

The Catholic University of America Student Government Association 2023-2024 Senate Session 9-7



March 4th, 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 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 A

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 Raddell recites a general opening prayer for the intercession of our Blessed Mother.

1. Adoption of Agenda 8:20 PM

Motion to adopt the Agenda by **Senator Arreaga-Cacao**, seconded by **Senator Crawford**

Voice vote on the Adoption of the Agenda → Passes

Agenda adopted

2. Approval of the Minutes 8:25 PM

Motion to approve the minutes by **Senator Ewing**, seconded by **Senator Norcross**

Voice vote on the Approval of the Minutes → Passes

Minutes approved

3. Senate Speaker 8:30 PM

A. Peter Kilpatrick, President of Catholic University

President Harvey introduces **President Kilpatrick**, who addresses the senate body and takes questions from the senators.

4. Public Comment 8:50 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.

Sean Scully, the Treasurer of the Treasury Board and a junior Philosophy Major, rises in support of the Treasury Board amendment to the bylaws, stating that a lot of effort and thought went into it. He encourages everyone to vote in favor.

Anthony Curioso, a Sophomore Music Education Major and part of the DSS Executive Initiative, implores the senators to vote no on Senator Holcomb's **Resolution 014**. He explains that the wheelchair lyft breaking in the Harke Theatre is not an isolated incident. More people will need accommodations in the Rome School of Music ceremony rather than in the School of Arts and Sciences ceremony.

Matthew Blomgren, a Treasury Board Director and a Sophomore Accounting Major, stands in support of the amendment to the bylaws. He believes it will be a great reform for our student body.

Connor Combs, a Treasury Board Director, stands in support of the amendment to the bylaws, explaining it is a safer and fairer distribution of funds that will benefit over 100 organizations. He asks the senators to vote in favor.

Kelsey Draves, a senior Musical Theater Major, stands in favor of **Resolution 014**. She explains that having her graduation ceremony at Harke Theatre, a special place for her and others, will be a full circle moment.

An unidentified computer science major stands in support of **Resolution 014**, saying that the experience of graduating in Harke Theatre will be priceless.

Anthony de Souza, a senior Musical Theater Major, stands in support of **Resolution 014** to switch the Rome Schools graduation to the Harke Theatre. He explains it is a very special place to him and all music majors. Many operas and concerts have taken place there and the best way to end their time at Catholic is at Harke.

Katy Ryland, a senior Musical Theater Major, stands in support of **Resolution 014**. She shares that Harke Theatre was one of her escapes from the loneliness of her dorm her early years at Catholic. Since a lot of those graduating are COVID seniors who did not get a high school graduation, it would mean a lot to have their first and last graduation in Harke.

Alexandra Lopez, a Musical Theater Major, stands in support of **Senator Holcomb's** Resolution. Graduating music majors missed their opportunity to perform in Harke their first two years, it would be very nice to walk it for their graduation ceremony.

Joey Hartley, a freshman Politics Major and secretary of Treasury Board, stands in support of the amendment to the bylaws asking the senators to vote in favor. He explains that it will provide greater equality for the funding of student organizations.

Mollie Murray, a Treasury Board Director and freshman Accounting Major, asks the senators to ratify the amendment to the bylaws, explaining that the Treasury Board has come to a decision to be able to support all student organizations.

Rich Harrington, a freshman Engineering Major, stands in support of the Treasury Board amendment to the bylaws. He explains that the Treasury Board will be then able to ensure transparency and a fair distribution of funding.

Nathan Spager, a freshman Engineering Major and member of multiple clubs, says that the amendments to the bylaws will greatly help smaller student organizations by allowing for more equal funding.

Jack Rogue, a freshman Electrical Engineering Major, stands in support of the amendments to the bylaws explaining that he thinks it is only fair for Program Board to have to report their finances.

Michael Tyszko, President of the Civil Engineering Club and a sophomore Civil Engineering Major, stands in support for Treasury Board amendments to the bylaws. He argues that they will help other clubs by giving them more funding which will allow them to plan larger and better events.

William Parase, a sophomore Civil Engineering Major and part of Club Lacrosse, stands in favor of the Treasury Board amendments to allow for even distribution of funds that will significantly help the smaller clubs.

Alan Nicholas, a Director of the Treasury Board and freshman exploratory major, stands in support of the amendment to the bylaws, arguing that it will solidify the power of the Treasury Board.

Amanda Brotzman, an Education Major, stands in support of **Senator Ewing's Resolution 013**. She explains that its measures to create a technology service collaboration group would be greatly beneficial.

Carla Issac, a Director of Treasury Board and a junior Accounting Major, has been a part of multiple E-boards and explains that it takes a lot of effort. She says that the senators should ratify the bill allowing for the Treasury Board amendments to the bylaws.

President Fahey stands to give her SGA updates. She thanks everyone in attendance for coming to hear **President Kilpatrick's** speech and speaking during Public Comment. SGA appreciates everyone taking their time to complete the metro pass inquiry survey sent out by **Senator Tong** and **Senator D'Albero** asking students if they would want a metro fee added to their tuition to be able to receive an unlimited metro pass. Next, a Title IX module was sent out on Monday to refresh students on safety tips and being supporting peers. It invites us to consider how we can help our neighbors in need and be active bystanders. Finally, there will be a focus group for DSS accommodations Wednesday night in Pryz 321.

5. Treasury Bylaws - Treasurer Sean Scully 9:00 PM

- A. Article I, General Provisions, Section V
- B. Article III, Annual Allocations, Section III and IV
- C. Article V, Guidelines for Use of the Student Activity Fee, Section VII and XII

Motion to temporarily suspend the Senate Bylaws by **Senator Kish**, seconded by **Senator Tucker**.

Voice vote on the suspension of the bylaws → Passes unanimously

Rules suspended

Treasurer Scully rises to present the Treasury Board Bylaws Amendments. He thanks those who spoke in Public Comment for their support. He says he is here to present the Bylaws changes after asking for suggestions last semester. This usually happens when the Treasury Board wants to establish a precedent that they have been making decisions based on. The suggestions are usually voted on within the Treasury Board, and if they pass, they will move onto the Senate to be finalized.

Typically, for purposes of food and meals, clubs are allotted \$12 per person. When organizations request funding, the food delivery costs often affect the funding.

The section discussing the Program Board clarifies that the Treasurer is responsible for preallocating funding provided by the OCA from the Student Activity Fee. Typically, PB requests a lump sum for each event, but specific funding requests are not required, meaning the Treasurer is not able to engage with the funding request effectively and therefore cannot make an informed decision. The Student Activity Fee mostly goes to PB, Centerstage, and a small percentage goes to other clubs. The goal here is not to say some clubs should receive more or less funding than they do, but rather to make the allocation easier for a newly elected Treasurer to manage.

The amendment in this section would require PB to provide a line item itemized budget at the beginning of the year so that the Treasurer can line item veto. The goal is more specificity and transparency within funding requests.

This would mainly apply with typical annual events which have precedent for vendors and prices so that it's easier for PB to provide a more specific budget, even if it's a ballpark estimation. This amendment mostly includes readjusting language to make the Bylaws consistent, so as to avoid confusion.

Senator Gehrig asks how much money is left over annually from the Student Activity Fee, and mentions that over half of PB events are not annual. This results in many different caterers and venues being used, which will impact PB's ability to provide specific funding requests.

Treasurer Scully says that the amount left over from the Student Activity Fee is confidential. He clarifies that the goal of the amendment is to encourage as much transparency from PB as possible, as that is what the student body has expressed a desire for.

Senator Paulson says that Centerstage has had no problem in the past being transparent about their funding requests. She says that the new amendment requires too much transparency that Centerstage is unable to provide due to the frequently changing nature of theater, and asks Treasurer Scully if he would consider changing the Centerstage clause language back to the old system.

Treasurer Scully says that he would like to keep the language consistent throughout the Bylaws and that nothing more will be expected from Centerstage in upcoming years as they already meet the new standard to the best of their ability.

Senator Paulson says that the new language will ask more from Centerstage.

Senator Henry asks how many Directors are on the Treasury Board.

Treasurer Scully clarifies that there are 8.

Senator Kish asks for clarification that Treasurer Scully is saying Centerstage already meets the standard that is required.

Treasurer Scully affirms.

Motion to reinstate the rules by **Senator Mullin**, seconded by **Senator Corey**.

Vote on reinstatement of the rules → Passes unanimously.

Rules reinstated.

Motion to vote by **Senator Morris**, seconded by **Senator Arreaga-Cacao**.

A roll call vote is taken.

Ayes: 22

Arreaga-Cacao, Mullin, D'Attelo, Lance, Kish, Salerno, Hermes, Tong, D'Albero, Henry, Crawford, Fritz, Morris, Ewing, Hargrave, Raddell, Norcross, Tucker, Pereira-Ruano, Ferrick, Corey, Suarez

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 3

Gehrig, Holcomb, Paulson

With 22 Yays, the **Treasury Board Bylaws** are ratified.

6. New Business 9:15 PM

A. Committee Chair Updates 9:15 PM

i. Kyle Holcomb, Rules and Administration

Senator Holcomb says that there was a fruitful meeting last week. **Senator Paulson** is working on graduation related ideas while overall the committee is discussing many topics.

ii. Senator Gehrig, Academic Affairs

Senator Gehrig says there was a fruitful meeting last week- **Senator D'Albero** is working on parking, **Senator Tong** is helping to collect student feedback on the Metro U-Pass system, and **Senator Raddell** is working on promoting civil dialogue on campus in anticipation of the

fallelection. **Senator Gehrig** herself is still working on headshots in CACS.

iii. Senator Kish, University Services

Senator Kish says that his committee also had a very fruitful meeting; there is an omnibus bill in the works and **Senator Norcross** is discussing the Pryz music.

iv. Senator Ewing, Student Resources

Senator Ewing says that **Senator Tong's** UPass survey is still open and that her own resolution will be hitting the floor later.

v. Senator Corey, Campus Life

Senator Corey says that his committee has been reaping the fruitful fruits of campus life. **Senator Lance** is still waiting to meet with Tim Carney to discuss his resolution on making the University more energy-efficient. **Senator Hermes** is still working on his resolution to make protein options available for purchase in the Kane Fitness Center, and hopes to have that ready for the next meeting. Senator Hermes has also been working very closely with our Athletic Director Kevin Robinson on boosting student numbers at athletic events and creating a more lively fan section and culture. **Senator Pereira-Ruano** has been in talks with DPS, letting them know that lights along the Basilica lawn aren't working

B. Senator Allison Ewing, School of Engineering, (Resolution 013) 9:25 PM

i. A Resolution to Establish a Technology Services Collaboration Group

Senator Ewing gives her opening remarks. A copy of them is found below.

“Thank you, President Harvey. Good evening, everyone. As you all might know, this resolution started with the hope of fixing the printers in Leahy. I know that printers have been a hot topic in the Senate for the past few years, but considering that Leahy is the only building with 24/7 printer access, I knew that I had to investigate this issue. A few weeks ago, I met with Mr. Jeffrey Otey, the Manager of the Service Desk, and Mr. Matthew McNally, the Senior Associate Vice President of University Tech Services. When I sat down, they told me that before I emailed them, they had no idea that the printers weren't connecting to the computers. So, during the week between when I first reached out and our meeting, they had already found a temporary solution. They shared that the problem was that this Microsoft program called “Group Policy” is responsible for connecting the computer to the printers every time someone logs in, but it simply just wasn't working. Since it is owned and operated by Microsoft, it isn't an issue that they can fix in-house, so they contacted Microsoft's team, and are waiting for a permanent solution. In terms of the temporary solution, every time a student logs in, now they are seen as a staff account. So if the printers still aren't connected, students can go into the settings and re-add the

printer using the IP addresses that are posted on the printers. Since they're considered a staff member, there is no administrative block that would prevent them from adding the printer.

I was genuinely so impressed with all of the information that I was receiving. Mr. Otey and Mr. McNally were both so transparent from the beginning. In my original email, I shared that some students said that the employees at the Service Desk just told them to "try another computer." Mr. Otey then told me that he apologizes to the entire campus community for that because it is not the service they want to offer and directly goes against the goal of the Service Desk.

I know that this was a lot of exposition, but I truly believe that it's important. After telling me that Tech Services doesn't need SGA's help to fix the printers, Mr. Otey and Mr. McNally explained that they did want SGA's help with one thing; creating a collaboration group. They were throwing around numerous ideas for tech development around campus, such as a print-only computer, printers in residence halls, and others. They also asked me questions like, "Do most students still use personal laptops? How about tablets? Do people even use the smaller computer labs in Pangborn? Are those printers working? Do people actually do homework on the Leahy computers?" I was honestly a little bit overwhelmed, but this was the root of the problem. Tech Services feels like they're out of touch with the student body, and have been for a long time. When I told them that I was a computer science major, they almost jumped out of their seats and tried to convince me to work in their office because they had many student positions open.

Ok, time for logistics. They said that they wanted a group of at least 2-3 students, but I told them that I think we can get a few more and they were very receptive to having even more feedback. In terms of creating the actual group, I had the idea to explain the group and have a link to a Google form in the Cardinal Chirp, but that is just an idea that can be more ironed out in advocacy. In terms of what the actual group would do, they would meet with the Tech Services pro-staff (the frequency isn't decided yet because it would depend on the members' schedules) to talk about current issues, bring ideas, and give feedback about what tech services might want to implement. If the printers decide not to work again, the team doesn't have to wait until their next meeting, they can just email any of the pro staff with any pressing issues so solutions can be found as soon as possible. Mr. Otey and Mr. McNally told me that they really want this to happen, but they need SGA to actually reach the general student body. If this resolution passes, I will happily join this collaboration group. But until then, I'd be happy to answer any questions or provide clarification."

Senator Kish comments that **Senator Ewing** did the exact right thing. He says he knows that she is the king of university services. As she answered all of his questions, she has **Senator Kish's** support.

Motion to vote from **Senator Crawford**, seconded by **Senator Paulson**.

A roll call vote is taken.

Ayes: 25

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

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

With 25 Yays, **Resolution 013: A Resolution to Establish a Technology Services Collaboration Group**, passes.

C. Senator Kyle Holcomb, School of Music, Drama, and Art (Resolution 014) 9:40 PM
i. A Resolution to Switch the Diploma Distribution Ceremony Locations

Senator Holcomb rises to give his introduction speech. He says that he was initially surprised to see the Rome School's Commencement Ceremony would not be held in Hartke Theater. When he asked why, he was given a very optimistic plan of swapping two locations, both of which are able to accommodate everyone. He says that all graduates and their guests will be able to fill out accommodation forms prior to the ceremony, so Hartke Theater will be checked over. He emphasizes that Hartke is very special to all Rome School students and they want to graduate on a stage they know and love.

Senator Crawford asks whether the accessibility checks will be confirmed with the DSS. He adds that the morning procession from the Basilica to Hartke will add an extra layer of difficulty.

Senator Holcomb says that since accessibility concerns were only raised last night, he has not had the chance to discuss these questions with DSS. He mentions he assumed the checks would be made either way. In addition, Hartke has been hosting performances so he assumed checks have been occurring throughout the year. In the future, he says, more resolutions could be formulated to ensure the ADA requirements are being met adequately.

Senator Hermes asks why the location was switched at all, causing a break in years of precedent.

Senator Holcomb says that he was not given a direct answer as to why the locations were changed.

Senator Gehrig says that the resolution has her full support as she understands the emotional connection the Rome School students have to Hartke.

Senator Paulson says that the resolution has her support. She mentions that Hartke is going to be used as a Commencement Ceremony location either way, so the ADA concerns have likely already been addressed. She says the School of Nursing among other schools are also experiencing similar confusion.

Senator Holcomb adds that it is not his intention to displace the School of Arts & Sciences to a worse location, as Heritage Hall is a nice location.

Senator Norcross asks how concerns about disability accommodations will be addressed.

Senator Holcomb says that along with the Commencement schedule, an accommodations page is sent for the sake of coordination. He mentions that walk throughs or checks would be made.

Senator Salerno says that she is glad to see that so many students came to support this resolution and applauds **Senator Holcomb** for representing what the students want.

Senator Kish asks the graduate population for the Schools of Arts & Sciences.

Senator Holcomb says he does not have the exact numbers, but that the person in charge did not have concerns.

Senator Kish asks what the process is if the attendance does not end up fitting in the new location.

Senator Holcomb says that it would likely revert to the original locations. He says the schedule is tightly crafted so he is unable to make many changes.

Senator Hermes expresses his disagreement with Senator Salerno, and says that his oath as a senator is to promote the interests and welfare of the students. This means doing what is in their best interest, although it may not always align with what they think they want.

Senator Holcomb says that he had an overwhelming amount of friends complain about the location change, and the idea of the resolution is just to bring the issue to the attention of the administration.

Senator Hermes clarifies that his comment was general, and not related to the resolution, and expresses his support for the resolution.

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

A roll call vote is taken.

Ayes: 25

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

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

With 25 Yays, **Resolution 014: A Resolution to Switch the Diploma Distribution Ceremony Locations**, passes.

7. Vice President, SGA Updates 9:55 PM

VP Harvey encouraged senators to continue spreading the word about the Metro U-Pass survey- he emphasized the importance of achieving a large enough sample size. He thanked all of the senators who have signed up to table- he said that he understands everyone has busy schedules, but it is important to still fill the slots. The purpose of this survey is again, meant to be objective- it is necessary to get an accurate sampling of students.

He mentioned that the next committee meeting will be on Monday, March 18th in McGivney Hall. He emphasized that since there are only two more senate meetings, senators should speed up the process for preparing resolutions and running ideas by him.

8. Open Floor 9:57 PM

Senator D'Attelo congratulates President Harvey on his acceptance to George Mason Graduate School. He discusses the rumors that have been circulating about the CUA ROTC program ending their inclusion of room and board costs in the ROTC scholarship. He says he is brainstorming a resolution to ensure this is avoided. He adds that John McCormack road becomes dangerous at night and it might be beneficial to make it a two way street.

Senator Tong asks senators to sign up to table to promote her Metro UPASS survey.

Senator D’Albero mentions she has met with facilities regarding parking issues and the Pangborn lot.

Senator Ewing thanks the Senate for passing her resolution.

Senator Holcomb thanks the Senate for passing his resolution. He mentions he is working on a resolution to expand access to athletic trainers to dance classes as well as the dance team.

Senator Hermes thanks **Treasurer Scully** and the Treasury Board for their hard work. He explains his idea about the student section at sports games, saying that the goal is to increase student engagement by creating an official organization through the athletics department. This organization would ideally be sponsored by an outside organization, and would help coordinate tailgates with alumni, theme nights, more clear student and parent areas, shuttle services to the Dufour Center, and concessions.

Senator Lance gives an update on his Lenten Fridays resolution, saying the university Dining Services has taken it seriously. He encourages students who have suggestions to reach out to **Senator Gehrig** or Dining Services directly because they are looking for recommendations.

9. Adjournment 10:06 PM

Motion to adjourn by **Senator D’Attelo**, seconded by **Senator Corey**

Voice vote on the Adjournment of the Meeting → Passes

Meeting adjourned