



The Catholic University of America Student Government Association 2021-2022 Senate Session 7-3

November 1st, 2021
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
Jared Jagiello A

School of Arts and Sciences

Maura Schlee X
Garrett Farrell X

Busch School of Business

Isabel Buckley A
Raegan Lehman X

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 X

School of Philosophy

Michael Moore X
Tony Crnkovich X

School of Social Service

Grace Birth X
Abby Harris X

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 - Senator Bubel (Hail Mary) **8:17 PM**

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.

Jordan Farrell is speaking on behalf of the Treasury Board as a director. She makes it a point that Cardinals for Life have gone before the Treasury Board twice and been evaluated. She would also like to take into account the student activity fee. The money that the Treasury Board uses is given by the students for the students. She has great respect for the Senate and urges the senators to please vote no on the appeal, as the Senate and Treasury Board are co-equal.

Brian Allen, a director of Treasury Board, is speaking on the Cardinals For Life allocation appeal. Treasury Board denied the funding because it was not an intelligent use of the student activity fee. In past years students brought their own money, and they can uphold that precedent. The denial of funds does not impact the actual activity.

Michael Staresinic is a treasury board director, who spoke about the Cardinals For Life allocation. During the second presentation, when asked about how they arrived to their number, Cardinals for Life did not actually have a certain number of people. The amount of money they were asking for was unacceptable.

Afia Asare is a Treasury board director. The board decided the projected number of people in attendance did not correlate to what Cardinals For Life was asking for, and decided to not fund.

Once again, they encouraged Senators to vote in opposition of this recommendation.

Maria Duffy is a Treasury Board Director, and asks the Senate to please vote in opposition. The treasury board can only fund events open for all students. In order to get the donuts you would have to first go to the entire event and then walk to Dunkin. They had to take this into consideration.

Isa Salazar is a Treasury Board Director, and asks the Senate to vote in opposition of the Cardinals For Life allocation because if they vote for it, this would undermine the power the treasury board holds. Treasury Board is already the most diverse branch of SGA in many ways and as a woman of color and a minority she can attest to that and voting for this would silence this voice. She encourages the Senate to uphold the decision of Treasury Board with all students in mind.

Rob Niro is the treasurer pro tempore, and a Treasury Director. He thanks the senators for sitting in on the treasury board meetings. He is here with the rest of the board in opposition of the board for cardinals for life. The donuts are not essential to the success of any event. He would like for all senators to stay apolitical and keep certain beliefs away from the discussion.

Luke Kelly is a treasury board director and speaks on the Cardinals For Life allocation. As a general notion, he feels it's very unwise to vote for allocation. If a student organization does not like their decision twice and appeals it, it sets an unhealthy precedent.

Nick Swanson is the president of Cardinals for Life and promotes the sustainable culture of life. He believes that they were being treated unfairly and every point that was brought up was countered in their appeal letter. He asks Senate to vote in favor. Treasury Board gave them nothing and he is incredibly disappointed. This is a compromise. He thanks the committee for their hard work and asks the Senate to vote in favor.

Stephen Caulfield is in support of Cardinals for Life. Cardinals for Life has an exceptional program that supports a culture of life. He asks Senate to vote in favor of the proposal, and thanks them for their time.

Sofia Cooke is a junior and the Vice President of Cardinals for Life. She asks that Senate vote in favor of the allocation. She can personally attest to the positive effect Dunkin has after sidewalk prayer and how it fosters community.

Brennan Stone is a sophomore and the Co-Advocacy Chair for Cardinals for Life. She thanks everyone for being here and asks Senate to vote in favor. She wants to address one point made by Treasury Board. She acknowledges that donuts after sidewalk are not necessary. It helps build community and you don't get to meet people while you say the rosary, but you can during Dunkin.

Michael Ippolito is a junior and thanks everyone for coming out. Donuts after the rosary help connect with other Catholics. They are doing everything to be pro-life. Today is All Saints Day, so let's do something virtuous.

Caitlin Fitzgerald wants the Senate to vote in favor of allocation. As a practicing catholic, she is saddened that a pro-life club needs to fight this hard for donuts. They track down on Saturday mornings to pray for the unborn lives. Students sacrifice their Saturdays to spread the Catholic

church's mission.

Fernando Hernandez-Reyes is a freshman and asks Senate to vote against the Cardinals for Life allocation. Students can go by themselves and the free donuts are an inappropriate usage of the student allocation fee.

Maureen Pierce is a co-leader for the Sidewalk Prayer. She encourages the senators to vote yes. She speaks from personal experience that offering free donuts encourages more students to go. She shares how she needs to save every dollar that she makes and cannot afford to casually spend a dollar or two on a donut on Saturday mornings so she used to not go to this event. She was ashamed of not being able to purchase a donut. She really wanted to go so she could create meaningful relationships with people who had the same beliefs as her. Until this year, she was not able to go and she encourages the senators to please support Cardinals for Life Sidewalk Prayer.

Catriona Fee is a politics major and has been with Cardinals for Life since her first year. Cardinals for Life is the most powerful testament of a collective mission. She wants to call to attention that the money from the student activity fee comes from the students. She thinks that the measure of students who have come out tonight is a testament to the fact that we, as students, believe this is a wise use of funding, as it is also in accordance with the school's mission. The Treasury Board is not an elected body so the Senate should step in on behalf of students.

President Abby Anger thanks everyone for coming. This is checks and balances in action. She thanks the Treasury Board for sacrificing their time and Cardinals for Life for going through the appropriate channels. She also thanks the Senate for listening tonight and for the special committee for reviewing this allocation appeal. This is checks and balances in action and proud that everyone went through the appropriate channels and appreciates all the work done. She is excited to nominate Andrea Suarez to fill the vacancy in the School of Theology. She is such a great representation of what it means to be a wonderful Catholic woman and is incredibly involved on campus and will serve this purpose well.

Nicholas Pakaluk is in Cardinals for Life. The amount Cardinals for Life would be given is a fraction of the amount they originally asked for is really an afterthought. He encourages the Senate to vote for the appeal because it is less than was originally settled on.

2. Adoption of Agenda

8:25 PM

Motion to adopt the Agenda by Senator Sharpe and seconded by Senator Bensenforder

Motion passes

Vote on adoption → Adoption has passed

3. Approval of Minutes

8:27 PM

A. Session 7-2 (October 18, 2021)

Motion to approve by Senator Farrell and second Senator Sharpe

Motion passes

Vote on approval of minutes → Approval has passed

4. Committee Reports

8:30 PM

A. Senator Sharpe, Rules and Administration

Senator Sharpe thanks everyone for coming. His committee is responsible for bylaws and rights of senators. They meet on Monday to clarify the bylaws. Senators Jagiello and Moore are working on resolutions. His job is to bring forth a recommendation. The bylaws state that they cannot amend the recommendations presented by the special committee. If the vote passes with a $\frac{2}{3}$ threshold, Cardinals for Life gets the money recomoed, and if it fails, they get nothing. Please read the document the appeals committee wrote, as it was very thorough and address all

B. Senator Schlee, Academic Affairs

Senator Schlee thanks Vice President Wallace. They had a wonderful and lengthy meeting on Monday. They are actively working on mental health for a resolution that will hopefully be on the floor next meeting. They are also working on academic dishonesty reform and reading requirements for LCs. They are also working on reform within the Social Work School and supporting tem. The biggest issue is addressing CACS and there will be a resolution brought forth. This is going to be very extensive and if anyone is interested please contact her.

C. Senator Besendorfer, University Services

Senator Bensendorfer's committee had their meeting last Monday. They looked into multiple items further. One of those things was looking into a way that dining services could better accommodate students. The graduate and law students are giving their input for the Upass resolution. They are also looking forward to welcoming a new member.

D. Senator Farrell, Student Resources

Senator Farrell said that student resources had a productive meeting on Tuesday. Senator Martin is working on a resolution extending the Pryz dining hours. They hope to bring forward this resolution as a community.

E. Senator Birth, Campus Life

Senator Birth says they had a wonderful meeting. She thanks everyone for trekking to Caldwell in the rain. There are lots of new ideas on various pieces of legislation. Senator Michels is working on Title IX reform and if anyone has any concerns, talk to him. Senator Fahey is presenting her first resolution and the committee is so proud. There are many great things to come.

4. New Business

A. Confirmation of Theology School Senator

8:42 PM

- i. Andrea Suarez, Theology and Religious Studies

Senator Scott wanted to say that as a senator from the School of Theology, he cannot be happier to see his new senator joining today.

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

Vote on the appointment → Passes with 24 yays.

B. Funding Recommendation from Special Committee

8:44 PM

- i. Cardinals for Life

Senator Sharpe starts by acknowledging that there is a lot of support on both sides of this allocation appeal. Clubs go to Treasury Board and present. Within 24 hours clubs get back their results and within 24 hours of that, they can appeal. They then have 3-5 business days to submit their official appeal. That goes to the executive and has to be passed by a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority. It then comes to Senate. The special committee was formed and met last Sunday for a long time to discuss the appeal. There was a lengthy debate and they came to a unanimous decision. They received letters from both Treasure Bommer and Cardinals for Life President. He knows what it's like being a Treasury Board director and they have to carefully analyze each point. There was a lot of disagreement between groups and Treasury Board didn't vote unanimously. Taking everything into consideration and after hearing all sides and arguments, this seems like a fair compromise. He is happy to take any questions.

Senator Schlee thanks Vice President Wallace, Senator Sharpe, and the special committee. She appreciates all the hours put into this and respects it. She would like to give some perspective. She has been attending Treasury Board meetings for three years now and served on the appeals committee in Fall 2019. There is a lot more debate this time. She also serves as treasurer for a small club on campus and has witnessed changes and bylaws firsthand. She has looked at all of the documents and the application to the bylaws and wants to point out specific parts of the bylaws. Article 5 Section 1 Clause 1 says "no money should be allotted to student organizations for events that are not open to the entire undergraduate study body." It is a huge mission that all funds go to organizations that go to everyone. Treasury Board has previously said to organizations that they need to be doing more marketing and communicating the event. This event is not thoroughly communicated and is seen by Treasury Board as not being open to everyone. You had to open their email list to know it exists. She checked the Nest and there was no mention of donuts. OCA determines events by them being on the Nest. The fact that they don't advertise on the Nest is concerning. Their Instagram account does not mention going to Dunkin. To a lot of the university, this event does not exist. There are a few members who go on a weekly basis. It is a major part of preparing before going in front of Treasury Board to know how you will be advertising the event. We need to be careful that we don't give any student organizations any special treatment. Regardless of political beliefs, we cannot hold organizations to different standards. Student organizations are denied water bottles because they are seen as frivolous. Student organizations have to find the most cost effective way and do it through research. They need to look at how to get donuts in the cheapest way possible. Both Giant Donuts and Krispy Kreme are cheaper

options. All other student organizations are held to this standard. We need to be respectful of the student activity fee. This issue is not that the event is off campus, it's that it is disjointed. You have to walk to a new, off campus area to get the donuts. There is no marketing or communication to the entire student body which is concerning. This could be excluding people. This is not not because Cardinals for Life is hosting this off campus, but they are not upholding the values and bylaws of Treasury Board. There could've been a lot more research done by Cardinals for Life and a level of research needs to be done that will be respectful to the student activity fee. Treasury Board suggested they look into other ideas and Cardinals for Life didn't. With all of that said, it is important to remember that this is not about politics and it shows a lot that she of all people is in disagreement. This is about financial responsibility and all student organizations being treated equally and fairly. She will be voting against Cardinals for Life.

Senator Sharpe says there was a lot there and the special committee took this all into account. The bylaws made it so that it had to be accessible. They looked at it in two ways, location and marketing. The event's location is readily accessible and not in violation of the Treasury Board bylaws. It is close to campus, being only two Metro stops away. Planned Parenthood and Duncan are close to each other and the Metro. Off campus events are funded by Treasury Board. The special committee outlined their marketing in the document and did have concerns. They came to the conclusion that while it was not robust, it was sufficient. They did advertise on social media and had flyers and email blasts. The Average attendance for an early Saturday morning is very good. It is between 25-30 and there are individuals as well as regulars, so it is not always the same students. The reason Dunkin wasn't adversarial is because Sidewalk Prayer is the name given to the entire event. They came to the conclusion that it wasn't two different events because they were close by. Sidewalk Prayer event is a term used to encompass the Dunkin event. Denying water bottles is a long standing Treasury Board practice and other clubs are given food for events like this. The special committee didn't give them the entire amount and they see \$156 as a fair and sufficient amount that takes all sides into consideration. .

Senator Michels thanks Vice President Wallace and Senator Sharpe along with the special committee. He thanks Senator Schlee and agrees that what she said is very accurate and thorough. He trusts Treasury Board judgements and after reading over all the documents, he agrees on the final decision. He does believe in checks and balances, but at the end of the day this sets a dangerously destabilizing precedent. He will be voting no.

Senator Sharpe doesn't believe that this will cause a ripple effect and it is not backed up by history. There were three appeals in the past four years. Two of those Senate gave more than Treasury Board did. This doesn't set the precedent that student organizations can run to Senate, The special committee appeals process is an egregious process. It takes hours of planning and paperwork. Student organizations can be spending anywhere from ten to thirty hours depending on the request size. There is so much paper and letters in front of him, and it won't happen because it is way too much work. 99.9% of clubs go into Treasury Board and do a great job and get what they want.

Senator Lehman thanks Vice President Wallace, Senator Sharpe, the special committee, and Treasury Board. For those who don't know, she is a senior and has been involved with all sorts of student organizations. She has attended many Treasury Board meetings and appreciates the work they do. Without them there would be no funding and student organizations wouldn't be able to put on events. Cardinals for Life is integral to the university and there is no debating that. Donuts

after sidewalk are very important. Praying the rosary is not a form of people building community. They go to Dunkin to speak about what they just went through. All campus events have food because that's what gets students there. Sidewalk is spreading the university's mission. There are no Planned Parenthood clinics on campus, so they have to travel. There are only two Metro stops and we all take the Metro. This isn't a hindrance and she voices her support for the resolve amount. She doesn't have any animosity to Treasury Board.

Senator Birth wants to reiterate what Senators Schlee and Michels said. She is fairly new but Treasury Board is coequal to Senate. To vote in opposition shows that people can circumvent the Treasury Board and it deligitimizes their authority and knowledge. We should vote in conjunction with Treasury Board. Cardinals for Life is one of the premier clubs and receives large scale events for funding. This is not stifling the school's mission or Cardinals for Life. She has been in the position where she received no funding for an event when Vice President Wallace was on the board. She said with her as her liaison and showed her what she could improve and change. She got those events to be fully funded. Treasury Board is a forgiving body and will give you money if you present it again. She urges everyone to vote in favor in alignment with Treasury Board.

Senator Sharpe does not think that this will create any attitude. This event is recurring and is large enough to be considered a general body meeting. It happens every week and the funding is for the rest of the semester, not just the next meeting. There are six Saturdays left and he is giving a recommendation for \$156 for 6 events. This comes out to about two dozen donuts each Saturday, which is a low amount of money.

Senator Moore thanks Vice President Wallace, Senator Sharpe and the Special Committee, and Treasury Board. He would like to make a point about the present being set. This could be a dangerous precinct in the other direction. Voting against could dissuade other clubs from coming forward. It is part of checks and balances to find flaws. Treasury Board made some valid points but there were some errors made by reasoning. It is integral to the success of this and the students are asking for that. Senate is representative of students and he will be voting in favor.

Senator Martin thanks Vice President Wallace and everyone who worked hard on the special committee. She hears both sides and sees where they are coming from. Cardinals for Life is incredible, but what comes back to her is Senator Sharpe acknowledging that there are many people who go to this event. Food incites people to go, but there is already a large number of people. Most students don't want to get up that early on a Saturday and pray. They could exchange numbers and get together to eat at the Pryz. Like Senator Birth said, improvements could be made. Treasury Board didn't vote against this once, but twice.

Senator Sharpe says food is integral to the success of events and most campus events have food. Very few times is the food so integral that the event cannot happen without it. For example, the Italian Club has cannoli night. The cannolis are the event. Most other events the food isn't important. For example College Republicans or College Democrats will have pizza. The special committee came to the analysis that the donuts allowed Cardinals for Life to process their experience outdoors because people heckle them. They relocate from the Planned Parenthood to Dunkin and build fellowship. It is integral to the success of the organization and the university's mission. The Cardinals for Life e-board uses the Dunkin portion to talk about future meetings. This is a partial funding not an extreme,

Senator Besendorfer thanks everyone for coming out tonight. As a representative, it is important to hear and feel your constituents. Answering Senator Moore's concerns about it setting dangerous precedent in the wrong direction. Senator Schlee mentioned that one was passed and it would not set percentages. Checks and balances are important and she is impressed to see it. Even though she did sit on the committee, she will be voting against it. During public comment they talked about how they wanted the funding to happen because of financial burden. They do meet at the Metro stop and it's about \$2.50 each way for a total of \$5. Dunkin is not an entrance fee. You can't get to Planned Parenthood without the Metro. The traveling cost is approximately 3x a donut. No matter how this works out, it won't stop them from going to Dunkin, which makes it hard to determine success. The president from Cardinals for Life said that attendance goes down from sidewalk to Dunkin. The success of prayer is not a reflection of Dunkin. Her biggest concern was the lack of marketing. She wants to see more marketing and feels weird giving out money without it. Treasury Board is very forgiving and Senator Birth's experience shows that. She urges everyone to vote against it.

Vice President Wallace reminds the Senators to not commit any personal attacks against individuals in the public.

Senator Sharpe says that stated in the letter from treasurer Bommer funding for Dunkin was previously sponsored by students and a CUA professor and Treasury Board didn't deem it mescarry. He takes personal issue with this. Previous methods of funding should not be held against student organizations. For example, if the economics department has been giving money to a club that two years later needs to shift money around, the economic club will be asking for funding from Treasury Board. These students are paying \$1.50 for the donut out of pocket, on top of their tuition money. We need to respect the financial status of students. They do pay for the Metro but it is a marginal cost. Students might be willing to sacrifice \$5 to go to Planned Parenthood, but not be willing to make the additional cost for donuts. This is where Treasury Board comes in. Cardinals for Life is held to different standards and on campus events you don't have to pay out of pocket for.

Senator Cunningham states that the special committee meeting went two hours over. He respects both sides. Cardinals for Life has been paying out of pocket the past couple weeks and providing free donuts to the public was not seen in their marketing. He agrees with the decision by Treasury Board and urges all Senators to stand with Treasury Board.

Senator Crnkovich would like to address the comments by the members of Treasury Board. First thing mentioned, the numbers of cost were not accurate and cost did not reflect their need. President Swanson did provide them in their second meeting with accurate numbers. To turn around and offer them nothing in spite of the clear and very obvious numbers is somewhat savage.

Vice President Wallace reminds the Senators to keep personal attacks to a minimum, which is none.

Senator Crnkovich addresses the accessibility portion. It is accessible. The Dunkin is walkable from the Metro. Marketing is effective based on results. He is not a business major, but it is obviously a successful event. Cardinals for Life markets in a different way and it works for them. They take a personal approach because it reflects the nature of the event. There is a diverse group

and unique individuals. Cardinals for Life President Swason let him know about the miscommunication between Treasury Board and the second appeal. The Treasury Board said that they didn't feel comfortable paying the \$260 because a professor was paying for it and it wasn't a campus wide event. In how they needed to adjust their presentation, there was nothing said about marketing or appeal. To address Senator Schlee's point, Dunkin isn't the cheapest donut. The price difference is small and the marginal difference is low. He urges everyone to vote in favor. He disagrees with Treasury Board's statement of it not being an intelligent use of the student activity fee. This event spreads the university's mission. Last year Mike Pompeo came and Treasury Board paid \$35,000. He urges everyone to vote in favor of this.

Senator Farrell thanks Vice President Wallace and wants to ask a question to Senator Sharpe. As a former member of the executive board, he knows you have to have accurate information on who attended. Did he receive an official list of who attended sidewalk prayer?

Senator Sharpe responds that the special committee was given the amount of people at prayer for certain weeks, The number fluctuates between 20 to 30 undergraduates who go to sidewalk then Dunkin. A few people do leave before Dunkin but a big majority, around 24 students, go to Dunkin.

Senator Scott thanks Vice President Wallace, Treasury Board, the special committee, Cardinals for Life, and the public. He wants to bring us back to the real core of this. This club has gone through all of the proper channels and this a long process that Cardinals for Life fought long and hard for. The donuts had to be integral for their event for them to do this. It makes no sense to go through weeks and hours and meetings and forms if the donuts were not important. It might seem unimportant because it is just donuts, but we should be respectful of the students. There is a decision that was made that is fair for the appeal. The special committee went through all of the evidence and the Treasury Board made points that were in fact not accurate. The strangest thing is that Treasury Board didn't recommend a lower amount and just gave them \$0. It has come to attention that Cardinals for Life wasn't given proper notice to change their advertisement. They got denied and came to us. Oftentimes most people stay for donuts and there is no reason to say no. The Treasury Board liaison could've better communicated their concerns to Cardinals for Life. He doesn't see why we should deny this amount when it is so clearly important to college life and the students on campus.

Senator Sharpe gives his closing remarks saying we have the processes in place for appeals to happen. Checks and balances are very important. There are checks against everyone. It is antithetical to ignore the checks and balances and we are not called upon to regulate Treasury Board decisions. We can agree and disagree with them in parts and compromise. We are giving them \$156 not \$0 and not the full amount. We as a representative body have enough students in support who are here of their own accord. This is enough for 1 donut per person per week for the rest of the semester. This vote needs a 2/3 threshold to pass.

Motion to vote by Senator Martin and seconded by Senator Cunningham → Motion passes

Vote on Funding Recommendation from Special Committee → Vote fails with 10 yays and 14 nays

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

Vote on motion to extend → Vote passes

C. Senator Sharpe, Class of 2022 (Resolution 010)

9:44 PM

i. A Resolution to Allow Students to Challenge All Grades

Senator Sharpe speaks about the long standing practice at a number of universities to allow students to challenge a final grade they receive in a class. A student may feel an appeal is warranted if the professor miscalculates the grade, any prejudice or bias on the professor's behalf, or if the professor breaks from the syllabus. There have been many instances similar to these here at our university, however students had no way to appeal their grade because it was not an F, or failing grade. Our university only allows students to appeal a failing grade. Unlike the other universities listed on Senator Sharpe's resolution, Catholic University is not providing students with the opportunity to challenge their grade. Does not offer any sort of pathway for ratification on the students part but were still subject to some bias or caprice. Senator Sharpe can think of about ten examples that would warrant a serious appeal and about one hundred that would not. This process is not for students who merely disagree with their grade, but instead for students who seriously believe that there was some actual tangible wrongdoing on the behalf of their professor. At other universities, the burden of proof falls on the student so they would need to give some tangible evidence that the professor fell into one of these categories where an appeal would be warranted.

Senator Birth voices her support for this resolution. She cannot see how this resolution harms anyone, especially for those who want to further their education. There are certain grades that one does not want on their transcript.

Senator Sharpe adds that the current process that has been set up for appeals for final grades has not been amended since 1985 and is a largely outdated policy. So outdated that this policy still only allows appeals in writing. This is not conducive to our new technological age and certainly in the pandemic when students could also appeal in email in the same form. There already established procedures for reviewing grades, this would just be an extension of all grades, not just failing.

Senator Pelekasis wants to express her support for this resolution, however she has one question. Will this appeal process apply to every single student who applies for an appeal or will there be a selection process and then their appeals will be approved?

Senator Sharpe answers Senator Pelekasis' question. Currently, the appeal process begins with a committee within each academic school. If you are a student in that school, you appeal to that committee and there is no middle man between that group. You, the student, make your case and supply the evidence and submit your appeal. You can submit it directly to the committee or the dean who sends it to the committee. They review the appeal. The process is pretty secretive as it is a private matter but he has heard that at times, the student brings in witnesses. Each appeal is considered. A concern for everyone here is that these appeals get so out of hand, each committee is dealing with too many

appeals for grades. That could be addressed in the future. If it gets too out of way, there could be some sort of middlemen involved. The committees are certainly not overworked. If it gets out of hand, devise a way to weed out the bad appeals and give their time and attention to worthy appeals.

Senator Schlee adds on, there is going to be a high burden that students need to meet for them to go out of their way for this sort of appeals, which discourages the unnecessary ones to begin with. This process is a lot of work and is a very uncomfy situation. Students are in front of peers and faculty members and that in itself would discourage the unnecessary.

Motion to vote by Senator Besendorfer and seconded by Senator Kwaitek → Motion passes

Vote on Resolution 010 → vote passes with 24 yay's

D. Senator Birth, School of Social Service (Resolution 011)

9:54 PM

i. A Resolution To Improve Wi-Fi Access Across Campus

Senator Birth thanks Vice President Wallace and comments that she will keep it short and sweet. She is grateful everyone is there tonight to gather here as a body. Senator Birth is glad she gets to advocate about this. The wi-fi improvement, she believes, is a pressing issue for her constituents, which gave her an extra push in the advocacy process. We can all say we all experienced today how important wi-fi is, especially during this busy time in the semester. Sometimes there are too many people utilizing wi-fi in a particular space or a building that just never has good wi-fi to begin with Gibbons Hall is an example. Many constituents and non-constitutes alike also want to work in outdoor places as well. Her resolution today is highlighting these issues and providing a possible solution. She brings up the implementation of wi-fi extenders, which are basically wall plug-ins that strengthen the pre-existing network from its point of installation. She has suggested these because they are easy to move around and used in areas that are points of concern. We often hear in senate what we specifically need to get stuff done, which is why she has brought to light what is probably the most simple solution of them all. The school could also try to work something else with the internet provider or perhaps improving the bandwidth, or a combination of several solutions. The language of the resolution leaves it up to the discretion of the university to make this plan fit according to how they see fit. A university that serves over 5,000 students when we include both undergraduate and graduate students and we all pay a lot of money, and believes in paying for an environment that lets us be conducive to learning. In this day and age, wi-fi connection should not be lacking. Many zoom meetings today were cancelled today, and is a fitting example of how wifi connection is very important for our lives as students. She encourages her fellow senators to vote in favor of this resolution.

Senator Crnkovich has a couple comments and questions for Senator Birth. He asks if she has talked to any administrators and if they are willing to implement her solutions. His second question related to the “be and enacted” clause. He brings up how Senator Birth had two problems with the wi-fi, places where the internet is overused and areas of poor access to the internet. He believes that installation of wi-wi extenders would resolve the issue of internet being overused but that the be and enacted clause completely ignores the second problem, which is areas of poor

access. Wi-fi extenders allow more pipelines of internet access to flow through but the clause ignores the need to also include an increased broadening of the piping so that more wi-fi can flow through. He is wondering if Senator Birth is willing to send the resolution to include this.

Senator Birth responds to Senator Crnkovich's first question. She thinks that it is just the nature of being solely a student representative that she does not get the acknowledgement she seeks to get so she was unable to meet with administrators. For that purpose, she left the language to fit the university and fit the needs and work with technology services. In response to a suggestion of amendment, she would if there was a clear consensus of the body elaborating on expanding the broadband would make the resolution more clear. She thinks that by adding in "adequate measures," it is an all encompassing statement and stresses the need for better wi-fi.

Senator Besendorfer wants to comment on Senator Birth's idea of keeping the language broad. By doing this, it gives the university the ability to decide what is adequate. It might take trial and error. When the executive advocates on this, she hopes there is some leeway. She urges all to vote in favor of this as someone who missed their accounting class, could not even email a teacher or roommate. We are in 2021 and she could not attend her zoom class. She thinks this is an issue, now more than ever.

Senator Birth also talks about going in another direction on this resolution, while the majority of the student body is here, there are some students who had to complete this semester at home or sick with covid or just staying home to keep the student body safe. Senator Birth wants to make sure they have proper access to wi-fi when they are doing classes online.

Senator Schlee thanks Vice President Wallace and thanks Senator Birth on this resolution, as it is extremely relevant. She does have a question, as she is not an expert, just out of her own ignorance. Point two of the "be and enacted" says to take similar measures for outdoor areas, such as the law school lawn. Her question is how exactly does this work? Are we just going to increase the wi-fi, strengthen it so much in the academic buildings that it basically in turn, gives wi-fi in those areas, or are we talking about something brand new that we are looking for in these outdoor areas. She knows Senator Birth mentioned how these outdoor areas do not take priority over academic buildings and other indoor places, but seeing that it is a whole point in the resolution, should still be something advocated for and taken seriously.

Senator Birth thinks that it is a wonderful question by Senator Shlee. She left it up as "similar measures" because she did not want to exert herself as the end all be all, as she is not an expert. For the proposed solution she has for this solution, she asks the senators to imagine a little bubble that goes out the range it says to go out. She has seen some wifi extenders that can go up to three thousand feet. If we put one of these bubbles in McGivney, it would cover the basilical lawn. With other measures, she has noticed that sometimes she is in areas that say she has wi-fi but it is only one bar. These measures would be to strengthen wi-fi in those places.

Senator Scott mentions how today really helped everyone understand why this is an important step in the right direction, which would help the executive when they talk to the administration over this. He was in the Gibbons basement when the wi-fi went out. There is no wifi there at all so he must rely on the ethernet. However, today that did not work at all, which might be useful to point out. It is important to strengthen the network as a whole. Students do receive ethernet cables in their dorms, however, the ethernet does not work if the network is not working.

Motion to vote by Senator Suruez and seconded by Senator Moore → Motion passes

Vote on Resolution 011 → vote passes with 24 yay's

E. Senator Fahey, Class of 2025 (Resolution 012)

10:10 PM

- i. A Resolution to Improve Accommodations Within the Office of Disability Support Services

Senator Fahey thanks Vice President Wallace, her co-sponsors, and her fellow senators. The office of Disability Support Services represents a crucial corner of the student experience. Their office is tucked into the ground floor of the Pryz and offers support to 399 students, 307 of those being undergrads. As the senators have heard in the resolution clauses, students have experienced difficulty obtaining this help. Many students have encountered informed and intolerable professors and have experienced breaches of confidentiality in the classroom. Senator Fahey contacted DSS to set up a meeting, leaving her even more frustrated with the program. Like any issue on campus, it is crucial to determine the true root of specific issues that build barriers. She was able to meet with DSS Director Rothwell. It became clear that a single faculty member in the DSS office manages and proctors specific testing accommodations for 50-120 tests per week and hosts the tests with a mere nine physical seats, one in the DSS office and eight in Pryz 103. They do not have enough testing space and management capabilities. In the notetaking sphere of DSS accommodations, professors are trained to ask the class if any students are interested in becoming a DSS notetaker and then direct them to apply for the position, send in sample notes, and receive special instructions about their role as a note taker. Professors often circumvent this detailed process. Senator Fahey has experienced this when a professor gave out the name and email for a student who she would be taking notes for this semester, even when she never applied for or learned the specific guidelines of note taking for accommodations. Furthermore, when students are unable to attain testing accommodations due to limitations in the DSS program, professors often step in as proctors for their students, which further breaches confidentiality and mistakes about accommodations have occurred. These non-malicious breaches and issues seem to be a direct result of DSS's lack of testing availability. In comparison to other universities, DSS has made strides to improve within the last five years. In the summer of 2020, testing accommodations requests have been brought virtual using the Google Form platform and bringing class notes virtual as well. The deadlines to submit testing accommodations seven days prior to the test date and guidelines to submit notes with twenty four hours of each class are both in tandem with comparable universities. However, strides can be made through this resolution to improve the student experience with the DSS program. The resolution outlines four clauses to be enacted, which represent the direct products of conversations with the DSS office and fellow students who actually use these DSS services. The DSS office also made it clear that a viable solution for the testing accommodation spaces shortages would be to reserve additional rooms in the Pryz for this purpose when the new dining hall is built. Additionally, she spoke with the office about creating infographics to enhance guidelines. The DSS office was open to make those infographics in the future. We should understand college students should be responsible enough to take the reins of their own education and future career. However, that path should not be limited by barriers. Through this resolution, the Senate body can take clear strides to streamline accommodations

offered by DSS. She encourages each senator to vote in favor of this resolution in order to build a more supportive academic building.

Senator Besendorfer thinks that Senator Fahey had a great speech. As someone who has accommodations, this is a huge issue. The biggest issue is the breach of confidentiality. In her class, a professor yelled if you were DSS go to that side so I know you have extra time. There are not enough testing areas and there are more people sitting in DSS than people who can take the exam. She urges everyone to vote in favor. This resolution will be accommodating peers you didn't even realize needed help and will help fellow classmates.

Senator Shlee adds another personal story. She was in a class as a freshman and an athlete was in the class. Due to scheduling issues, DSS overbooked. She witnessed five minutes before the midterm, the professor told the student to call DSS and put them on speaker to ask for accommodations in front of everyone. There are so many more people who have stories like this. Senator Fahey has put in so much work and it is incredibly well thought out. She urges everyone to vote in favor.

Senator Birth is Senator Fahey's committee chair. She put her heart and soul into this to make a better learning environment. Students deserve to have their confidentiality. It is a testament that the people in DSS are overworked and serve a large population with limited capacity. This is not tearing down DSS, but helping them. There was not a single element of this resolution that they were opposed to. This is something that DSS wants.

Senator Martin is so proud of her co-senator. She did an incredible job and was unaware of the problems with DSS. It is a huge issue and it is awful that so many students are forced to tell other classmates what they are going through. She urges everyone to vote for it.

Senator Crnkovich has a question for Senator Fahey. He wants to know if there's been an increase for DSS? When the executive is advocating, it will help them if the issue has been steadily increasing.

Senator Fahey responds that the number has risen because of COVID-19. Throughout the semester it is a bell curve. This time of the semester is incredibly difficult and she does not have the specific number of students due to privacy.

Motion to vote by Senator Kwiatek and seconded by Senator Sharpe → → Motion passes

Vote on Resolution 013 → vote passes with 24 yay's

5. Vice President, SGA Updates

10:29PM

President Wallace asks everyone to take a deep breath. She is proud of the senators and their debates today, which illustrated respect. She appreciated the communication and note passing. She reminds everyone that we have to hold ourselves to the stands we set. There were three great resolutions that got voted on and only one item was not voted in favor of us. All of the resolutions were important and they did not leave on a bad note. It was a good meeting and very predictive. Anyone who was not able to attend the CACS meeting will be sent the recording. The Wellness

Walk is this Saturday and Meet Your SGA Day is tomorrow from 6-8. They will be serving Qdoba. Next Tuesday is the Town Hall with President Garvey and everyone should be there.

6. Open Floor

10:31PM

Senator Moore is working on a resolution with the transfer credit office. It is an underserved population here and he has spoken to many constituents whose credits have not transferred in a timely manner, or at all. He is looking for co-sponsors and class senators. Please speak to him after the meeting or email him.

Senator Farrell addressed that compared to last year, we have not had a great attendance from the public. The appeal from this meeting has dissipated. Decisions are made by those who show up. The more members of the public, the better. Get your friends to come if you are presenting or if you don't like a resolution have them voice their opposition. The more people who speak the better.

Senator Pelekasis thanked everyone for a wonderful and influential meeting. She learned so much. Aside from written resolutions she wanted to highlight a few events at the Rome School. A musical theater event, the Children of Eden, is sold out. She will be in a German opera soon. She is excited the arts are back and running.

Senator Lackey is working on a resolution about mental health days and is looking for a couple co-sponsors. The research committee has been a big help.

Senator Schlee thanks everyone for their patience tonight. She realizes that everyone should fill out the CACS survey. Everyone is invited to her next committee meeting and can email her at any time. If anyone has any thoughts on CACS, send them her way. She had a question pertaining to the earlier conversion. In the past people have explained their vow and were wondering when that occurred and if it could occur around the same time the vote was said so the public could hear it before they left.

Senator Suarez thanks everyone for welcoming her. It was a very interesting meeting. She doesn't have much experience and it was awesome and she hopes for a good future.

Senator Sharpe thanks the Senate and welcomes Senator Suarez. To address what Senator Schlee said, we address our votes in debate. We give the premise and conclusion to our vote in the debate section. It has been seen in the past that people explain their votes during open floors, but everyone usually leaves. We should lean towards expanding our votes during debate.

Vice President Wallace stressed the importance of filling out the survey and sending it out to people.

7. Adjournment

10:39 PM

Motion to adjourn by Senator Bowman and seconded by Senator Michels → Motion passes

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