

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



April 22nd, 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   X  

Kyle Holcomb   A  

### **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** **8:15 PM**

**PRAYER** **8:16 PM**

**Senator Crawford** recites an opening Hail Mary.

**1. Public Comment** **8:17 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.

**Alan Nichols**, a freshman director of the Treasury Board, shares that it has been an honor to serve this past year and looks forward to serving the student body next year in the same capacity. He thanks the senate for ratifying the updated treasury board bylaws last meeting. And finally, he would like to thank the current executive board for their service.

**Sean Scully**, Junior Philosophy Major and the Treasurer for the Treasury Board, stands to speak in favor of Treasurer-elect **Grace Marino** and her picks for the treasury board next year. He assures that they will be competitive in their work, and therefore, asks the senators to please vote in favor of confirming them.

**Anthony Curioso**, a former senator and sophomore Music Education Major, would like to speak on two items. First, **President-elect Lance's** budget. He assures that his team has done an exemplary job in preparing next year's budget and therefore the senators should vote in favor of it. Secondly, he would speak on **Senator Hermes' Resolution 016**, arguing that it will convince more people to go exercise in the Kane Fitness Center because of its new protein resources.

**Matthew Blomgren** stands in support of the nomination picks for next year's treasury board directors.

**Meghan Murray**, a sophomore Biomedical Engineering Major, is excited for the great picks for next year's treasury board.

**Connor Combs**, current Treasury Board Director studying abroad next semester, stands in support of the treasury board candidates.

**Joseph Hartley**, Politics and Psychology Major, stands in support of the treasury board nominations, being the nominated Secretary of Treasury Board.

**Joe (last name unknown)**, a freshman business major, stands in support of **Senator Hermes Resolution 016**.

**Mollie Murray**, a freshman Accounting Major and nominee for the treasury board, asks the Senate to please support her and the rest of the nominees.

**Lauren DiLollo**, a freshman Biochemistry Major and appointed treasury board director, looks forward to serving next year.

**Pablo Mazariegos**, a junior Education Major, stands in support of the Treasury Board nominations, as he is looking for the Senate's approval to serve the rest of the students.

**William Schroeder**, a Philosophy Major and nominee for the Treasury Board, states that it is a great time for the Treasury Board in support of the nominees.

**President Fahey** stands to give her SGA updates. First, she thanks the entire senate for a robust, fruitful year. She enthusiastically shares that it has been an honor to be the executive president for SGA, being the most formative experience of her college career. She recalls that this week we had an executive election for the upcoming year. She congratulates the Executive 10 team on their win, announcing that they will be inaugurated next wednesday in Heritage Hall at 6:30 p.m. She ends by asking the senators to please continue their service in SGA on behalf of the student body. There is a place for everyone, and personal invitations will bring even more students to be engaged.

## 2. Adoption of Agenda

8:22 PM

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

Voice vote on the Adoption of the Agenda → Passes

Agenda adopted

## 3. Approval of the Minutes

8:23 PM

Motion to approve the minutes by **Senator Crawford**, seconded by **Senator Suarez**.

Voice vote on the Approval of the Minutes → Passes

Minutes approved

## 4. New Business

8:24 PM

### A. Committee Chair Updates

#### i. Senator Holcomb, Rules and Administration

**Senator Paulson** stands in for **Senator Holcomb**. She says that she is proud of the resolutions and bills that the senators have been producing.

#### ii. Senator Gehrig, Academic Affairs

**Senator Gehrig** says that the committee meeting was very fruitful and that she's excited for her resolution to hit the floor.

#### iii. Senator Kish, University Services

**Senator Kish** says that his committee meeting was not fruitful.

#### iv. Senator Ewing, Student Resources

**Senator Ewing** says that she is grateful for three successful resolutions, for a great year, and fun committee meetings.

#### v. Senator Corey, Campus Life

**Senator Corey** says that the committee on Campus Life had a very fruitful past two weeks, all at the culmination of an extraordinarily fruitful year. He shares some brief updates to report at the beginning of this final fruitful senate meeting. **Senator Lance** has been working diligently to create the Executive budget for the upcoming academic year, and the budget will be presented

later tonight. He also plans to keep working, as the Executive, with Tim Carney on improving the University's energy efficiency next year. **Senator Hermes** is bringing his Kane Fitness Center Resolution to the floor tonight. Senator Hermes will also continue working on boosters for the school's athletic programs outside of SGA. **Senator Pereira-Ruano** has nothing new to report.

## **B. Confirmation of Treasury Board Directors for the 2024-2025 Academic Year 8:27 PM**

Motion to vote on confirmation of **Director Matthew Blomgren** by **Senator Gehrig**, seconded by **Senator Graf**

Voice vote on confirmation of Director Matthew Blomgren → Passes

Matthew Blomgren appointed as Treasury Board Director

Motion to vote on confirmation of **Director Lauren DiLollo** by **Senator Gehrig**, seconded by **Senator Henry**

Voice vote on confirmation of Director Lauren DiLollo → Passes

Lauren DiLollo appointed as Treasury Board Director

Motion to vote on confirmation of **Director Joseph Hartley** by **Senator Corey**, seconded by **Senator Crawford**

Voice vote on confirmation of Director Joseph Hartley → Passes

Joseph Hartley appointed as Treasury Board Director

Motion to vote on confirmation of **Director Pablo Mazariegos** by **Senator Norcross**, seconded by **Senator Raddell**

Voice vote on confirmation of Director Pablo Mazariegos → Passes

Pablo Mazariegos appointed as Treasury Board Director

Motion to vote on confirmation of **Director Mollie Murray** by **Senator Salerno**, seconded by **Senator Corey**

Voice vote on confirmation of Director Mollie Murray → Passes

Mollie Murray appointed as Treasury Board Director

Motion to vote on confirmation of **Director Alan Nichols** by **Senator Mullin**, seconded by **Senator Ewing**

Voice vote on confirmation of Director Alan Nichols → Passes

Alan Nichols appointed as Treasury Board Director

Motion to vote on confirmation of **Director William Schroeder** by **Senator Suarez**, seconded by **Senator Arreaga**

Voice vote on confirmation of Director William Schroeder → Passes

William Schroeder appointed as Treasury Board Director

### **C. Budget Approval for the 2024-2025 Executive Elect**

**8:40 PM**

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

Voice vote on the suspension of the bylaws → Passes unanimously

Rules suspended

**President Elect Jeff Lance** rises to present the Executive Budget. He thanks everyone for their support and excitement and says the team can't wait to serve the student body next year. He explains that the presentation of the new budget is important because it allows SGA to better advocate for students and their projects. The basic framework of the budget is based on precedent. Most of the edits involve revamping the Executive Initiatives so as to better plan future events. The price of SGA t-shirts will decrease, some of the EIs will become single person liaison positions, and the overall budget will decrease by \$2,716. The new budget will be \$28,160. Some items will be subject to the approval of the Executive.

**Senator Morris** asks for specificity on the Executive Liaison positions.

**President Elect Lance** explains that the EIs were created around 4 years ago as focus groups trying to promote certain events under their purview. For example, the Catholic

Values Initiative is holding a 40 hours devotional over the weekend. Some EIs have shown a need for more efficiency. President Elect Lance explains that after asking students for suggestions to improve the system, he decided to reduce some of the EIs to liaison positions. Each liaison will consist of one person per topic. For example, the DSS Liaison will be responsible for meeting with both students and DSS to bring students' questions and concerns to DSS.

**Senator Kish** asks how calculations were made. He mentions that the Title IX Task Force also receives a lot of money.

**President Elect Lance** explains that the budget is mainly based on precedent. The Title IX Task Force is separated from other pamphlets.

**Senator Mullin** asks for clarification on the SGA Speaker Series.

**President Elect Lance** states that the idea is to improve transparency between students and the administration. Inviting different members of the administration to talk about safety and other issues will open the doors for new communication and networking. It will provide senators and students with more opportunities to approach faculty to make personal connections.

**Senator Crawford** mentions that he suggested the transition from EIs to liaisons a few years ago.

**Senator Hermes** asks for clarification on the funding of the Our Voices publication.

**President Elect Lance** explains that it is a four year old program that was created by the Diversity and Inclusion EI. It works with minority students and allows them to publish their stories. This organization is not independent, but is run by SGA.

**Senator Morris** asks why fund it at all when SGA could save \$1,900?

**President Elect Lance** says that in the interest of making sure the publication is read, SGA wants to distribute it among students.

**Senator Norcross-** asks about a more cost efficient way to pay for the SGA shirts rather than asking the entire student body to fund SGA's shirts.

**President Elect Lance** clarifies that for 180 members of SGA and \$20 per shirt, the cost in the budget is correct, including the price of expedited shipping.

**Senator D'Atello** asks about the Executive's plan to increase student attendance at town hall events and the speaker series. He mentions it's important that the administration's time is not wasted.

**President Elect Lance** says that he plans to advertise the events as opportunities for networking and potentially offer snacks.

**Senator Hermes** asks why the CCE doesn't fund the Our Voices Publication.

**President Elect Lance** explains that SGA decided to adopt the cost.

**Senator Graf** asks about the cost of binders.

**President Elect Lance** explains that the \$700 set aside for binders will also be reserved for pilot programs as well as gifts for speakers in the speaker series.

**Senator Paulson** asks whether money for pilot programs will always come from the executive budget or the President's discretionary fund.

**President Elect Lance** explains that it will come from both, depending on the program.

Motion to reinstate the rules by **Senator Ewing**, seconded by **Senator D'Attelo**.

Vote on reinstatement of the rules → Passes unanimously.

Rules reinstated.

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

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, the **Executive Budget** is approved.

**D. Senator Jack Hermes, Class of 2027 (Resolution 016)**

**8:55 PM**

i. A Resolution to Add Protein Sources and Energy Drinks to the Kane Fitness Center

**Senator Hermes** rises to give his opening remarks. He explains that the goal of this resolution is to provide protein and energy products in a vending machine at Kane, the campus health center. He thanks President Harvey and his cosponsors for their guidance, as the resolution has been in the works for six months. He explains that his meeting with the Kane staff was very helpful and they immediately organized a space to keep the vending machine. Officially, the project is founded in the dining office because Kane does not generate any revenue. The resolution only took six months because dining services took time to respond. The vending machine has been purchased and will be installed over the summer.

**Senator Salerno** expresses her pride that this resolution has finally come to fruition. She asks about health complications that come with energy drinks and suggests it might be healthier to keep it to protein ideas rather than providing unhealthy options at the health center.

**Senator Hermes** explains that whey protein has also been shown to be unhealthy for the average American. He says he has been in contact with the campus dietitian, who expressed similar concerns, but was open to providing the healthier options of energy drinks.

**Senator Graf** asks why Senator Hermes decided to bring his resolution to the floor if the vending machine has already been purchased.

**Senator Hermes** explains that he was only notified of the purchase three hours before the meeting and did not feel the need to pull the resolution from the agenda. He says he wanted the representation of the Senate to show that the project has the support of the student body.

**Senator Gehrig** asks where the revenue generated from the vending machine will go if

Kane cannot make money.

**Senator Hermes** explains that the revenue will go to Events & Conferences Services.

**Senator Morris** asks whether the vending machine will provide Celsius.

**Senator Hermes** says that the official list of items has not been decided as he wanted to incorporate students' ideas and preferences. He explains that he will likely consult with the dietician as well as poll students to narrow the list down to 20-30 items.

Motion to vote by **Senator Raddell**, seconded by **Senator D'Attelo**.

A roll call vote is taken.

Ayes: 24

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

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 1

Graf

With 24 Yays, **Resolution 016: A Resolution to Add Protein Sources and Energy Drinks to the Kane Fitness Center**, passes.

**E. Senator Jordan Gehrig, School of Arts and Sciences (Resolution 017) 9:04 PM**

i. A Resolution to Purchase A Professional Headshot Photo Booth

**President Harvey** reads the resolution.

**Senator Gehrig** stands in front of the Senate to give her opening remarks, announcing her resolution to install a photo booth is "finally coming to tuition!" The idea for this resolution began with a video she saw about another school using the Iris Air. She immediately looked into it. The Iris Air is a small booth that allows high quality and mobility for professional photos. It

provides studio lighting, users can retake pictures, crop and edit them. It even lets the user whiten their teeth! It then instantly delivers the pictures by email. The way it works is that you walk in and make an appointment. When it is time, you watch a tutorial, view posing tips, and then you can take your three photos which you can retake if wanted. If you are not happy with them you can edit, then download and share them.

**Senator Gehrig** then shares the anticipated cost for the photo booth. As she first went into this resolution wanting to purchase the Iris booth, she decided on Iris Air because it is a better option cost-wise. The base price is \$15,000 and a \$6,000 yearly maintenance fee. I've had meetings with the director of CACS. To fund this project, we would need a corporate sponsorship or a donor. She assures that funding will not be taken from student tuition. University enhancement is currently in the communication process to find one, which can be a months long process. **Senator Gehrig** explains that there can be several names from donors on the booth, ensuring the school would use it for a long time. An individual donor would be preferred. She is confident that there will be a donor, eventually. She would not have brought the resolution forward if not, she declares.

CACS is in full support of this. You would make a 15-minute appointment to use the photo booth through CACS. Someone from their staff will be monitoring its usage so there will not be any misuse. It may sometimes be open later than 5:00 p.m., but mostly, it will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 5. There are few and far current headshot opportunities for CUA students. Some schools currently using the Iris Air are Georgia State and George Washington University, who say it has increased headshots being used by students by 376 percent. As seen, it could significantly impact school alumni, student faculty, and more here at Catholic. It would be open as long as it can be operated. She ends by stating that it will empower students.

**Senator Crawford** thanks Senator Gehrig for the fruitful efforts with this resolution, saying that it will provide competitiveness for school admissions against other universities. George Washington, he shares, uses a photo booth already. If we want more students to come to Catholic, that means we need more funding. The photo booth will also encourage more alumni to donate, leading to more youth engagement, as past students want to feel more engaged on campus.

**Senator D'Albero** is overjoyed to see this finally happening! She only has one quick question. What backgrounds will be available in the photo booth? The current options in other booths are deterrent, she states, compelling students not to use it.

**Senator Gehrig** responds that the default background is white, but that this is something we can talk about later.

**Senator Ewing** is excited about the resolution and thanks **Senator Gehrig**. She does want to ask

where the maintenance for the photo booth is based. What would happen if there was a problem with the machine? Would the repairs be made in time?

**Senator Gehrig** responds that she is not sure about maintenance, but does know that George Washington has maintenance to repair the photo booth and so their team is going to be the one working out problems for us.

**Senator Radell** is also excited to see this happen. She asks about the outlook on a potential donor and how he or she will be paying, if by the initial \$15,000 or many payments of \$6000.

**Senator Gherig** responds that the photo booth will operate on individual donors. They are not sure about the speculations yet, but the payments could be engraved. It is not sure whether it will be a lump sum payment. She states that these conversations will also come a little later down the line.

Motion to vote from **Senator Morris**, seconded by **Senator Kish**.

A roll call vote is taken.

Ayes: 23

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

Nays: 2

Paulson, Raddell

Abstentions: 0

With 23 Yays, **Resolution 017: A Resolution to Purchase A Professional Headshot Photo Booth**, passes.

**5. Vice President, SGA Updates**

**9:16 PM**

**6. Open Floor**

**9:20 PM**

**Senator Kish** stands to first thank the Executive 9 team, the Senate secretaries, and the parliamentarian. He announces that he will be going abroad next semester, but it has been a trip so far in SGA, where together we are going to make a difference. He hopes that everyone can take this opportunity to be a part of it, because we only have one shot. He enthusiastically states that CUA is the best! He advises the senators not to squander their time here and to appreciate the community. Try! He can not make everyone care, but they should care. He ends by proclaiming “seize the day!” with whatever time the senators have left.

**Senator Hermes** thanks the senior senators for being his mentors this year in the Senate. He announces that he is meeting with the athletic director soon to help boost student attendance at games.

**Senator Corey** announces that all good things must come to an end. It has been an honor to serve in SGA, as he wishes the graduating seniors all the best. He thanks **Senator Kish**, who is going abroad, humorously stating “home sweet Rome you know”. He shares that he will not be returning to the Senate, which has been a wild journey filled with great people. In fact, he will physically be unable to promote the School of Theology next semester, as he is switching his primary major to Philosophy. Nevertheless, he thinks that everyone should be involved, as CUA is a wonderful place.

**Senator D’Atello** announces that he will be studying in Jordan next semester. He wishes the rest of the senators the best if he does not see them. He happily shares that he has been able to make long-lasting bonds in the Senate.

**Senator Crawford** announces that he will not be returning as well, since he is a senior. He thanks everyone for their best wishes and **Senator Gehrig** for representing the School of Arts and Sciences alongside him. He passionately states that “we can, we will, and we must do better” at SGA. Together, we are doing great stuff so far.

**Senator Graf** shares that **Senator Holcomb** could not be here today, but was supposed to bring up a resolution, which was shut down with a simple no. That piece of legislation was kept off agenda, not by any cause of the president or executive team, but it still was. The Senate has rolled over and refuses to grow. This situation has opened his eyes to the power the senators hold. We must continue to push forward, but **Senator Graf** announces that he will not be coming back to the Senate next year.

**Senator Gehrig** is happy to have passed the last resolution of the year. She takes a moment to thank the Senate secretaries, who have a hard job. Huge shoutout to them and the Senate parliamentarian as well. To the seniors, she expresses, it will be heartbreaking to see them go as CUA will not be the same without them. SGA has been so fruitful. Since she will be the executive chief of staff next year, **Senator Gehrig** will not be returning to the Senate.

**Senator** and **President-Elect Lance** wants to thank everyone for passing the budget for next year. He congratulates **Senator Corey** for his nomination as Grand Knight. His initial motivation to join SGA was to fix washing machines, and will continue to work on that. He looks forward to working with everyone returning next year as well as those not returning.

**President Harvey** would like to shed a bit of light into the process of allowing resolutions to hit the floor. The Executive team advocates for resolutions as much as they can, but unfortunately, they are told there is a timeline for passing them. That was the primary reason for giving **Senator Holcomb** and **Senator Graf** the no to their resolution. Their resolution was about giving school dancers access to the athletic trainers. This would have no support from student athletes. **President Harvey** is in full support of this, but there are only 3 trainers for the entire university, so the athletic director indicated that it would just not be possible as well. He ends by stating that the Senate and SGA's goal is to work alongside the school administration.

Unfortunately sometimes the answer to a resolution is no. The Senate wants to bring resolutions that will be passed, not resolutions we know will not be able to happen anyways.

## **7. Adjournment**

**9:25 PM**

Motion to adjourn by **Senator Morris**, seconded by **Senator Kish**

Voice vote on the Adjournment of the Meeting → Passes

Meeting adjourned