

The Catholic University of America Student Government Association 2023-2024 Senate Session 9-8



March 25th, 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 A

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 A

School of Nursing

Whitney Paulson X

Mary Grace Raddell A

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 Graf leads the Senate in an Our Father.

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.

Chief of Staff **Joseph Accardi** delivers **President Fahey's** remarks to the Senate in her absence. She thanks the senators for filling out and promoting the metro card survey. She offers a special thank you to **Senator Tong** and **Senator D'Albero** for their efforts in promoting and advertising the survey. She looks forward to a strong ending to the year for the Senate.

2. Adoption of Agenda 8:35 PM

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

Voice vote on the Adoption of the Agenda → Passes

Agenda adopted

3. Approval of the Minutes 8:36 PM

Motion to approve the minutes by **Senator D'Atello**, seconded by **Senator Corey**.

Voice vote on the Approval of the Minutes → Passes

Minutes approved

4. Senate Speaker 8:37 PM

A. Andrew V. Abela, Dean of the Busch School of Business

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

Voice vote on the suspension of the bylaws → Passes unanimously

Rules suspended

Dean Abela rises to address the Senate. He discusses virtue as a means of making life easier, more enjoyable, and more purposeful. He talks about managing habits and how most people habitually manage their thoughts, actions, and emotions. Amidst the modern epidemic of anxiety and depression, habits of thoughts, actions, and emotions are virtues of human excellence. Aristotle says the virtuous life is the happy life, and virtue is a balance of awareness and action. Virtue is based on your understanding of the right thing to do, your follow through, and your reasoning for following through or not. Dean Abela states that if you're not growing in virtue, then your habits will not reflect it.

Senator Tucker asks if vice starts with unconscious incontinence, how does a person gain continence?

Dean Abela explains that people are rarely vicious, and it takes a good friend or a crisis to startle someone back to reality. He explains that when he had fallen away from his Catholic

faith, the character Jean Valjean from Les Miserables inspired him to draw nearer to God.

Senator Hermes asks what virtues are most important for a politician.

Dean Abela says that prudence or practicality are the most important for those involved in politics. It is not about making a show, but truly acting on virtue. Virtue is harder to set aside when it's convenient.

Senator Kish asks who Dean Abela's favorite Saint is.

Dean Abela says that some of his favorite saints include St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Maximilian Kolbe, and St. Margaret.

Motion to reinstate the Senate Bylaws by **Senator Paulson**, seconded by **Senator Henry**.

Voice vote on the reinstatement of the bylaws → Passes unanimously

Rules reinstated

5. New Business 8:55 PM

A. Committee Chair Updates 8:55 PM

i. Senator Holcomb, Rules and Administration

Senator Paulson speaks on behalf of **Senator Holcomb**, and says that he is working on finalizing dance students' access to athletic trainers. **Senator Mullin's** Bill 003 will be discussed tonight. **Senator Paulson** and **Senator Salerno** are working on keycard access discrepancies. **Senator Paulson** is discussing a better collaboration between nursing and enrollment services.

ii. Senator Gehrig, Academic Affairs

Senator D'Albero, speaking on behalf of **Senator Gehrig**, says that **Senator Gehrig** has an upcoming meeting with CACS regarding a professional headshot booth. **Senator Raddell** is still working on civil dialogue in light of the upcoming fall election. **Senator D'Albero's** resolution will hit the floor tonight.

iii. Senator Kish, University Services

Senator Kish says that **Senator Norcross** will not pursue his resolution regarding the Pryz music. **Senator Crawford** is working on several projects. **Senators D'Attelo** and **Arreaga-Cacao** are working with the parking department, and **Senator D'Attelo** is still working on his resolution regarding the ROTC scholarships.

iv. Senator Ewing, Student Resources

Senator Ewing states that **Senator Henry** is continuing to work on his bike racks resolution, **Senators Tong** and **D’Albero** are continuing to work on the Metro U-Pass resolution, and **Senators Morris** and **Ewing** are waiting for the implementation of their resolutions.

v. Senator Corey, Campus Life

Senator Corey says that the committee on Campus Life was unfortunately unable to meet this past week due to illness and the other commitments of its members. **Senator Lance** is still working on his energy efficiency resolution with Tim Carney. **Senator Hermes** has been reaching out to the campus dietician to further discuss his resolution for the Kane Fitness Center. **Senator Pereira-Ruano** has nothing new to report.

B. Senator D’Albero, School of Architecture and Planning (Resolution 015) 9:00 PM

i. A Resolution to Create a Facilities Incident Reporting System

President Harvey delivers a first reading of the resolution.

Senator D’Albero gives her opening remarks.

Senator D’Albero mentions that many students in the residence halls have experienced facilities staff not showing up to a scheduled time, failing to knock on doors, amidst other issues. **Senator D’Albero** realized it is a bigger problem than she originally thought and sought to find an appropriate solution alongside guidance from facilities and maintenance professional staff.

By meeting with facilities who were very receptive, she has found places where there is miscommunication. She is currently working with the facilities and maintenance services to create a reporting system for any issues students may encounter with maintenance requests. Both facilities and housing were clear that they want to fix the issues and provide more efficiency for students. They want to hear about incidents, encouraging students to report any issues.

Senator Hermes asks what type of reporting medium would be used. Would it be a google form?

Senator D’Albero responds that, at first, the idea was to have a google form, making sure there would not be any confusion between incident reports and actual facilities requests. Although the final product may not be a simple google form, Facilities and

Maintenance Operations will create a form online for students to submit comments or any feedback regarding the process.

Motion to vote from **Senator Cory**, seconded by **Senator Norcross**.

A roll call vote is taken.

Ayes: 22

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

Nays: 1

Morris

With 22 Yays, **Resolution 015: A Resolution to Create a Facilities Incident Reporting System**, is passed.

C. Senator Molly Mullin, Class of 2024 (Bill 003) 9:30 PM

i. A Bill to Maintain Fair Campaigning in SGA Senate Elections

President Harvey delivers a first reading of **Bill 003**.

Senator Mullin rises to give her introductory remarks. She says the goal of this bill is to correct a small, yet critical oversight. There is currently no clause about write-in candidates needing to abide by the Senate Election Bylaws, which includes important campaigning rules such as the spending limit and poster approval. The absence of this clause risks a situation wherein write-in candidates are not held to the same standard as other candidates. **Bill 003** would remedy this situation. The loophole has not yet been taken, but it remains important to maintain the integrity of the Senate Election Bylaws to uphold smooth elections and democracy.

Senator Arreaga-Cacao says that the bill has his support as a write-in candidate himself, and it highlights a small yet critical issue.

Senator Tucker thanks Senator Mullin for bringing this issue to the attention of the Senate. He says that although he was a write-in candidate, he did not use the loophole. He asks if the bill would subject write-in candidates to all the rules regular candidates are subject to. Specifically, would write-in candidates be subject to the ballot statement clause despite not being on the

ballot? He asks if Senator Mullin would consider an amendment to address this inconsistency.

Senator Mullin thanks Senator Tucker for flagging the issue. She says she is open to an amendment.

Senator Tucker clarifies that the subsection in question is Subsection 13.

President Harvey affirms.

Senator Tucker submits an official amendment that states “...outlined in Article VII, Section 6, Clause 1, with the exception of subsection (xiii).”

Period of discussion follows.

Motion to vote on the amendment by **Senator D’Attelo**, seconded by **Senator Morris**.

Vote on the amendment → Passes unanimously.

Amendment adopted.

Motion to vote on the bill from **Senator Kish**, seconded by **Senator Suarez**.

A roll call vote is taken.

Ayes: 23

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

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

With 23 Yays, **Bill 003: A Bill to Maintain Fair Campaigning in SGA Senate Elections**, passes.

6. Vice President, SGA Updates 10:00 PM

VP Harvey provides an update on the results from the Metro-U pass survey. He offers his thanks to senators **Tong** and **D'Albero** for their efforts on this front. Due to Easter travel, he announced that the next committee meeting will be canceled on **Monday, April 1st** to allow for flexible travel back to campus.

He mentions that there will be one final senate meeting before the end of the year, so do not wait until the last minute to begin working on your resolution ideas. He says there will technically be two committee meetings before our final meeting on April 22nd, but don't put this off until the last minute. In the meantime, he wishes everyone a blessed Easter with friends and family.

7. Open Floor 10:10 PM

Senator Ewing provides an update on the resolution she passed last Senate Meeting which is currently in the advocacy process- **Resolution 013: a Resolution to Establish a Technology Services Collaboration Group**. She asks the senators to please let her know of anyone else that would be interested in joining the Tech Services Collaboration Group. They are trying to get a diverse group of students together. Then, they can begin the advocacy process.

Senator D'Albero thanks the Senate for passing her resolution and is excited to see where it will lead.

Senator Crawford shares that he is receiving the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation over Holy week through the OCIA program and asks the Senate to please pray for him.

Senator Corey wishes everyone a blessed Holy Week, hoping it will be a fruitful experience.

Senator Graf shares a message from **Senator Holcomb** saying that he regrets being unable to attend the meeting, but sends the Senate his best from New York.

8. Adjournment 10:15 PM

Motion to adjourn by **Senator Hermes**, seconded by **Senator Arreaga-Cacao**

Voice vote on the Adjournment of the Meeting → Passes

Meeting adjourned.