to change the music in the Pryz. With that being all, he looks forward to a productive Senate meeting.

iii. Senator Ewing, Student Resources

Senator Ewing shares that her committee had not one, but two productive meetings! **Senator Morris** has a resolution going on the floor tonight for a pilot program to install ice machines in dorms, **Senator Tong** is working on accommodating finals schedules for STEM majors, **Senator Henry** continues to work on installing bike racks on campus, and **Senator Ewing** herself is working on a tech services group that will help with any problems.

iv. Senator Corey, Campus Life

Senator Corey passionately shares that the Committee had two wonderful fruit-to-bear meetings! **Senator Lance** is waiting to meet with **Tim Carney** to discuss a resolution aimed at lowering the University's energy consumption. **Senator Hermes** continues to work on his resolution to make protein options available in the Kane Fitness Center and is also interested in pursuing legislation on creating a Maintenance Worker's Appreciation Day on campus. Finally, **Senator Pereira-Ruano** has been interested in fixing and improving lighting along the Basilica lawn.

C. Senator Max Morris, Busch School of Business (Resolution 011) 9:00 PM

i. A Resolution to Install Ice Machines Pilot Program

President Harvey reads the resolution.

Senator Morris rises to give his opening remarks. He states that the resolution is pretty straightforward. He met with **Tim Carney**, the Executive Director of Campus Services, to whom he described a scenario where he could use some cold water while in his dorm but had no ice machine! “Imagine my shock” he states. The idea would be to start with one ice machine in Opus or Millennial North or South, to later see if the program works and could expand.

Senator Henry, being a student of the School of Architecture, thinks this sounds like a great idea. He then asks how it would be maintained. Would it be cleaned regularly? Would the pipes bringing water be cleaned routinely?

Senator Morris explains that this indeed was **Director Carney’s** main concern. The ice machine would go inside the laundry rooms with preexisting floor drains; they would later figure out a schedule to keep them clean in order to not catch infections.

Senator Kish inquires about the timeline for the ice machines, asking, “how long will they last before collapsing?”

Senator Morris answers that he thinks they would last around a decade, but is not sure.

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

A roll call vote is taken.

Ayes: 24

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

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 1

D’Albero

With 24 Yays, **Resolution 011:A Resolution to Install Ice Machines Pilot Program**, passes.

D. Senator Arianna Salerno, Class of 2026 (Resolution 012) 8:20 PM

i. A Resolution to Implement a CUA Shuttle Pilot Program to Capitol Hill

President Harvey reads the resolution.

Senator Salerno rises to deliver her opening remarks.

“Good evening fellow Senators and Vice President Harvey. At only my second Senate meeting, I am honored to be bringing this important piece of legislation to the floor. I appreciate the insight you all have given me, as it has paved the way for the fruition of my resolution. My resolution entails the creation of a Catholic University shuttle Pilot Program for the month of April. In this pilot program, the campus shuttle will provide complimentary transportation to Capitol Grounds from campus for student-interns. As you have read in the resolution, there are many important reasons as to why this pilot program is not only necessary, but beneficial to students of Catholic University. First, the concern of safety and hesitancy to travel alone in DC is a feeling that many college students have fallen prey to. Statistics are showing us that DC is progressively becoming one of the most unsafe and dangerous cities in the nation, but, we should not allow this to prohibit or daunt our student body from engaging in work in the inner city. This should also not scare off potential CUA students and their families. This shuttle may incentivize potential students who may be interested in coming to DC for our prime metropolitan location, but may be too fearful due to the growing rates of crime across the city. Secondly, this program may help alleviate financial struggles of students who are unable to pay for frequent transportation to their internship. Georgetown University offers a shuttle bus program, and the feedback from the school community has been remarkable. There is no reason why we cannot follow suit in this regard. Third, this shuttle program can help stimulate a sense of community for student-interns that goes beyond merely having a class together once every few weeks. College is all about community building, so why not cultivate a program that encourages the flourishing of friendship and connection amongst peers? Before I get into the nuanced aspects of the program, it is essential that I emphasize the overarching objective of the program. At its core, this pilot program is intended to serve students, which is exactly why we are all here tonight. To enlighten some who may be hesitant to give “exclusive privilege” to politics majors or feel as though this program is ‘self serving’, let us first acknowledge that capitol hill internships are not exclusive to politics majors. There are architecture and engineering majors who work for the AOC at the capitol, there are finance majors who work for the Committees of Finance, and so many other individualized situations. So, for those of you who say this only benefits politics students, I highly recommend you reconsider that stance. While, yes, primarily, politics students are going to be the majority engaging in this program, it would be a disservice to disregard other students who may benefit from this program in the future. Further, if a student works somewhere other than Capitol Grounds but feels as though he or she can efficiently arrive at their place of work from the drop off point, they are more than welcome to engage with the pilot program. There are many other

office buildings located near Capitol Hill that non-Hillterns can easily get to from the drop off point, so, this works to support the notion that this pilot program is not as 'exclusive' as many claim it to appear. I believe the biggest misconception about the resolution is that this will exclusively be for and benefit capitol hill interns. Overarchingly, my goal is to give this shuttle program a trial run to gauge interest for the widespread use of this program next fall. My long term intention is to grow this program outward, but before we can engage with masses of students, it is necessary to have a control group to analyze the program and its potential for success. It is essential to engage in a smaller pilot program to learn more about the wants and needs of the student-intern body as a whole. Rather than launching multiple pilot programs simultaneously, we aim for a focused and intelligent approach, learning from this initiative to build a more extensive student transportation system next year. I see this program growing to later benefit the dedicated nurses who have clinicals across the city, the ambitious business majors who intern in Farragut, and almost every other category of student you can think of. Every internship is just as important as the next, and I acknowledge that and believe it wholeheartedly, so it is essential to build this program slowly and steadily so it can be used for years to come and cater to an extensive body. Understanding the incremental nature of policy, the goal is to start small in April and expand strategically in the future. Further, I am pleased to share that earlier last week I met with Mr. Tim Carney from the Office of Transportation and Parking Services. I am excited to share that the estimated cost of running this program for the month of April will cost their office \$600 a month. To reiterate once more, as this seems to be a concern, the office clarified that they will finance this in its entirety, and would be more than willing to do so. There were no financial concerns expressed to me during this meeting. After many questions, he assured me that the office of transportation was very excited about the prospect of this idea, and recommended I bring my resolution to the floor here tonight. So, for those of you concerned about how the school will react to this, I beseech you to realize that they are in full and unwavering support. Lastly, let me address some logistical questions you may be wondering. In order for riders to secure a seat, there will be a 24 hour sign up system, allowing students to use the bus on a first come first serve basis. Some may be hesitant and argue that the bus only holds 12 seats so this cannot be entirely fair, but since this is a pilot program, our main priority for now is to engage with interest. In accordance with discussion with Mr. Carney, the shuttle will depart at 8 AM from the parking lot embedded within the Pryz, Caldwell, and McMahon, serving as a prime localized meeting place for all students. Further, we will prioritize hiring a student driver, as nothing is better than opening up employment opportunities for our own student body. In the event that we cannot secure a student driver, Mr. Carney said that we can hire someone and get them bus certified. For anyone concerned, just as I was, he emphasized that this process is not as troublesome as many believe and is very feasible for us as a university. To sum, I highly encourage you all to vote in favor of Resolution 012, as supporting this pilot program is inherently supporting the expansion of more transportation options for students widespread across campus, not only capitol hill interns. With the help of all of you, we can kick start the preliminary program which can later catapult in a widespread campus program that can work to

benefit all student-interns on campus, regardless of their place of work. Clearly, the money, the support, and the enthusiasm is more than present from administration, so it would be nonsense to push back against it. After all, our goal is to support the student body, and there is no better way to do so than by investing faith in a program that can help Catholic University students for years to come.”

Senator Crawford rises to express his support for the resolution. He asks how the transportation department would gauge success with the pilot program and what it would take for them to justify renewing and expanding the program.

Senator Salerno emphasizes that safety is the biggest issue. She says that the more students the shuttle can help, the more successful the program will be. She suggests that if the waitlist for the signup is off the charts, that will be a good measure of the program’s success.

Senator Morris asks how much it costs per student.

Senator Gehrig clarifies that it would cost roughly \$1.66 per day per student.

Senator Raddell asks about whether the shuttle will be functioning one time daily or whether it will be running in the evening as well as the morning.

Senator Salerno explains that since it is just a pilot program, it doesn’t have to be more expensive than necessary, so the idea is just to gauge interest. For this reason, it will only be running in the morning.

Senator Crawford asks why they chose the shuttle to run in the morning rather than the evening, as the evening is generally less safe than the morning.

Senator Salerno explains that since there is a common start time of 9 AM for standard Hillternships, running the shuttle in the morning would benefit the most students because some internships have different ending times.

Senator Hermes emphasizes that this resolution has his full support, especially in the interest of saving time. He says that the shuttle will allow busy students like him to get around faster. He thanks all senators for their questions.

Senator Morris says that it would cost 2.50 per student per day, and mentions the metro is \$2. He adds that adding this program as a regular occurrence would mean it would come out of the school budget, which comes from students. This would mean that students who potentially aren’t able to use the shuttle would be paying for it.

Senator Salerno emphasizes that for the pilot program, the money will come directly from the office of transportation, which does not come from students as the money has already been set aside.

Senator Morris says that students pay for the budgets that the money will come out of, so he prefers that students pay individually so that they aren't forced to pay for something they will not be using. He thanks Senator Salerno for her explanation.

Senator Salerno says that there are many examples of students contributing to budgets of programs they don't use. For example, all students pay the Student Activity Fee, but not all students take advantage of the events that come from the SFA. She emphasizes that safety is priceless, as is community.

Senator Gehrig clarifies that since the budget is already paid, it makes sense to test the idea with a pilot program.

Senator Hermes says that the office of transportation is responsible for allocating their own budget and it is not the job of senators to discuss the use of that money. He says that if Tim Carney supports the resolution, then it's approved by the professionals.

Senator Norcross says that while the Student Activity Fee is allocated to events available for all students, the shuttle will only be available to politics students, so the change in budget should not be applied to all students.

Senator Salerno reminds everyone that we all pay for things that we don't get equal participation in.

Senator Tong clarifies that it would cost \$1.66 per student per day. She says that safety is a big concern for her and commends Senator Salerno for her aggressive approach to this project.

Senator Paulson asks about the nursing majors, whose start time is 7 AM, which is even less safe than most Hillterns' start time of 9 AM. She adds that clinical rotations are required for the major while Hillternships are optional. She says nursing majors have asked for help with transportation for years, especially since they even have to pay to be there rather than being paid. She asks why politics majors get approval for this project while other majors have not.

Senator Salerno thanks Senator Paulson and all nursing majors for all the work they do. She agrees that it is not safe for them to have to walk across the city in the early morning. She explains that the goal of this resolution is to start small and expand in the future. Senator Salerno

emphasizes that this is an opportunity to show the school about students' interest in the program.

Senator Gehrig states that it does not need to be a “this-or-that” situation. Although it will only apply to Hillterns for the pilot program, the goal is to expand to other areas. She says that she does not know why politics majors got approval before other majors. She also cites that Capitol Hill is the place with the most interns, with nearly 30 interns present each semester.

Senator Holcomb jokes that he wishes there was a shuttle to take him to auditions, and expresses his support for the resolution because it opens the door to transportation support for other students.

Senator Kish asks Senator Salerno if she would ever consider altering the program to include a pay-to-ride system. He explains that it would still be cheaper per student. He asks if it turns out to be underutilized, will it be shut down despite being useful to many other groups.

Senator Salerno says that if the program is losing money, then it is not worth maintaining. She says she has not considered a pay-to-ride system but that if the pilot program is successful, she would consider it.

Senator Ewing thanks Senator Salerno for clearing up any questions she had. She expresses her support for the resolution and says she will vote in favor of it.

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

A roll call vote is taken.

Ayes: 20

Arreaga-Cacao, Mullin, D'Attelo, Lance, Kish, Solerno, Hermes, Tong, Henry, Gehrig, Fritz, Ewing, Hargrave, Graf, Holcomb, Raddell, Tucker, Pereira-Ruano, Ferrick, Suarez

Nays: 4

Crawford, Paulson, Norcross, Morris

Abstentions: 0

With 20 Yays, **Resolution 012: A Resolution to Implement a CUA Shuttle Pilot Program to Capitol Hill**, passes.

7. Vice President, SGA Updates 9:05 PM

President Harvey offered a warm welcome to Senators Mullin and Ferrick, and he offered his sincere congratulations to Senator Holcomb for his confirmation as the new Chair for the Rules and Administration Committee. He mentioned that the senate will meet once again in McGivney Hall at 8:15pm in the respective classrooms.

8. Open Floor 9:08 PM

Senator Henry, on behalf of **Senator D'Albero**, explains that she is collecting testimonies of maintenance entering rooms without notice and of facilities scheduling times but not showing up. He asks that the senators please let her know of any inconveniences they hear about.

Senator Crawford congratulates the passing of both resolutions by **Senator Morris** and **Senator Salerno**. With a tone of humor, he offers to drive the shuttle to Capitol Hill. Finally, he congratulates the new appointed senators, **Senator Ferrick** and **Senator Mullin**.

Senator Ewing declares that she is working on a resolution to fix the printers in Leahy Hall. She reiterated that they did not know they were broken, but that a temporary fix would be put in place while talks with Microsoft to fix the program continue. She congratulates everyone in the Senate for a productive meeting, especially **Senator Morris** and **Senator Salerno** for their passed resolutions.

Senator Hermes thanks SGA for the shirts given before the meeting, which he cannot wait to rock on campus. He announces that he is going to meet with the head of athletics to organize fan sections for games.

9. Adjournment 9:13 PM

Motion to adjourn by **Senator Gehrig**, seconded by **Senator Graf**.

Voice vote on adjournment → Passes unanimously

Meeting adjourned