



# The Catholic University of America Student Government Association 2022-2023 Senate Session 8-2

October 17, 2022  
8:15 p.m. – 10:15 p.m. EST

## ROLL CALL

**Vice President** - Maevis Fahey

**Secretaries** – Gary Van Pelt and  
Natalie Zentz

**Parliamentarian** - Jon Norman

### **Class of 2023**

Curtis Bommer   X    
Matthew Drauschak   X  

### **Class of 2024**

Jamie Besendorfer   X    
Matthew Michels   X  

### **Class of 2025**

Neil D'Attelo   X    
Ashley Martin   X  

### **Class of 2026**

Michael Kish   X    
Bennett Bert   X  

### **School of Architecture**

Hess Djilioni   X    
Marisol Zayas   X  

### **School of Arts and Sciences**

Jordan Gehrig   X  

Jack Kruger   X  

### **School of Business**

Ryan Downing   X    
Samantha Phillips   X  

### **School of Engineering**

Luke Bubel   X    
Allison Ewing   X  

### **School of Music, Drama, and Art**

Anthony Curioso   X    
Daniel Campbell   X  

### **School of Nursing**

Cristian Henriquez   X    
Olivia Musick   X  

### **School of Philosophy**

Liam Foley   X    
Charlie Tamayo   A  

### **School of Social Service**

Michael McCarthy   X    
Ash Samuels   X  

### **School of Theology**

Ryan Corey   X    
Andrea Suarez   X  

**Key:**

X- Here, A- Absent

**NOTE:** Below is an agenda of all items scheduled to be considered for the present meeting. Notification is hereby proved that items on the agenda may be taken out of the order presented, two or more agenda items may be combined for consideration, and an agenda item may be removed from the agenda or discussion relating to an item on the agenda may be delayed at any time at the discretion of the presiding officer.

Any legislation or business being presented has been provided to the Vice President at least 48 hours prior to tonight's meeting and to all other members of the Senate at least 24 hours prior to tonight's meeting. The Vice President reserves the right to postpone debate of legislation based on the time constraints of the Senate meeting

**CALL TO ORDER -- ROLL CALL 8:15 PM PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE 8:16 PM**

**PRAYER 8:17 PM Senator Corey opens up in prayer with the Our Father.**

**1. Public Comment 8:18 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.

**Corey Crawford**, a junior politics major, speaks in support of Resolution 005. He says it's vital to have an accessible campus and for students to be able to get around in a safe, speedy manner. He is honored to have worked with Senator Gehrig on this resolution.

**Michael Dane**, a sophomore politics and media studies major, speaks in support of Resolution 004 and says it would be useful and helpful to have cooking supplies in dorms. He urges the Senate to support it.

**A sophomore** (name unintelligible), speaks in support of both resolutions 004 and 005 and urges the Senate to support both.

**3. Adoption of Agenda 8:20 PM Motion to adopt the agenda by Senator Suarez and seconded by Senator Michels Vote on adoption itself→ Adoption passes**

**4. Approval of Minutes 8:21 PM**

**A. Session 8-1 (October 3, 2022)**

**Motion to approve by Senator Curioso and seconded by Senator Suarez**

Vote on approval of meeting minutes for Senate 8-1 → Approval Passes

## 5. Senate Rules & Procedures 8:22 PM

**Vice President Fahey** explains that the senate will have some procedural rules that will be changing. She explains that they will eliminate the first motion to vote, and will now just have one vote to adopt the resolution. She says the only times the Senate will vote on the motion to vote will be when resolutions are being amended or being sent back to committee. She says this will ensure the senate meetings are smooth and fruitful.

She says that all amendments should be included in the bill before they hit the floor so time is not wasted. Additionally, grammatical errors in resolutions should also be recognized before the meeting. Lastly, she states that resolutions should hardly ever be sent back to committee. She encourages the senate to meet with her if they have any questions or suggestions about the changes to the procedural rules.

## 6. New Business

### A. Committee Chair Updates 8:25 PM

i. Senator Besendorfer, Rules and Administration

**Senator Besendorfer** thanks Vice President Fahey. The committee had a great first meeting, a lot of enthusiasm from the group. They discussed their thoughts of the first senate meeting, and looked over her and Senator Kish's resolutions. They also talked about their ideas for this year.

### ii. Senator Gehrig, Academic Affairs

**Senator Gehrig** says the committee had a wonderful first meeting. Correy Crawford, Director of the Disability Support Services Executive Initiative, was present and spoke about accessibility around campus. Senator Downing is working on the study abroad program. Senator Henriquez is looking into the nursing program. Senator Campell is looking to expand the library hours. Senator Corey is working on expanding the market hours. Senator Gehrig says the first resolution from their committee is hitting the floor tonight.

### iii. Senator Martin, University Services

**Senator Martin** says the committee had a great first meeting. They looked over her resolution about including pots and pans in select Resident Hall kitchen facilities. Senator Kruger is currently working with cafeteria staff on a resolution. They are excited for many resolutions this year.

### iv. Senator Michels, Student Resources

**Senator Michels** thanks Vice President Maevis. Their first meeting was great and very productive. It was great to hear from the other senators and work with the Executive Initiatives.

Senator Bommer is working on campus safety. Senator Musick is working with Title IX. Senator

Phillips wants to send out a questionnaire for constituents to make requests for improvements, and will work with Title IX. Senator Michels had a constituent reach out about DPS's response to the recent event Opus Hall, and will be looking into this. He further states that Resolution 003 was sent back to committee, where it was reviewed and decided the valuation be best handled by Catholic Values. According to the bylaws, the resolution can be overturned with a 2/3 vote. He is happy to answer any questions about this decision.

v. Senator Drauschak, Campus Life

**Senator Drauschak** thanks Vice President Maevis. They had a great first meeting and talked about many issues, including meal deals. They are excited for Senator Curioso's resolution on elevator accessibility.

**B. Senator Martin, Class of 2025 (Resolution 004) 8:30 PM** i. A Resolution to Include Cooking Necessities in Residence Hall Kitchen Facilities

**Senator Martin** thanks Vice President Maevis. She is happy to introduce her second resolution, and thanks her co-sponsors and those who provided their support in public comment. She stresses how important this resolution is for students; how many are negatively impacted due to the lack of resources in the Resident Hall kitchens. Dorm sizes are limited, so students cannot store pots and pans, and students often get tired of the pryz food and desire to make their own. Senator Martin has spoken with Victor David, Interim Director of Residence Life, who believes a pilot program is the best start, analyzing if residents use the cooking necessities and if they maintain good shape. Resident Halls already have the pots and pans, but most students do not realize they can check these items out. Also, placing them in the kitchens allows for convenient access anytime of the day, especially since there is a staffing issue in the halls. The pilot program will run on the honor system, making sure items are properly taken care of. The dorms chosen for the pilot program were selected based on farthest location, girls tending to cook more than guys, and size. Victor David was originally against including Opus Hall, but Senator Martin convinced him to include some of the 6 kitchens here. She says the pilot program will run for about 2 months, then during spring break the condition of the pots and pans will be assessed. All of the equipment is purchased, except the sponges, so no true investment. She states if the pilot program is successful, the idea will be expanded. She concludes that the resolution is extremely beneficial and will cater to student's needs.

**Senator Musick** questions how stealing will be prevented. Also, she asks if cooking utensils will be added. She makes note to avoid the 6th floor in Opus Hall for the pilot program in light of recent events.

**Senator Martin** responds that the pilot program is an honor system. The University already has the cooking equipment, so there is no loss of investment if items are stolen. Hopefully, cameras will see someone stealing items and can find them. She says the resolution is just a pilot program, so we will see how things go. Also, utensils and cooking spray were too difficult to add into the resolution, but can be added into the future if the pilot program is successful. She thanks Senator Musick for the 6th floor suggestion.

**Senator Foley** thanks Senator Martin. He personally likes to cook, but struggles with having no equipment and often has to ask friends for items. He mentions having a pilot program with no type of check in is a big risk, items can be quickly stolen or damaged. He says this runs the risk of nothing being successful; however, having a check in system can create success and move things further into action.

**Senator Martin** responds that when speaking to Victor David, he said the pilot program should be an honor system, especially because of the short staffing in resident halls. If things go south with the program, they can implement check-ins with the resident hall offices. She hopes RA's will potentially check on the equipment and make sure it is still present. She also says it is up to the students to report items being missing. Senator Martin says this is the plan for now, but can always introduce a new resolution to fix any issues.

**Senator Michels** thanks Senator Martin, and will be voting in favor. He restates the resolution is a pilot program and we can hopefully trust our students. Things might go wrong, but that is why it is a pilot program, we are testing things out.

**Senator Corey** thanks Senator Martin and asks about one pot and pan in each kitchen. He questions if this number could be changed based on the number of students.

**Senator Martin** says one pot, pan, and baking sheet per kitchen. People will have to share and clean the equipment. She clarifies there will be one piece of equipment in each chosen kitchen in Opus.

**Senator Gehrig** says it is a wonderful idea. She is an RA in Regan, and students often ask others for equipment over text. She loves the idea of a pilot program to get the flaws out, and will be voting in favor.

**Senator Martin** thanks Senator Gehrig for her support.

**Senator Bommer** thanks Senator Martin. He says he is aware it is a pilot program, but is concerned that if it moves forward, then it would not reflect the whole campus life. The resolution primarily prioritizes female cooking, so he is worried it would not expand to both males and females.

**Senator Martin** responds that both Opus and Unanue were chosen for the pilot program and contain male students, so they will be receiving kitchen equipment.

Motion to vote by Senator Drauschak and seconded by Senator Besendorfer

Vote on Resolution 004 → vote passes with 25 yay's and 1 absent

Yay's: Bommer, Drauschak, Besendorfer, Michels, D'Attelo, Martin, Kish, Bert, Djilioni, Zayas, Gehrig, Kruger, Downing, Phillips, Bubel, Ewing, Campbell, Curioso, Henriquez, Musick, Foley, McCarthy, Samuels, Corey, Suarez.

Absent: Tamayo

**C. Senator Gehrig, School of Arts & Sciences (Resolution 005) 8:55 PM**

i. Resolution to Implement a Pilot Program to Extend the Weekend Hours of the Campus Shuttle

**Senator Gehrig** thanks Vice President Fahey. She is honored to bring her first resolution and discusses how this resolution originated. Previously, she always saw the campus shuttle, but never used it until her friend was on crutches. She says her friend would never go to the pryz on the weekend because the shuttle didn't run then. Addressing this issue was one of her top priorities for this year. She has worked closely with Correy Crawford, Director of the Disability Support Services Executive Initiative, to change this. She states she will address questions the senators may have. The resolution is a pilot program, where the shuttle will run for a 10 hour period, no times were listed to allow for adjustments. Senator Gehrig says the shuttle drivers will run on a volunteer basis, because funding is not feasible for this semester according to Mary Delaney, Director of Parking and Transportation. People have reached out to her and are willing to drive, they just need their van certification. If the pilot program is a success, the idea will be officially implemented hopefully in Spring 2023, where drivers will be paid.

**Senator Curioso** thanks Senator Martin. When he ran for senate, he wanted to focus on increased accessibility around campus. He says the resolution is essential, as he at times does not feel safe pushing his wheelchair when it is pouring rain. On the weekends, he needs the safety of knowing there is another option like the shuttle if it rains.

**Senator Besendorfer** thanks Senator Martin. She says last year she was in a walking boot and had many issues getting around campus. She actually hurt her knee from walking too much. She will be voting in favor of the resolution and encourages her fellow senators to as well.

**Senator Musick** asks since it is a volunteer basis, are volunteers strictly students or can professional staff assist.

**Senator Gehrig** says drivers need to be van certified. SGA members are most likely to be the drivers. However, if professional staff want to drive, they can welcome to, but it is still a volunteer basis.

**Senator Corey** thanks Senator Gehrig and asks what criteria is being used to see if the pilot program is a success. Is there a specific number of students you are looking for that use the shuttle?

**Senator Gehrig** responds that the drivers will take note of students using the shuttle before the pilot program. Then, they will take a tally of students using it during the program. She has an upcoming meeting with Mary Delaney, but no specific number as of right now.

**Senator Martin** says she fully supports the resolution, many people are negatively affected by the current hours. She asks if the volunteer will remain in the shuttle when nobody is using it, or if it's an on call system.

**Senator Gehrig** responds that the drivers will run on shifts, likely having two, four hour shifts and one, two hour shift. She says the drivers could sit in a common area and work on homework. The goal is to make sure the shuttle is accessible to everyone, and she thanks Senator Curioso for his testimony.

**Senator Kruger** says he plans to volunteer and encourages others to get their van certification. If the pilot program is successful, it is a great way to make money on the weekend. He says it is a great idea and will support it.

**Senator Gehrig** thanks Senator Kruger for his support.

**Senator Campbell** asks if paying the drivers will be feasible in the future.

**Senator Gehrig** responds it is not feasible this semester, but next semester, the budget can be adjusted to pay drivers. She says if there is a necessity for the shuttle, paying drivers can be implemented.

**Senator Foley** asks if students will be notified of the adjusted shuttle hours.

**Senator Gehrig** responds it will be advertised to students. She has spoken to advocacy, who will promote the shuttle's availability on weekends.

**Senator Bommer** thanks Senator Gehrig. He asks how the pilot program will account for an influx of students if there is a sporting event during the chosen 2 weeks.

**Senator Gehrig** responds that the weekends were chosen because they aren't too soon, but also not too late because the weather gets colder. She assumes there will be a greater number of students using the shuttle if there is a home game, but will take this into consideration.

Motion to vote by Senator Besendorfer and seconded by Senator Bommer

Vote on Resolution 005 → vote passes with 24 yay's and 2 absent

Yay's: Bommer, Drauschak, Besendorfer, Michels, D'Attelo, Martin, Kish, Bert, Djilioni, Zayas, Gehrig, Kruger, Downing, Phillips, Bubel, Ewing, Campbell, Curioso, Henriquez, Musick, Foley, McCarthy, Corey, Suarez.

Absent: Tamayo, Samuels (point of personal privilege)

#### **D. Senator Kish, Class of 2026 (Resolution 006) 9:07 PM**

##### **i. A Resolution to Ensure the Cleanliness of Ventilation Systems in On-Campus Dormitories**

**Senator Kish** has the floor. He tells a story of a girl named Olivia, a former student at University of Maryland, who died from a black mold related illness. He says that when he heard the reports of black mold on CUA's campus, he became committed to solving the problem before it "takes a turn for the worst." He says he's heard personal accounts of people who have discovered mold in their residence halls. He says that he and Senator Bert met with several university offices, including the university architect, HVAC, and maintenance to discuss the problem of black mold. He says the meetings were productive and he learned that the university has a plan to rid this black mold, but they are simply not using it. He says the majority of the people he heard from did not put in a work order. He says the nature of this resolution is to not try to eliminate the problem, but to raise awareness to it, and to act upon the plans we already have in place. He says that if people have

these issues with black mold, he hopes the resolution will help them.

**Senator Bert** says that several freshmen approached both him and Senator Kish on the campaign trail with this as their largest concern. He said he also has heard multiple accounts from students who have been personally affected by this.

**Senator Djilioni** thanks the sponsors and says he has an anecdote himself. He says that his friend had to move out of Ryan hall due to mold, and he would not like to see his friend suffer like the girl Olivia did.

**Senator Drauschak** commends the sponsors on a great resolution. He says there was a problem with mold when he lived on campus. He asks the sponsors where the mold is located in the dorms and asks how the severity of the problem is measured.

**Senator Kish** says the most common area where mold is found is places with humidity, like the showers and bathrooms. He says heat, moisture, and food can all cause mold. He says most shower curtains currently have mold on them. He says that humidity is measured by the meters that are in the dorm bathrooms.

**Senator Foley** says he appreciates how detailed and comprehensive this resolution is. He asks if there is a way to inform students on how to prevent black mold.

**Senator Kish** thanks Senator Foley and states that the comprehensiveness of the resolution is due to a large group of people, whom he thanks. He says the report and slideshow he was shown by the maintenance staff is available to the public.

**Senator Kruger** says people should support the resolutions, and says calling in work orders are important. He encourages the senate to support the bill.

**Senator Corey** says he has been following this resolution and thinks it is a great idea. But he says the stickers and magnets and posters to raise awareness to the work orders may be redundant and extensive.

**Senator Kish** says telling people takes a while, he says posters may not always be seen, but magnets on a students fridge are more accessible and noticeable.

**Senator Musick** says that she will support it and had the unfortunate pleasure of living in Ryan Hall. She said she, as an RA, had a lot of residents who were affected by this and people had to be moved into emergency housing at times.

Motion to vote by Senator Drauschak and seconded by Senator Corey

Vote on Resolution 006 → vote passes with 25 yay's and 1 absent

Yay's: Bommer, Drauschak, Besendorfer, Michels, D'Attelo, Martin, Kish, Bert, Djilioni, Zayas, Gehrig, Kruger, Downing, Phillips, Bubel, Ewing, Campbell, Curioso, Henriquez, Musick, Foley, McCarthy, Samuels, Corey, Suarez.

Absent: Tamayo



**E. Senator Besendorfer, Class of 2024 (Resolution 007) 9:18 PM i. Resolution to**

**Include Retreats as an Excused Absences**

**Senator Besendorfer** thanks her co-sponsors and Vice President Fahey. She says the idea was brought by a constituent, and explains how we should give our faith the same priority as our athletics and ensure that retreats are counted as excused absences.

**Senator Musick** says she's confused about the relevance since people miss class, saying that retreats do not leave on weekdays. Besendorfer says that the identity of the school retreats are not excused. She says even if the usage of this resolution is limited, the student should have the opportunity to get an excuse if they need it.

**Senator Kish** says that Catholic retreats outside of CUA could be held on weekdays, and currently those do not get excused.

**Senator Curioso** adds that masses hosted at the Basilica, like the upcoming presidential installation mass, would also not be excused. He says this bill would also ensure those absences are excused as well.

**Senator Kruger** rises and says that this resolution does not list retreats that are hosted outside of CUA's campus ministry are not listed. He asks why they are not listed if the bill is meant to excuse those absences as well.

**Senator Besendorfer** says the whereas clause sets up the context for this. She says while campus ministry puts on most retreats, the clause is not meant to exclude retreats held outside of CUA.

**Senator Samuels** says that they are in full support, and asks if there should be an amendment to include high-profile masses in the resolution, given that it was mentioned. They say retreats are great but Mass is the most basic and common way that students can practice their faith, so therefore it should be included in the resolution.

**Senator Besendorfer** says that she is open to adding this amendment, saying it would be a great edition. However, she would like more time to look over this, and therefore encourages Senator Samuels to help her craft a new resolution in the future if they want this included, rather than amending the current resolution.

**Senator Foley** asks for clarification of the term "Discernment Retreats."

**Senator Suarez** says retreats that are led by campus ministries discernment groups would count as discernment retreats.

**Senator Foley** is recognized, and asks if the wording about discernment is truly specific enough. He says it is open for him to interpret it in different ways, and therefore thinks it is unclear.

**Senator Besendorfer** says it is necessary to leave the resolution broad because there are so many complexities of these retreats.

**Senator Downing** says that he is concerned if they are excused absences because then it would be hard to ensure that retreats are continued to be held on weekends.

**Senator Besendorfer** says that there are never excess amounts of people missing class for retreats. She says that people who go on these retreats deem their faith more important than their classes. She says they should not get penalized for it.

**Senator Kish** says they are motivated to keep retreats to weekends so more people will participate.

**Senator Musick** says that two “*it be enacted*” clauses conflict with each other regarding campus ministry. She asks if outside retreats are included will there be a verification process as to which retreats get approved.

**Senator Besendorfer** states that because sports and theater performances are scheduled so far in advance, they usually get excused. She says that since retreats are scheduled sooner in advance, they do not always get excused. She does not want to see students continue to get penalized for this.

Motion to vote by Senator Michels and seconded by Senator Ewing

Vote on Resolution 007 → vote passes with 21 yay’s, 4 nay’s, and 1 absent

Yay’s: Bommer, Drauschak, Besendorfer, Michels, D’Attelo, Martin, Kish, Bert, Djilioni, Zayas, Gehrig, Phillips, Bubel, Ewing, Campbell, Curioso, Foley, McCarthy, Samuels, Corey, Suarez.

Nay’s: Kruger, Downing, Henriquez, Musick

Absent: Tamayo

## **7. Vice President, SGA Updates 10:10 PM**

**Vice President Fahey** explains her door is always open to meet and discuss resolutions and the new procedures. She encourages everyone to attend two upcoming events: October 24th, 6:30pm-8:00pm is Krispy Kreme with President Kilpatrick, and November 2nd, 6:00pm-8:00pm is Meet Your SGA Day. She says those going to the event with President Kilpatrick to arrive on time to the senate meeting in Heritage Hall. She encourages senators to sign up for tabling at Meet Your SGA Day. She tells the senators whose resolutions passed tonight to find Molly and film their recap video. She thanks everyone for attending and looks forward to meeting with senators.

## **8. Open Floor 10:12 PM**

**Senator Martin** said she is glad her resolution passed, and says she’s working on a resolution to change the meal plan options for freshmen.

**Senator Curioso** says he commends Senator Drauschak for being here despite his recent loss, noting that Senator Drauschak understands his elevator accessibility resolution he is currently working on. He says if anyone is interested in working with him, they can feel free to reach out.

**Senator Suarez** says the Theology club has a Dominican Studies tour and night prayer and all are invited. If interested, reach out to her.

**Senator Kish** says he is working on a “Connect CUA” resolution that will hopefully fix the WiFi and will try to fix the cellular as well. He notes that he cannot call his parents from his dorm, and many students share the same story.

**Senator Drauschak** says he is bringing a resolution forward to bring the Starbucks app to the CUA Starbucks location.

**Senator Gehrig** thanks everyone for passing her resolutions, and is working on a resolution to bring therapy dogs to campus.

**Senator Bommer** says that he is working to improve the blue emergency lights on campus, and is currently looking to find every blue light on campus. If anyone is interested in helping him with this, they can reach out.

**Senator Musick** says she is working on her first piece of legislation, which seeks to bring a wider range of protein options in Murphy’s Grill and makes a joke about the amount of mushrooms on the menu.

**Senator Besendorfer** says that she is working on a resolution to offer some incentives, such as payment, to the CUA tour guides, citing problems the admissions staff has had with volunteer attendance. She encourages anyone with ideas and advice to reach out to her.

**Senator Djilioni** rises and says he's working on a resolution to improve the laundry services in the residence halls.

**Senator Kruger** is working on a resolution to add more waste bins to the lounge above Murphy’s Grill and other locations on campus.

**Senator Bubel** says he is working on a resolution to improve the meal deal option to include gluten-free options at Chick-Fil-A.

**Senator Foley** says that he is interested in looking into disciplinary work between the LC Professors. He says that LC professors seemingly do not work together. He encourages anyone with ideas to reach out to improve the freshman class experience.

**Senator Besendorfer** says that she is the Chair of the Dining Services advisory Board, she encourages anyone to reach out to her because she is at the frontline of the meetings that affect the dining experience on campus.

**Senator Michels** says these are all great ideas. He says he will be bringing a Title IX task force

resolution to the floor soon. She says that the DPS's handling of the situation in Opus Hall will be looked into extensively.

**9. Adjournment 9:46 PM** Motion to adjourn by Senator Martin and seconded by Senator

Michels

Vote on meeting adjournment → Passes

Meeting adjourned.