



# The Catholic University of America Student Government Association 2021-2022 Senate Session 7-11

March 28th, 2022  
8:15 p.m. – 10:15 p.m. EST

## ROLL CALL

Vice President - Monica Wallace

Secretary – Nicole Campos and

Jordan Gehrig

Parliamentarian - Mike McCabe

### Class of 2022

Gerald Sharpe   X  

Alan Cunningham   X  

### Class of 2023

Matthew Drauschak   X  

Patricia Kwiatek   X  

### Class of 2024

Jamie Besendorfer   X  

Matthew Michels   X  

### Class of 2025

Maevis Fahey   X  

Ashley Martin   X  

### School of Architecture

Melissa Kazanci   X  

Sarah Haeflinger   X  

### School of Arts and Sciences

Maura Schlee   X  

Garrett Farrell   X  

### Busch School of Business

Isabel Buckley   X  

Raegan Lehman   A  

### School of Engineering

Emily Bowman   X  

Margaret Bubel   X  

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

Kyle Holcomb   X  

Sophia Pelekasis   X  

### School of Nursing

Brooke Lackey   X  

Christina Hermann   A  

### School of Philosophy

Michael Moore   X  

Tony Crnkovich   X  

### School of Social Service

Grace Birth   X  

Vacant       

### School of Theology

John Scott   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 Michels opens up with the Glory Be.**

**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.

**Elizabeth Fairbanks**, a freshman, voices her support for Senator Fahey's Resolution 043.

**James Doyle**, who is apart of the Wellness Initiative, voices his support for Senator Fahey's Resolution 043.

**Luke**, a freshman in the school of architecture, voices his support for the confirmation of Sarah Haeflinger. She is a great addition to the Senate and everyone in Crough can see her passion.

**Molly Mullin**, a sophomore, voices her support for Senator Fahey's Resolution 043.

**Abby Anger**, thanks everyone for being here and would like to speak in favor of her appointment to the Senate, Sarah Haeflinger. She would be a great representative for the school of architecture. She urges all senators to please vote her in.

**Carla Isaac**, a freshman, voices her support for Senator Fahey's Resolution 043.

**2. Adoption of Agenda** **8:20 PM**

Motion to adopt the agenda by Senator Moore and seconded by Senator Suarez

Motion to adopt the agenda→ Passes

Vote on adoption itself→ Adoption has passed

### **3. Approval of Minutes**

**8:21 PM**

#### **A. Session 7-10 (March 14, 2022)**

Motion to approve by Senator Michels and seconded by Senator Schlee

Motion to approve the meeting minutes→ Motion Passes

Vote on approval of meeting minutes for Senate 7-10→ Approval Passes

### **4. Committee Reports**

**8:20 PM**

#### **A. Senator Sharpe, Rules and Administration**

**Senator Sharpe** is happy to help Senator Moore bring the first bill to the floor tonight. There has been a long standing practice of the vice presidential power to be able to restrict legislation from hitting the floor. Currently, that rule is implicit and can be interpreted differently, which it has been in the past. This bill is clarifying the long standing practice of the vice president, to clarify another bill and make it explicit. He also talks about how currently, the committee is working on a bill about who is allowed to vote for what.

#### **B. Senator Schlee, Academic Affairs**

**Senator Schlee** talks about how her committee had a great meeting. A resolution from their committee is hitting the Senate floor tonight. They have several big projects in the works, including looking more into program board and helping Senator Martin on a language resolution to round out the end of the year.

#### **C. Senator Besendorfer, University Services**

**Senator Besendorfer's** committee had a wonderful meeting last Monday. Tonight, a resolution will be hitting the floor, one that has been a long standing concern among constituents. Some projects the committee is working on are a printer in Opus and Senator Suarez's resolution on porn addiction support. She is also working with an executive initiative with dining services to have better advertisements for composting and recycling.

#### **D. Senator Farrell, Student Resources**

**Senator Farrell** has no major updates in his committee. Senator Martin is working on a resolution that Senator Schlee mentioned and there are a few other resolutions in the works.

#### **E. Senator Birth, Campus Life**

**Senator Birth's** committee met this past Monday. She is proud of Senator Fahey's resolution for

an allergy-safe campus community. She spent a lot of time making sure it was a well crafted resolution. Senator Birth also mentions Senator Michel’s resolution about content warning for course syllabus, something he is working on with the Title IX task force. Senator Birth herself is working on her resolution for support for students in times of crisis. She is looking for co-sponsors and if anyone is interested, please let her know. Senator Pelekasis is also working on a resolution to build the sign language pilot program.

#### 4. New Business

##### A. Confirmation of Senator for the School of Architecture and Planning

8:25 PM

- i. Sarah Haeflinger, Bachelor of Science in Architecture

Motion to vote by Senator Lackey and seconded by Senator Suarez → Motion to vote passes

Vote on the appointment→ Passes with 23 yays.

##### B. Senator Fahey, Class of 2025 (Resolution 043)

8:27 PM

- i. A Resolution to Advance An Allergy-Safe Campus Community

**Senator Fahey** thanks Vice President Wallace and thanks everyone who came out tonight. She is bringing this resolution to the floor tonight because there are ways our university can make that experience better and safer for students with dietary restrictions, especially those with anaphylactic allergies. Because amidst the excitement of adjusting to college and lovely Pryz food, these four years are statistically some of the riskiest and most vulnerable for those with dietary restrictions and especially life-threatening allergies. She grew up always carrying her EpiPen and has spent too many hours squinting at ingredients labels to make sure everything was safe for her to eat. She met a girl in her hall who for all of last semester made gluten free pasta in the dorm kitchen because she could not find any meals she liked. While our university does have some great policies and procedures in place in the Eatery, like the gluten free bread station, the G8 Station, which offers allergy-friendly options, as well as the option to request separately cooked meals for every meal of the day from the Eatery, there are ways to advance allergy safety and awareness beyond those specific corners that many students with dietary restrictions find limited. There is a clear path the university can pursue that has already been implemented by local K-12 schools and universities. This resolution requests that epinephrine auto-injectors, such as the EpiPen, are implemented into the new dining hall opening next fall. If a student experiences anaphylaxis, the EpiPen case can be opened, an alarm will sound to notify those trained to use EpiPens, and the EpiPen can be used to save the student’s life. After meeting with Student Health Services with Senator Besendorfer, they were not very perceptive to the idea. Their stance was that students have anaphylaxis every once in a while, and they can walk on down to the Student Health Services, be given their EpiPen, and that policy has worked fine. Some students, including herself, only have two minutes to reach an EpiPen before anaphylaxis becomes fatal. Students at this university deserve to feel safe about the food they put on their plate, and should also feel settled with the thought that emergency resources are available if they are needed. As seen in the last whereas clause of the resolution, Chapter 23D of the Code of the District of Columbia, ensures “public access to defibrillators and epinephrine,” which means that we can follow suit with local schools and universities by using AED policy for sudden cardiac

arrest and applying it to emergency EpiPen public access. After meeting with Officer Kirk McLean from DPS a few weeks ago, he was extremely perceptive to adopting policy to train DPS officers to use EpiPens. In addition, Senator Fahey met with Maddy Mustin and Cat DeMassi, the Orientation Student Coordinators, who were perceptive to creating a guide for incoming freshmen with information about the new dining hall and robust resources and advice for students with dietary restrictions, which will hopefully prevent any more students from cooking pasta for themselves every single night in their building. The Wellness Initiative has also been enormously helpful this year with setting up meetings with Dining Services regarding allergy friendliness in the dining halls on campus. This resolution makes the university a safer place for all students with dietary restrictions. She urges everyone to vote in favor of this resolution.

**Senator Scott** thanks Vice President Walalce and Senator Fahey for bringing this to the floor. He does not have food allergies and his worst allergies are to the cherry blossoms. One of his friends from back home brother and sister both have deadly allergies to so many different things that he could not list them all even if he tried. This is a serious issue, it is life or death. People need to know what is in their food. He is all for the resolution and has no arguments against it.

**Senator Fahey** thanks him.

**Senator Lackey** voices her support. While students with allergies should have their EpiPen, they might need supplements and should not have to carry five.

**Senator Fahey** thanks her and says it means a lot to have her support. Another argument that was brought up was that if the dining hall had EpiPens, students would forget to carry them.

**Senator Crnkovich** mentions that EpiPens are very expensive and as someone with allergies, some people on campus can not afford them and this could save their life.

**Senator Fahey** agrees that EpiPens are very expensive. She tried to include the best tidbits from D.C. law pertaining to that. There used to be laws that no one could get an EpiPen unless they had a prescription, which was bad.

**Senator Suarez** thanks Senator Fahey for bringing forth such an important piece of legislation. She does not have allergies, but has friends who do and thinks that it would be very important.

**Senator Fahey** thanks her.

**Senator Besendorfer** thanks Senator Fahey for bringing this to the floor. She has a clarifying point. The Pryz is the heart of campus, but the new dining hall is almost done being built. She wants to know if the new dining hall is included in the resolution.

**Senator Fahey** responds that her wording of campus cafeteria was vague so it would encompass both the Pryz and new dining hall.

**Senator Sharpe** thinks that this resolution is great and is behind it 100%. He has an allergy but does not use an EpiPen. He wants to know how many students who need an EpiPen carry it around.

**Senator Fahey** says that it is not super common and students either carry it all the time or most of the time. For example, she keeps her EpiPen in her backpack, but sometimes does not bring her backpack with her when she eats. This would be a last resort measure for when a student

forgets it or a friend cannot find it for them.

**Senator Besendorfer** spoke on an argument from the Health Center that if everyone is carrying it, it should not be a problem. But what if you have an allergic reaction and a friend cannot find your EpiPen in your backpack?

**Senator Schlee** thanks Vice President Wallace. She is not familiar with EpiPens and wants to know how long EpiPens are good for and when they need to be replaced.

**Senator Fahey** answers that EpiPens are good for either six months or one year. Hopefully the university can look into the most efficient way to purchase them. If the liquid in the EpiPen is cloudy, then it is expired.

Motion to vote by Senator Michels and seconded by Senator Suarez → Motion passes

Vote on Resolution 043 → Vote passes with 23s yay's and 0 nay's

### C. Senator Schlee, School of Arts and Sciences (Resolution 044)

8:47 PM

- i. A Resolution to Improve the Walking Routes During the Construction of the Conway School of Nursing Building

**Senator Schlee** asks her fellow senators to look back on how their day was. Where did they travel to and what buildings did they go to? Any issues they run into? She ran into one: the new construction zone for the Conway School of Nursing. While she is extremely proud of the university for making a brand new building, this construction zone has become a major inconvenience on campus. An inconvenience students were not really made aware of until Thursday morning. For a lot of people, this zone has added ten minutes to their commute. Many people have complained about being late to their classes. Some additional issues are that there was an opening in the construction zone before Thursday morning which went along the side of Mullen Library that allowed students to go from Mullen to Pangborn directly. This shows that there are creative options for the construction zone to not fully block off that area. Students are truly upset about this and this will be affecting student life for a minimum of two years. Many students are in support of this resolution and she knows that when visitors come on campus, they could be extremely confused. She also notes that students who are visually impaired or have a physical disability and cannot rely on the shuttle buses are greatly impacted by this construction zone. She urges her fellow senators to vote in favor of this resolution.

**Senator Besendorfer** makes note that while the CUA shuttle is great, they don't always pick up the phone and can take up to 20 minutes to pick up students. Cars cannot even go through this construction zone and with Odyssey Day coming up, campus is looking chaotic and all the fences make it look like this is a jail.

**Senator Martin** voices her support for this resolution. For her LC's, she walks from Gowan to Caldwell and many of her peers are very late getting to their next class. She urges everyone to vote for this resolution.

**Senator Pelekasis** thanks Senator Schlee for this resolution and can definitely see how frustrating this construction zone is. She has a couple questions to ask, like how this resolution

will impact the construction zone, student safety, and who has she spoken to in regards to this resolution?

**Senator Schlee** is asking for the construction team to do what they legally can do. She understands that by law, they are required to have surrounding areas of the construction to be blocked off. However, she has spent a lot of time looking at the area and noticed that there are certain boundaries that can be moved if only by a few feet. Most students, besides architecture students, can use the Crough Center to get between Mullen and Pangborn. It would make the most sense to open Crough to everyone so that they can get to classes but for security reasons, that is not possible. Instead, students are not forced to make a giant detour. She is only asking for a few feet of space. She did not get the chance to speak with Tim Kearney yet but knows that President Anger was informed and talked to him. She has full confidence in the executive to convince the construction company to make this happen.

**Senator Kwiatek** voices her support for this resolution. While she does not get very affected by the construction zone, she sees how many other peers could be. She also wants to support students and staff who have disabilities. She makes a comment about how Senator Schlee mentioned Odyssey Day. Three years ago, she was on campus for her own Odyssey Day and there was construction being done on Pope Leo Lane. She had to ask for help several times and was left feeling embarrassed. She also asks for a point of personal privilege to use the restroom.

**Senator Cunningham** brings up Senator Pelekasis's question about any specific laws that Senator Schlee can talk about in regards to the construction zone, if we are at the maximum boundary for the fences or if we are overstepping? Or perhaps we are the legal limit for fencing.

**Senator Schlee** responds that she has not been able to look into the specific laws or really had time to do a deep dive. She really only noticed this issue on Thursday and has worked hard to get it on the table by today. How she sees it is that there are two different options so that students can get across. One is to move the fences to one direction, and potentially have the side walk free. The other option is that if the fencing is at its minimum limit, to do construction in phases so that there is at least one accessible way to move around campus.

**Senator Sharpe** supports this resolution. He notes that for his entire time here, there has been some sort of construction project that has caused a great inconvenience to the student body. However, on the flip side, he wants to stress the importance that the university is able to invest in new buildings and projects. Maloney Hall was a 38 million dollar investment. This is a good sign that the university is attracting donors to fund these projects and for our university to remain on the map as a serious academic institution, not one for the next five years, but for fifty years and beyond.

**Senator Schlee** appreciates Senator Sharpe's sentiments and is in great support for the university to improve. It is always important to ensure the future. It is important to have a degree that looks great in ten to twenty years from now. However, she reminds us that these amazing projects should not be at a cost to student campus life and experience. We are the students of today and while a lot of the senators rarely see the fruits of their labor that they are doing, it is for future students to enjoy. She still wants to see the university to work on the current condition for the students here now.

Motion to vote by Senator Martin, seconded by Senator Michels → Motion passes

Vote on Resolution 044→ Vote passes with 23 yay's and 0 nay's

**D. Senator Besendorfer, Class of 2024 (Resolution 045)**

**9:06 PM**

- i. A Resolution to Include Parking at the DuFour Center with On-Campus Surface Parking Passes

**Senator Besendorfer** thanks her co-sponsor. while she is not a student athlete, she has heard this complaint over and over again. Student athletes have purchased a parking pass but still get tickets. She makes it known that every year, the university is lowering parking spots. She does not have a car nor is she an athlete, so she had to do a deep dive for her research. She points out that she started with commuters, and realized that students who live on Monroe street are considered commuters too. When she looked at the Dufour center, the parking is only for coaches. She met with Tim Kearney, who was open to her idea. She is hoping that this can happen before the next academic year. She also points out that for the argument that there is not enough space, people are either not getting caught or getting a ticket which they can get out of paying by saying they did not know. This is not something that the university is making much money out of.

**Senator Scott** notes that parking should be equal across all of campus. He also asks for a point of personal privilege.

**Senator Buckley** thanks Senator Besendorfer for her resolution. She has a question about off-campus athletes. Would they have to purchase a surface pass for everywhere on campus or solely the Dufour center?

**Senator Besendorfer** responds to Senator Buckley's question saying that a surface pass lets you park on campus and the Dufour center. She knows that coaches pay for parking passes for the Dufour center, but that is not very commonly used. People are either purchasing no parking passes or paying for the surface parking pass.

**Senator Drauschak** talks about the Flow Bird System, which charges 2\$ per hour. He also is a little confused about this resolution. If there is not a lot of parking available, would this just cause more traffic and does this only apply for on-campus athletes? He also asks how many on campus athletes have a car and drive?

**Senator Besendorfer** notes that there is an overall issue of parking on campus. This resolution hones in on campus residents who have issues at the Dufour center parking. As of right now, only upperclassmen have the privilege of bringing a car on campus. This is more prevalent than ever since next year will be the first year where it will be fully implemented for juniors to live on campus. While 45% of students with a parking pass live off campus, this number will shift. A good number of athletes live on campus with busy schedules and this resolution will help alleviate their concerns.

**Senator Crnkovich** has a quick question. What about days where the Dufour is absolutely packed because of a big game day? If athletes have parking passes, will there be enough parking for visitors and families? What does Senator Besendorfer suggest be done about these occasions?

**Senator Besendorfer** responds that for big homecoming games, parking will be crowded nonetheless. On move-in and move-out day, this is also the same situation. However, these are exemptions compared to our day to day lives. For the price of parking, this is not an unreasonable



ask.

**Senator Schlee** noted that if this would become an issue, an email could be sent out early so that students could plan wisely where they parked or that their passes could be invalid for those big days.

**Senator Besendorfer** notes that this is already common practice, especially when activities are being held in parking lots. Students get notice that the McMahon parking lot is going to be closed and must find parking elsewhere.

**Senator Fahey** asks if this resolution would include overnight parking at the Dufour? Sometimes, she has been at the Dufour at 5am because of very early practices and her friends want to know if they can park there? It is a very dangerous walk to get to the Dufour that early and in the dark.

**Senator Besendorfer** answers that this resolution focuses on On Campus Surface parking passes and that she does not know the specifics of that question. She knows residential parking passes can park overnight. However, a can of worms could be opened if these passes included cars staying longer or if they could be considered abandoned.

**Senator Cunningham** has concerns about this resolution because it seems to only affect on campus students. What about off campus athletes?

**Senator Besendorfer** responds that this is not a perfect rule. However she notes that you cannot have a parking pass until junior year. While it is not impossible to get one beforehand, it is a process. However right now, the concern is too high. Right now, there is a limiting number of parking passes given out, including some high prices that still offer the same service. Everyone deserves to get what they deserve when they pay such high prices. This is something that we have never seen implemented. People feel the impacts and are acknowledging what is already happening.

**Senator Drauschak** asks if the parking prices will increase because of access to the Dufour center parking lot? Will this be an add on option or included in the normal price.

**Senator Besendorfer** says that when she talked to Tim Kearney, there was no indication that prices would increase or that the Dufour Center would be considered an add on.

Motion to vote by Senator Martin, seconded by Senator Suarez → Motion passes

Vote on Resolution 045 → Vote passes with 21 yays and 2 nays

#### **E. Senator Moore, School of Philosophy (Bill 001)**

**9:25 PM**

##### **i. A Bill to Clarify the President of the Senate's Power When Setting the Agenda**

**Senator Moore** thanks Vice President Wallace and his fellow senators. It is his pleasure to bring forth the first bill to the floor. Senator Sharpe said everything in the committee update. The implicit power to withhold legislation could be argued against and this was seen last year. To help that from being brought up again, it seems like common sense to codify this long standing practice. He waited to bring this bill because there were so many great resolutions and getting this in now will make it ready for the next senate.

Motion to vote by Senator Michels and seconded by Senator Farrell → Motion passes

Vote on Bill 001 → Vote passes with 23s yays and 0 nays

## 5. Vice President, SGA Updates

9:28 PM

**Vice President Wallace** wanted to start with updates on advocacy with resolutions that were brought to the floor. Starting with resolution 032 by Senator Michels, President Anger met with Mr. Carney and Housing Services. Upon hearing that the process of calling Caldwell and Gregory to inform them of a maintenance issue is not an easy process for students, Mr. Carney said he would reach out to our CUA contact in that company to figure out what the issue is. This should be an easy process and there will be new signage in the laundry rooms. An update on resolution 034 by Senator Besendorfer, Housing Services will most likely maintain the policy established during COVID of designated dates and time slots for move in to ensure better support for students and efficiency during this process. Housing's hours of operation are always extended during move-in and this must be a communication issue if students are unaware. For fall move in, Mr. Carney asked that SGA help publicize these hours. Mr. Carney did some additional research into how much storage space he has for additional move in carts and into the financial details. After this, he reached back out to me and requested that SGA pay a portion of the price for these carts. At the end of April and May, Vice President Wallace will review the SGA Budget and see if we have some extra funds to allocate towards this effort as she believes it will greatly benefit students. An update on resolution 034 by Senator Crnovich. Dean Mayer seemed open to the idea of allocating additional funding to the writing center tutors. There is a follow up meeting scheduled with Dean Mayer to discuss this idea in more detail, specifically the possibility of scheduling incremental raises over the next several years and instituting a higher wage for second year writing center tutors. An update on resolution 037 by Senator Schlee, after meeting with Mr. Carney, he agrees that the proposed place for a crosswalk and stop sign is more logical than the current cross walk's placement. Given the construction for the Nursing building be undertaken on that side of campus, driving will not be accessible to that side of campus so the cross walk will be constructed when the building is finished which will probably be two years from now. Vice President Wallace will be doing the recording tonight, not Phil, so see her after. The new university President will be announced at 10 A.M. and they will be in the Great Rooms at 12.

## 6. Open Floor

9:33 PM

**Senator Farrell** apologizes for not being here for the last few weeks, he was at home dealing with a few things. He wants to apologize to anyone in the School of Arts and Science for not being here. He also wants to explain his abstention on the approval of the past minutes. He was not here and did not review them, but he is confident that the wonderful secretaries did an amazing job.

**Senator Sharpe** encourages everyone to vote next Tuesday in the executive election. He has run in it and overseen it and it is an exciting day for our campus. The reason he is saying this now is because it is the first senate meeting before elections.

**Senator Scott** does not have an announcement but a question. He remembers there was a

resolution on a textbook library, but forgot where it was. A constituent wants to donate to it and he wanted to know if it existed, and if so where it was.

**Vice President Wallace** responds that the Co-Op library is in the CCE. If you want to donate, please do and as the end of the school year is coming up, it is the perfect time to purge all of our academic books.

**Senator Haeflinger** thanks everyone for voting yes on her confirmation and can't wait to get to know everyone. This was a great first meeting, even though there's only two left.

## **7. Adjournment**

**9:36 PM**

Motion to adjourn by Senator Moore and seconded by Senator Pelekasis → Motion passes

Vote on motion to adjourn → Vote passes and meeting is adjourned