



The Catholic University of America Student Government Association 2020-2021 Senate Session 6-8

Virtual Meeting - Zoom
February 22, 2021
8:15 p.m. – 10:15 p.m. EST

ROLL CALL

Vice President - Gemma del Carmen

Secretary – Allyson Kirby

Parliamentarian - Mike McCabe

Class of 2021

Alexandra Kilgore X

Daniel Paviglianiti X

Class of 2022

Sophia Marsden X

Philip Ahearn X

Class of 2023

Maura Schlee X

Dominic Decker X

Class of 2024

Kyle Holcomb X

Jamie Besendorfer X

School of Architecture

Katherine Janik X

Richard Warren X

School of Arts and Sciences

Allison Sijgers X

Garrett Farrell X

Busch School of Business

Isabel Buckley X

Joseph Galassi X

School of Engineering

VACANT

Christina Brown X

Rome School of Music, Drama, and Art

Cecilia Bracey X

William Lucardi X

School of Nursing

Catherine Churilla X

Christina Hermann X

School of Philosophy

Melissa Zentz X

Connor Schmidt X

School of Social Service

Grace Birth X

Lauren Lake X

School of Theology

John Scott X

Jonathan Harrison 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 Brown

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.

Brayan Hernandez is present in support of the legislation. He believes that SGA has not done enough to support the underrepresented members of community and wishes to share this belief with other members of the community. He states that this legislation is a step toward solidarity and supports all students despite their differences. He argues that some senators do not voice the concerns of their constituents and states that a voice against this recognition is a vote for shame which does not protect constituents.

Andrew Green is a sophomore in The Busch school and urges all senators to approve Resolution 016. He believes that this resolution could discontinue the consistent marginalization of students and shares that many students have transferred schools because a lack of LGBTQ+ resources; this resolution could change that.

Emily D’Antonio is a senior in The School of Arts and Sciences. She is the current president of CU Allies. She shares that CU Allies has been organized since 2009; however, it has been unrecognized, unsupported and ignored. CU Allies has created a safe space for people to be who they are without discrimination or ridicule. The organization will continue to persist as long as CUA is a school. Members of CU Allies have endured disrespect from members of the student body and staff at the university and have had no one to come to for support due to the university’s failure to recognize the club. She urges all to think about how all students at the university pay tuition to be here and all are people regardless of how they identify. As Catholics are called to serve the community and serve God, all must remember the diversity which makes up the total community. She shares statistics about the LGBTQ+ being more likely to commit suicide and experience homelessness. The recognition of a safe space at school reports less suicides and less depressive symptoms. The recognition of CU Allies as an official organization is more important now than ever. Members have been organizing for the past 11 years and will continue to do so regardless. She explains that it feels like a slap in the face every time CUA says anything about being against discrimination and she urges anyone with concerns about theology to email her as she is happy to discuss these matters further.

Molly DiMaria is a sophomore in The School of Arts and Sciences. She urges all to support yes on Resolution 016 as all people deserve to feel welcome at Catholic University and this resolution would be a step in creating a safe and inclusive campus environment.

Nate Highley is a junior in The School of Arts and Sciences. He states that all should be made to feel comfortable on campus and that this resolution would help in that process. The passage of the resolution would allow the organization to be a well-resourced community for current and prospective students.

Mariana Massaroni is a senior Architecture student. She explains how sexuality and the discovery is a long and hard process for some people. She shares her personal experience and how she is still in an on-going process of reflection. Knowing that she has a space and family in CU Allies makes her feel more comfortable and really understand what it means to stand up in the face of homophobic people who ridicule how the LGBTQ community loves. She shares that CU Allies has little to no support from the administration; however, the organization persists to spread love and acceptance. Being here tonight she asks the university for the right to exist, to exist in such a way that the heterosexual students don’t have to ask for. She is tired of pleading for the same rights when there should be a principle of equal respect for all members of the community. She believes that the passage of this resolution and requirement for President Garvey to recognize the organization would be a good start to right the wrongs of their group and other minority groups.

William Schulz is a freshman Associate Director for SGA’s Catholic Values Initiative. He shares how Catholic University prides itself for upholding Catholic Values. He states that CU Allies has not been considered a club for the reason that it does not promote the church. He argues that despite claims that inclusion and diversity are on the table, the resolution set forth tonight is not a matter of inclusion or acceptance. He does not believe that CU Allies has been actively discriminated against by administration, and that the only thing that CU Allies lacks is the acceptance that the university cannot provide in good conscious. Schulz states that the Catholic

standard must be applied to all organizations and urges a vote no on Resolution 016.

Brynn Reese speaks to urge senators to vote no on Resolution 016. She is not here to pass judgement as we are all sinners and all children of God; however, she expresses her opinion on how the university must remain true to its catholic identity. She references the resolution and shares that Catholic University does compare itself to other schools in terms of academics, but Catholic University distinguishes itself as unique in its catholic identity which comes from Papal Charter. She believes that CUA must live to these standards due to the unique relationship with the Vatican. She believes that constructive dialogues among friends and classmates would help work toward improved inclusion, while the university can still remain committed to the Church's teachings.

Benjamin Piatt is a senior politics major in The School of Arts and Sciences. He states that he is a proud queer cardinal and the Treasurer of CU Allies. He states how he wishes for the passage of this resolution to make a more comfortable community for cardinals as he and others have endured endless exclusion and red tape. He states that the university has denied equal services to the organization. He speaks on behalf of himself and others' collective experiences and states that it is extremely hard to be a member of the LGBTQ community at CUA. He thanks those who vote yes in advance for the recognition of human dignity and states that a vote no is a clear and calculated personal attack which perpetuates the continuous marginalization of the queer community. Piatt firmly believes that you are in the minority if you vote no on this resolution and urges all to choose love over fear, be courageous and stay strong.

Alan Cunningham shares a statement from a former student named Christina McCain. Black lives have always been and always will matter so why does it take murder for us to understand this. There is no liberation of the LGBTQ community without the Black community and vice versa. There is no freedom for anyone until all are free. When McCain started at CUA in 2015, CU Allies couldn't even meet on campus. The choice to come out was a difficult process; however, McCain came out because she would have been hiding herself otherwise. CU Allies saved her and gave her a space to educate herself on her own existence. CU Allies gave her a reason to stay at a school where she felt like she never belonged. McCain took time away from school at an intensive care program to work on herself and her friends from CU Allies were the only ones to visit. McCain concludes with a call to show love for all people regardless of your God or way of identifying and affirms that the passage of this resolution is one way to show love for all.

Devin O'Donnell is a senior in The School of Arts and Sciences. She shares that she was very nervous, sad and scared to speak tonight but wishes to endorse her support for the establishment of the organization. She states that no one gets to doubt the validity of her existence on campus. She is a friend, peer, leader and most importantly an equal. She asks for all to pass this resolution to embrace and welcome her with open arms in the community.

Anthony Apostolides is a sophomore in Theology and Religious Studies. He is in support of the resolution but wishes he could have seen the resolution prior to attending public comment. He is not here to debate theological or religious aspects of this but to call for a commitment to

inclusivity. As we work to understand minority groups and gender differences, we must think about what it is like to be on the other side of that battle. He urges people to consider the fact that they might be in a position fighting for their own rights and urges people to extend compassion and a firm commitment to the rights and dignity of all.

Regina Brennan is a senior in The School of Arts and Sciences and expresses her support for the passage of Resolution 016. She has the distinguished honor of being the president of an organization on campus and affirms that all leaders have the right to equal opportunities on campus. She hopes that we can stand against the discrimination and states that those who came to speak are experts in their experiences. She hopes that this resolution comes to fruition and that the community can hold those who are discriminatory accountable.

Sean Devlin is a junior in The School of Architecture and Planning. He affirms that LGBTQ students exist at CUA. He shares that each day they feel not welcome, not accepted and not wanted and how this becomes harder to endure every day. He is tired of being ignored and pitied and believes that it is time to demonstrate that everyone who attends CUA is welcomed and accepted. If Pope Francis states that everyone has a right to be a part of the family, then why are some students at CUA not a part of the CUA family?

Alaina Smith shares her personal experience. She was warned by high school classmates that she would not be accepted by a school with Catholic on the name, they believed that she would never be accepted for who she is. Of course, she believed that being at a school in DC would be different regardless of the religious affiliation, as DC is the leading example of democracy. However, she has been discriminated against in the classroom with full knowledge of the professor and not a single defense. She states that this must not be the end, but rather the very beginning. The passage of this resolution would stand as a turning point in the fight for equal rights and combatting discrimination.

Antoine Rask is a student of theology and religious studies and former senator of the school. He shares catholic concerns and believes that unless the club strictly promotes what the church teaches, then it is not possible for him to support. He is a very strong proponent of the Doctrine of Faith and believes that it is deplorable that students have been discriminated against. However, he maintains the position that unless CU Allies promotes what the church teaches, he cannot be in support for the passage of Resolution 016.

Myciah Brown is a junior in The School of Arts and Sciences and President of BSA. She extends her support for Resolution 016. She shares words of College Republicans which made a statement about uplifting more voices, not less. She states that if you support this statement, then you should have no problem recognizing CU Allies within the university. She states that no one should feel like they do not belong in the university community.

Valeria Vega Herrera shares that most of her friends are a part of the LGBTQ community and that she wants them to feel loved and welcomed in the campus community. She supports the

passage of Resolution 016.

Ryan Fecteau thanks all for listening to all arguments and paying close attention this evening. He is a former CUA student and was a politics major in the class of 2014. He was a former speaker of the former SGA and on exactly nine years ago (February 22, 2012) that SGA passed a very similar resolution with 22 yay's and 3 nays. He hopes for similar results with this evening's resolution. He is the Speaker of the House in the Maine House of Representatives and shares that he has not been this nervous to speak in years. He states that it is humbling and moving to hear all the voices that came before and wishes to share a letter written by a student in 2012. The letter discusses the importance of being nourished on many levels simultaneously with the love of friendship being one of the richest human experiences. The letter speaks about engaging with homosexual persons at a community level regardless of any differences that may be had between people. This resolution is a call to support your peers. In reading a letter from a past student you can hear about their struggles and personal experiences. The people you are talking about protecting through this resolution are your friends, athletes, roommates, classmates and they are fellow human beings. If this school does not reject College Republicans or College Democrats who sometimes have beliefs which go against the Church, then there is no reason to reject CU Allies as they are advocating for the respect and support of one another.

Blayne Clegg Swann thanks Senator Marsden for the courage and effort of bringing this resolution forward. He expresses support for the resolution and believes that it is relevant to the discussion of College Republicans this evening. He thanks Senator Marsden for opening doors for free speech as he believes this is progress for uplifting more voices and not less. He urges all to continuously look forward for opportunities to question events and speakers and wants people to think about how the prevention of speech does not promote progress or dialogue. This is why he is calling all to vote in favor of this resolution as he believes it will bring the opportunity for further dialogue and uplifting voices.

Chloe Van Syckel is a junior in The School of Arts and Sciences and urges all to vote in favor of this resolution. She believes that the attendance of the meeting should stand as an indicator of the support as people came out to support CU Allies, this is a reminder that the community does have allies within the campus community. She states that we are called to love one another with no strings attached, and the passage of this resolution stands as an example of this.

Noah Sell is a theology major. He agrees with the commitment to upholding human dignity, but also believes that a vote to approve CU Allies is a vote to reject the catholic faith.

Alex McGuire shares beliefs of the theology and religious studies opposition and espouses views directly contradictory to the catholic church. McGuire believes that if CU Allies were under the direct purview of the ministry that the great community could be under the supervision of the church. McGuire begs the Holy Spirit to guide the decision-making process this evening.

Edmond Bousaleh urges the senators to vote no on this resolution. Bousaleh cannot imagine

efforts to rectify the scandal of having this recognition within the Catholic University and greater church community. Bousaleh concludes with a statement about prayer for those voting.

Enola Hernandez is the Executive Director of the Diversity and Inclusion Initiative. It is understood that there is a rocky relationship between the church and the LGBTQ community that needs to be healed and calls for open dialogues. Hernandez begs the question of how many dialogues are needed to end homophobia?

John Kosylo is a junior in The School of Arts and Sciences. He details an account of a dialogue that he shared with a Language Department professor which talked about how club supervisors have split tables in half in efforts to help CU Allies. Despite the joy to be found in seeing people make the best of a situation it is still heart breaking to see how the club cannot organize as any other organization at the university. It is saddening to see some members of the clergy run behind the scenes to help CU Allies as much as they can. Why shouldn't CU Allies benefit as much as any other student organization. Every single student deserves the utmost respect; however, it is impossible to show someone respect when you deny them the representation and resources. Kosylo concludes with a call to vote yes.

John Kish references statements made by the President of CUA's College Republicans which spoke of allowing a speaker on campus for the sake of free speech and now allowing CU Allies based on the same commitment to free speech. He states that he agrees with BSA and believes that if speech goes against catholic values, in this case racism, then it must be banned. (This was in reference to the situation with College Republicans). He shares with by that logic, homosexuality, and clubs which enable it, go against catholic values and as such should be banned. He concludes with the belief that SGA leans liberal and does not have a good understanding of catholic values.

Kelly Woodson is a junior in The School of Arts and Sciences and believes that it is absurd that this is even up for debate. The fact that CU Allies cannot be recognized at present is beyond wrong and is not indicative of the mantra to love all more than self. She says that those who vote no are using church teachings as an excuse and that the most imperative rule in the church is to accept all and love thy neighbor. She urges all to vote yes to make this about the students. She speaks directly to the LGBTQ community and says that you will be loved and accepted and how BSA will always be with the people and for the people.

Paige Brennan is a senior in The School of Arts and Sciences and lends support for Resolution 016. She believes that the passage of this resolution is the bare minimum that Catholic can provide for marginalized groups. She urges each senator to vote yes in order to create a welcome campus community for all students.

Daniel De Menezes is a sophomore in The School of Arts and Sciences. De Menezes affirms that no one deserves to feel like an outsider. This resolution is a call to give these students the respect and recognition that they rightly deserve to build a better campus community. Voting no is a vote against all. De Menezes concludes and does not understand how some people decide to pick and

choose which catholic teachings to follow like the church's view on premarital sex as an example.

2. Adoption of Agenda 9:05PM

Motion to adopt by Senator Lucardi and seconded by Senator Holcomb → motion passes

Vote on approval → passes

3. Approval of Minutes 8:27 PM A. Session 6-7 (February 8, 2021)

Motion to approve by Senator Lucardi and seconded by Senator Schmidt → passes

Vote on minutes → approved

4. Committee Reports 8:30 PM

A. Sen. Kilgore, Rules and Administration

The Committee of Rules and Administration did not meet last week. The committee is currently working on senate vacancy procedures as well as the legislation rejection process before it hits the floor. The committee plans to meet next Monday and will be joined by Senator Sijgers in the work on these procedures. She urges all who wish to collaborate to reach out.

B. Sen. Zentz, Academic Affairs

The Committee of Academic Affairs met last Monday and discussed new ideas for legislation. One thing that the committee is currently working on is a sign language course that students can enroll in. The committee is also working on legislation concerning the library and encourages all who would like to collaborate to reach out.

C. Sen. Schlee, University Services

The Committee of University Services had a fruitful meeting this past week in their discussions of study abroad, scholarships and sophomore housing for next year. She wishes for all who are interested in any topic to reach out.

D. Sen. Harrison, Student Resources

The Committee of Student Resources had a productive meeting in the prior week and is currently working on resolutions in regard to Spanish tutoring. There will be discussions with Academic Services, the Dean of Students and about LC curriculum. Senator Harrison believes that as the weather gets nicer more opportunities will become available for students as more can be done outside with adherence to social distancing guidelines.

E. Sen. Bracey, Campus Life

The Committee of Campus Life has been diligently working on a few resolutions with help from the research committee. They are discussing the possibility of moving the counseling center the new Pryz Center when the dining hall moves to the new building upon construction completion.

4. New Business

A. Confirmation of Senate Appointment 9:11PM

- i. Victoria Roscoe, School of Engineering

Motion to vote by Senator Lucardi and seconded by Senator Bracey → passes

Vote on appointment itself → confirmed

Senator Roscoe sworn in and confirmed

B. Senator Marsden, Class of 2022 (Resolution 016) 9:15 PM

- i. A Resolution to Recognize CUAllies as an Official Campus Organization

Senator Marsden begins by welcoming Senator Roscoe to the body before going into the outline of her resolution and what it entails. Additionally, before beginning Senator Marsden wishes to acknowledge the work of Emily D'Antonio and Mariana Massaroni and their efforts in working tirelessly for CU Allies and the LGBTQ community. She prefaces the speech with a mention that this will address homophobia, transphobia and make mention of suicide. Senator Marsden shares that similar legislation has gone before the senate before, but she hopes tonight there can be an active step in the change in solidarity. She shares that LGBTQ+ people exist and deserve recognition and acknowledgement on this campus. CU Allies creates a safe space for queer people and fosters community for members on campus. Many members find CU Allies as a place to merge their catholic faith with their identity. At present, the club cannot receive funding, OCA resources, table or plan events. However, the club is still operating within the parameters of the school and working to receive funding on their own while fostering relationships with university life. Their connections with the counseling center, CCE, SGA, BSA, Soul, Focus and more are all very strong. The inability for them to assemble as a club is blatantly discriminatory and there is a gap in experience of students. There are members of the LGBTQ community everywhere. Many alumni come out after they graduate from CUA because there is a very limited safe space for them. Part of the problem is that CU Allies does not exist to educate and provide a safe space. This resolution is here to represent the entire student body, including queer students. Queer students deserve to have equal rights, protections and privileges that the university can provide. Currently, the LGBTQ community is way more vulnerable than others. Senator Marsden illustrates the example that if homophobic and transphobic slurs vandalize a zoom call, then there is no protection. She explains that the church does not deny the existence of the queer community. Senator Marsden references the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops as it is deplorable that homosexuals have been the subject of discrimination. The local church community is supposed to be a place that homosexual persons should experience friendship. LGBTQ students pay the same tuition as everyone else and deserve the same respect and opportunities as the rest of the community. Senator Marsden references a 2016 study when she explains that rates of depression increased, self-acceptance was low, and suicide went up when GSA did not exist at a university. It is clearly evident that one group on campus can help change that. A vote no on this resolution could mean a lack of support and potentially someone's life. Additionally, University Chancellor Archbishop Wilton Gregory explains that every young individual has a place in the church as a member of the community. Gregory explains that every person belongs to the heart of the church and there is nothing you can do or say that would rip you away from the heart of the church. All people, regardless of their sexual orientation, remain in the family of the church. Senator Marsden also talks about President Garvey's response to the events of summer of 2020 and the condemnation of racism or discrimination of any kind. This expands to every marginalized group in the campus community. Senator Marsden concludes by stating that a vote against this resolution is a vote against every

member of the LGBTQ community. Every individual deserves the same rights, protections and privileges that serve every other marginalized group.

Senator Lake begins by thanking Senator Marsden for the preliminary disclosure about the sensitivity of the subject of discussion. She also wishes to address public comment and let people know she would like to be a resource for anyone who needs help as she actively works with the DC Center for LGBTQ support. She put a link in the chat for anyone and thanks all for sharing their personal experiences. She urges all to think about how CU Allies are advocating for respect and recognition within the campus community and how homophobia is not acceptable at all. This is not a matter of religious beliefs, but instead a matter of well-being and mental health. As Catholics we are all called to love each other as thy neighbor. Senator Lake will be voting in favor of this resolution and hopes for all senators to vote in favor as well.

Senator Ahearn feels honored to be a part of this resolution and could not be prouder of Senator Marsden. This resolution promotes solidarity, friendship and respect and the Lord accepts all people so none of us in are a position to judge our peers. Senator Ahearn does not believe that the administration is in a place to judge students for their visibility and dignity. The recognition of CU Allies has nothing to do with who someone loves. Senator Ahearn asserts that 1/5 of all crimes are committed on the basis of gender identity and is vitally important now more than ever to have an established safe space for students. He urges all to vote yes on this resolution and create an opportunity for students to have a safe space.

Senator Birth asserts that this resolution puts forward what is fair and wanted by constituents. This is a resolution about precedent and respect. CU Allies allows people to share ideas and feelings with like-minded people. Senator Birth guarantees that there are members within the senate body who are members of CU Allies and that there are people whose values do not align with the church in every aspect possible. CU Allies is valuable for campus and the college experience and every student deserves the same privileges and representation. There is strong condemnation for those who vote no, and a vote no is indicative of a lack of respect for herself, other senators and most importantly all students.

Senator Scott wishes to share a different perspective, but he knows that this is such a sensitive and emotional topic. It is painful to speak in opposition of this resolution, but he feels that he needs to share the theological perspective. Senator Scott does not believe that this is about someone's personal choices. He shares that he has love for all people, and it does not bother him if an individual identifies as queer, but this is about the club being recognized by the school as it is. Senator Marsden does not believe that the club can be recognized by the school as it is. To his knowledge, the club would not be in line with the church's teaching on the subject of the LGBTQ+ community. He does not believe that any person should be solely regulated or constricted by one aspect of themselves. He does not believe that there should be any attempt to pigeonhole a person to one community or one organization. Senator Scott appreciates all the hard work that was put into the creation of this resolution but believes that he must speak for his own constituents and maintain their position as they do not support the resolution. He will be voting no on this resolution.

Senator Marsden appreciates the points that are brought forward by other perspectives but would like to establish that identity politics are not everything. Many constituents are not out as this is a very personal process and matter of coming out. It is no one else's business to speak on the subject. Additionally, CU Allies allows individuals the opportunity to affirm their place in the church and the greater campus community. She would also like to point out that not every organization aligns with campus values such as College Democrats and College Republicans; however, OCA still approves Speakers and Treasury Board provides funding.

Senator Besendorfer hopes to be a part of the community that recognizes the LGBTQ community and maintains the human dignity of all cardinals despite their differences. She urges all to vote in favor with her tonight.

Senator Zentz thanks Madam President and to all those who spoke in public comment; however, she would like to address the Catholic Doctrine, the university's commitment to upholding this and where this leaves CU Allies as a result. The Catechism must be respected with dignity as persons are called to fulfill God's will in their lives. She explains the belief that people are called to chastity by the virtues of self-mastery. She asserts that Catholic University must work to cultivate the Christian faith in all forms of human inquiry and value and exhibit proper intellectual and academic reason. There must be continuous reflection in the light of the Christian faith as the faith is unique to its own tradition and unique to Christian thought. She goes on to explain where this leaves CU Allies. She believes that the LGBTQ community must be called to live the chaste life and lead members to a place of virtue and holiness. There are opportunities to seek pastoral support. She believes that the club must embrace the LGBTQ+ community as brothers and sisters in Christ with compliance with the church doctrine. She believes that she cannot support the resolution as it stands with its current mission and it is not realistic to ask CUA to endorse this at present. She believes that it is impossible to hear from all and wishes to represent the opinions of those she has spoken to as she votes no.

Senator Marsden encourages all to stay on point with the course of the debate. Talking about gay sexual intercourse distracts from the purpose of the resolution. It is not necessary to stress explicit compliance with catholic values, College Republicans and College Democrats exist as safe and educative spaces for students and CU Allies would perform in the same manner. CU Allies is not asking for special status, they are asking for the same status as other clubs. CU Allies has worked tirelessly with Dean Jennings and sexual intercourse has no place in this discussion as this resolution does not call for any mention of it and it leads to uncomfortable and unwarranted conversations.

Senator Sijgers explains that there is a call for a search for the cross within the CU Allies community and that they currently do not have a place to do that. How can CU Allies search for God at CUA if we are going to deny them a place to do that? She asserts that sexual intercourse has no place in this debate. This is a matter of the club being established and being paid the proper attention from OCA. CU Allies deserves the same care that any other club receives when it comes to speakers and an affirmation of trust in the abilities of OCA. Today the senators are called to remember the words of their oath which include a commitment to the promotion of welfare for all students in the community. The school community would be a better place if students had an organization to be recognized under, a place to share their faith and understand their pain. There is a way for the LGBTQ community to exist in the church and CU Allies would give everyone an opportunity to understand this relationship of faith.

Senator Holcomb shares that he was not entirely familiar with CU Allies until approached to co-sponsor. Some friends urged Senator Holcomb to reach out to Christina McCain and he references her statements about the positive influence of CU Allies. She explains that CU Allies created a space to educate herself on her own existence, while establishing an outlet and group of friends. This resolution is designed to ensure that CU Allies is entitled to the same recognition, rights and privileges. He references the bible when he discusses the importance of this resolution to spur one another along in good deeds to make CUA a more accepting place for all. He concludes with reaffirming support for the resolution.

Senator Schmidt thanks all who put the work into the presentation of this resolution as he understands how long it took for the resolution to hit the floor. He then goes into why he opposes it. He is a seminarian and believes that this resolution goes against the church. Additionally, as the Senator for the School of Philosophy, all the constituents that he and Senator Zentz spoke to were in opposition of this legislation. He cites President John Garvey in the discussion of the move to same sex dorms in 2011 as the goal of the Catholic University of America is to foster the intellectual virtue of the students as foster the virtue of the students. To do that, it proports an anthropology consistent with the Magisterium of the Church. This is the goal of the university that President Garvey has stood by throughout his tenure. He wishes to acknowledge that individuals are allowed to be who they are and study and follow their lives in any way they see fit. He asserts that CUA cannot give special status to a club that gives status to a club that gives any club that contradicts church teachings. He does not believe that CU Allies distinguishes itself enough in its commitment to church teachings. The church's teaching needs to be upheld so that people may live in accordance with the Gospel and the Magisterium.

Senator Marsden appreciates everyone's vulnerability and willingness to talk about their perspective and experience. She states that she is not doing this because she wants to but because she has to. CU Allies is not asking for special status, they are asking to have the same treatment as any other club. President Garvey condemns discrimination of any kind and the prevention of CU Allies become a club is a clear case of discrimination against people. This could be a matter of someone's life in the future. A student could transfer because they don't feel welcome off of the basis of their sexuality. This is the root of the problem. She states that no one is the Pope, and everyone should keep their conscious in mind when they vote.

Motion to extend the meeting to the completion of the agenda by Senator Farrell and seconded by Senator Sijgers → passes

Vote on extension itself → passes

Senator Kilgore speaking in support of the legislation. She states that this may be a surprise for some people as she is a student minister with a theology minor. She is a devout Catholic and considers herself liturgically traditional. She states that comprehensive knowledge of catholic values is in short supply. She has voted against proposals to recognize CU Allies before due to conflicts with catholic values which she does not see as present in this legislation. As a person of faith, she believes that many hats must be integrated parts of one's vocation as a student. Her faith is an integral part of her identity, but it is not all of her identity. She states that nothing in the by-laws of the text contradict the Church. This resolution challenges people to challenge their own fears about sexuality. She urges all to direct their attention to policies of campus activities and understand that CU Allies will be subject to the same regulations that other clubs follow. CU Allies will still have to adhere to the goals and missions of Catholic University and the Roman

Catholic Church. CU Allies already operates in an unrecognized fashion. If CU Allies becomes recognizable, then they will be recognized by OCA. Issues with the club will be within the purview of OCA, not SGA. This is not an SGA issue and this debate is an inappropriate breach of power which belongs to OCA. She thanks Senator Marsden, Emily and Mariana for all their efforts in the creation of this resolution. She knows that we cannot predict the future, but it is not within the realm of SGA's responsibilities to act as OCA, or John Garvey. She urges all to rely on their conscious to appropriately vote yes, as this is inappropriate for SGA to decide in the first place.

Senator Holcomb → yields time

Senator Galassi thanks everyone who has spoken before him but wishes to express another opinion on the matter. He starts by stating that every human being is made in the image and likeness of God, and as such it is ultimately up to God to judge due to the inherent human dignity of the individual. He also argues that Catholic University's policies must foster a true understanding of catholic values. The university must serve the mission to pursue truth, sanctify students, and use gifts from God not to be manipulated contrary to natural ends. There must be a commitment to discover and impart the truth through excellence. The Catholic University of America must be faithfully catholic as a comprehensive community. It is an institution of higher learning which helps all members of the community to be guided by the teachings of the church and moral theological virtues, to be deeply informed by the true understanding of the whole education of the human person and personal integrity of the formation of students. There must be a commitment to dialogue, but it cannot be ignored that other recommended Catholic colleges, such as Mount Saint Mary's was taken off of a list of catholic colleges for failure to remain catholic with the introduction of GSA organizations. The recognition of CU Allies would be a public endorsement of non-Catholic values. He concludes with his intention to vote no on this resolution.

Senator Bracey thanks all for bringing forward well written statements. She explains that debates like this occur sometimes and that this issue reminds her of the porn ban from a previous year. She shares that there were passionate senators on both sides, and she recalls how heated the debate got. However, she encourages all to listen to each senator when they speak. Some statements have seemed contradictory, and she believes that all would benefit from taking notes while Senators are speaking. People need to be vigilant in using the proper name CU Allies. She cites other clubs which do not always promote catholic values like the College Republicans and College Democrats. She shares that we are a senate body to work for the students. Senators must advocate for what they feel is best for the students. It is not normal or appropriate that this evening there is a vote on whether a club should or should not be in existence. This is not something which generally occurs in the SGA body, this is typically an OCA process. It is not within SGA's purview to approve clubs. She would have appreciated if people reviewed the by-laws prior to this meeting and urges all to remember that research was sent to every member of the body before the meeting. Whenever senators are sent legislation, they have the opportunity to review it and ask pertinent questions.

Senator Marsden stresses that we need to stay on track with what students want and need as the LGBTQ community on campus. She would like to acknowledge that failure to recognize the club is resulting in a loss of money in donations. Countless people are refusing to donate to the university when they find out how difficult it is to be an active club on campus and how it is hard to navigate The Nest. It is also hard to gauge how active a club truly is. Sexuality is one part of LGBTQ and there is so much more that goes into educating and providing a safe space. The research committee does everyone a huge favor and Senator Marsden is extremely grateful for all the work of the committee. She cannot commend Director Norman and others enough for the work of the committee.

Senator Harrison thanks all who have been involved and spoken before him and wishes to echo in agreement with Senator Bracey's comment on purview of Senate and future proceedings. He proceeds to make comments, all of which come from countless conversations with constituents. As the representative for the School of Theology he has compared the situation with the University of Notre Dame Prism ND. Prism ND is a pastoral plan by the university to prioritize holistic development which is beneficial for the entire university. It discusses clubs and committees as well as various meeting groups and stands as an example for how to handle these discussions for the future. Additionally, he references the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith which stands as a guide for decisions and personal reflections. The Congregation wishes to ask bishops to be especially conscious and pay special attention to the practice of religious organizations. Finally, Senator Harrison outlines the situation in the School of Theology and Religious Studies. He recognizes that it has been stated by many this evening to listen to the voices of the constituents. This is why he is choosing to abstain from the vote. As the by-laws are written, he believes it is the best course of action to abstain and seek more clarity going forward to show his support in the best way he can as more information is sought going forward.

Senator Marsden says that it is hard to talk about catholic values of CU Allies, but she encourages all to go to a meeting, speak with Dean Jennings and think about the human dignity of each individual. There can no longer be a denial of the existence of the LGBTQ community and there is no place for homophobia. If we truly want to make this a university that everyone feels comfortable attending, then it seems unclear as to why we are still having this conversation.

Senator Warren is honored to speak on something that the university continuously shies away from. He shares a personal experience about getting a job off campus to avoid any hate or homophobia and the fear he had. He pledges full support for the LGBTQ community and the freedom of expression that is rightly deserved. He requests a call to action to let the LGBTQ community have their voices heard and quotes Onika Tanya Maraj and her stance on the issue.

Senator Schlee thanks Senator Marsden for bringing forward another strong resolution. She wishes to bring up the rhetoric of today's meeting. She feels as though some of the comments have been disrespectful as having a difference of opinion does not disregard someone's existence. She believes this body is a place for civil discourse and urges all to be respectful. She also shares disappointment that people were cut off from public comment. As the senator for the Class of 2023, she has received numerous emails from constituents on both sides of the issues. She shares that although some people may not agree with the resolution, that does not mean that they want people to be hurt in any way, but that they have views which do not reflect the mission of the resolution. She goes on to discuss the university's catholic identity and desire to stay true

to the catholic teachings. She asserts that CU Allies does represent some things which are contrary to church teachings and that it is ultimately not the place of SGA to decide this issue. She believes that there are many students who have been afraid to speak up and haven't had access to all the governing governments in order to make well-reasoned and intelligent comments on the matter. It can be hard to make an educated vote without all the knowledge and resources. She would like to respond to the body acting as OCA, and states that this is exactly what the body is doing right now. She is unsure of how she is voting at this time because she sees both sides of the issue.

Senator Marsden explains that the governing documents were sent to the people who asked. She reiterates that the historic inability for CU Allies to be a club is an extreme example of discrimination. This organization does not have a religious affiliation. She also reminds the body of the suicide rates amongst the LGBTQ community, particularly those who do not have opportunities to organize with their peers. It is never okay for someone to be told they're going to hell due to their sexual identity.

Senator Lake explains that this is a unique matter for Senate to vote on but urges all to take a moment to think about the careers that they are working toward. Senators must put their personal bias aside and think about who they are serving. Whoever a senator is representing is the priority. It does not matter what your personal opinion is because there are many individuals who are queer and need support from their senators. The university community deserves respect as a whole. She also believes it is important for everyone to practice some form of self-care after this meeting and take the time to reflect and rest.

Motion to vote by Senator Zentz and seconded by Senator Brown → passes
Resolution 016 passes with 20 yay's, 4 nay's and 2 abstaining

1. Vice President, SGA Updates 10:44PM

Vice President del Carmen begins by sharing that Resolution 009 was advocated for to administration. This was the resolution on diversity demographics and the presentation of such in an accessible manner. Resolutions 011, 012, 013, 014 and 015 are all in the advocacy process and will have more updates to come going forward. VP del Carmen is also hoping to establish some sort of bi-weekly senate work room availability with proper adherence to social distancing guidelines and mask mandates. This would enable the senate community to have opportunities to work together in person for those who are in the DC area. Additionally, there has been information sent out about Cardinal Leadership Awards. She urges people to use the link that was sent to nominate people who you believe are deserving of the recognition. She would also like to organize two senate dinners in order to build comradery before the end of the semester. Lastly, she urges people to attend Treasury Board meetings on off Mondays to stay informed and be more involved with SGA as a whole.

2. Open Floor 10:45PM

Senator Schee is currently unaware of the housing situation for the class of 2023 as there are still rumors that they will be required to live on campus for the Fall 2021/Spring 2022 academic school year. As a result of the pandemic, they had been told that they would have the opportunity to live wherever they would like for the remainder of their time at the university and now the class is evidently very upset about the prospect of going back to campus. She would like anyone with special insight or particular passion on the subject to please reach out to her or Senator Decker as soon as possible.

Senator Zentz congratulates Senator Roscoe for being sworn in and welcomes her to the Academic Affairs committee. She will receive an email soon as the meeting will be via zoom next week

Senator Sijgers shares her current work on senate vacancy procedures and urges anyone with an interest or knowledge to message her. She also addresses Senator Kilgore about her resolution about bringing resolutions to the floor and asks her to share any research that was done with all as it seems to be desired by some senators. Senator Sijgers is also working on a complaint resolution which would codify the complaint system within the university community. She is also working to ask the university to raise the student minimum wage to a level which students could actually live off of. Students who work for the university make significantly less than the DC minimum wage and it can present challenges to students as they manage the cost of living in such an expensive city. She urges anyone with an interest in either resolution to please come forward as she is happy to work with others on these projects.

Senator Bracey wishes to recognize the fact that SGA had 170 people in the meeting and thank all who are still on the call for coming to the meeting this evening. She appreciates the fact that people are voicing their opinions and talking with the senators. She hopes that people will come again in the future to speak on behalf of other resolutions. She also wishes to highlight the work of Senator Marsden as she has worked with so many clubs and organizations to make this resolution be what it is and couldn't be prouder. It has been amazing to see this come to the floor with backing from other organizations and bear witness to how the community can work together.

3. Adjournment 10:50 PM

Motion to adjourn by Senator Zentz and seconded by Senator Janik → passes

Vote on motion → passes and meeting is adjourned