



# The Catholic University of America Student Government Association 2021-2022 Senate Session 7-5

November 22nd, 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   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   A  

### **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    
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 Hermann leads the Senate in prayer with a Hail Mary.**

**1. Public Comment** **8:18 PM**

A. Public comment will be taken at the start of the session. Comments will be limited to one minute per person. Persons making comments will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record, and if applicable naming the college or organization they represent. In accordance with Senate bylaws, the Vice President may prohibit comment if the content of that comment is a topic that is not relevant to, or within the authority of this body, or if the content is willfully disruptive of the meeting, irrelevant, repetitious, slanderous, offensive, inflammatory, irrational or amounting to personal attacks or interfering with the rights of other speakers.

**Micheal Dane thanks Vice President Wallace. He is here to support both Senator Martin and Senator Schlee's resolutions. He urges everyone to vote in favor of both of them.**

**2. Adoption of Agenda** **8:18 PM**

**Motion to adopt the agenda by Senator Farrell and seconded by Senator Bowman**

**Motion to adopt the agenda→ Passes**

**Vote on adoption itself→ Adoption has passed**

**3. Approval of Minutes** **8:19 PM**

**A. Session 7-4 (November 8, 2021)**

**Motion to approve by Senator Moore and seconded by Senator Crnkovich**

Motion to approve the meeting minutes→ Motion Passes

Vote on approval of meeting minutes for Senate 7-4→ Approval Passes

#### **4. Committee Reports**

**8:20PM**

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

**Senator Sharpe** thanks Vice President Wallace. The committee met to discuss a series of minor bylaws that they wish to revise for clarification. However, they will not be introducing any resolutions on revisions until a more appropriate time, as other resolutions take precedent.

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

**Senator Schlee** thanks Vice President Wallace and discusses the committee meeting. They had a wonderful meeting this past Monday and thanked everyone for their hard work on creating her resolution today on CACS. She believes this resolution is the best way to work forward and something everyone can get behind. She especially thanks their research associate Maria and senators from other schools. She also notes that the committee helped Senator Sharpe on his comps resolution. She is proud and wishes everyone a happy Thanksgiving and safe travels this week.

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

**Senator Besendorfer** thanks Vice President Wallace and states that at the committee's last meeting, they had a really productive time. They are helping Senator Suarez with her first resolution. She is excited to bring her resolution for UPASS to the floor soon. The committee talked with Senator Schlee about her CACS resolution and helped her out. She was very passionate about it. They also talked about changing the search engine to one that helps plant trees. It was a great meeting and she is excited for all the new ideas.

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

**Senator Farrell** thanks Vice President Wallace. The committee had a productive meeting this past Tuesday and discussed Senator Martin's resolution on extending the Pryz hours, which would hit the floor today. They also discussed Senator Martin's other resolution currently in the works, which would be asking for an excused absence for the March For Life. Another resolution in the works in his committee is Senator Cunningham's resolution on increasing the minimum wage to \$15 for student wages, Senator Drauschak's resolution on asking for a school day off for Veterans Day, a resolution Senator Hermann is creating about using the infrastructure from COVID-19 moving forward, and a resolution Senator Farrell himself is in the process of creating that would allow for student to pay for campus parking.

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

**Senator Birth** says her committee had a super productive meeting, where everyone was present. The senators were wonderful, and she appreciates them meeting over zoom. She discusses some resolutions that will be coming in the next couple meetings from her committee, including Senator

Michels' resolution, which is complete and will be having meetings for the next couple days to finalize everything. Senator Fahey is currently working on a resolution for a women's hour at the gym and for epi-pens to be located in the different dining locations. Senator Kwiatek is currently working on a resolution for next semester on the counseling center, with her flushing it out and making it the best resolution it could be. Senator Birth is also working on a resolution for student support in times of crisis. Their next meeting is November 29th in Caldwell. She wishes everyone to have a lovely break.

#### **4. New Business**

##### **A. Senator Martin, Class of 2025 (Resolution 018)**

**8:26 PM**

###### **i. A Resolution to Extend the Hours of the Pryzbyla Center**

**Senator Martin** thanks Vice President Wallace. She is thankful to be introducing another resolution to the senate and is thankful to her fellow senators for this chance. Senator Martin believes this resolution would be extremely beneficial for Catholic University students. So many are negatively impacted by the current hours of the Pryz. Currently, visitation in the residence halls ends at 12:00 am Sunday nights through Thursday nights. The only other place students can go to is the Pryz, as Leahy does not provide the proper space needed for group work. Working outside does not work as that could become a safety concern, as we are in a city with higher crime rates. It is also getting colder for students to be out working so late. Many of Senator Martin's constituents have come up to her to express their concern from walking alone from Leahy to their residence hall or the Pryz. The Crough Center is open 24/7 but only to architecture students and does not provide to the rest of the school. The Pryz is a more central location for all students. She also would like to note that Gibbons Hall has no filtered water and puts students at risk of breaking the rules of visitation hours just to get filtered water. She met with Bill Jonas who did not feel that this was too much to ask for and was open to the idea. In order for the Pryz to be open, there needs to be two people at the information desk. That is \$30 each night and \$120 per week. This is a minimal cost. She talked to the information desk and they were open to staying later. This is contingent on the Pryz's role in the future with the new dining hall opening. The Pryz has so many places that students can meet after midnight to find a safe place for students to work. She urges everyone to vote in support and would love to answer any questions.

**Senator Schlee** thanks Vice President Wallace. She would like to point out some things that Senator Martin did not mention that are beneficial aspects to this resolution. A lot of people study late into the night before big exams, such as comps, and like to study in groups. Finals are coming up and other study spaces do kick you out so this is something that will be really great. There is really one Leahy where you can study at all times. She asks everyone to vote in favor and she fully supports it. This will allow students to continue studying.

**Senator Martin** thanks Senator Schlee. She says that studying earlier in the day is not available to everyone as people have work and need those extra hours to study.

**Senator Besendorfer** fully supports this resolution. She was in the joint meeting with Bill and Senator Martin's extensive speech and research shows how passionate she is. She urges everyone

to vote in favor of this resolution.

**Senator Crnkovich** thanks Vice President Wallace and Senator Martin. He fully supports this resolution but has one question. Why do the hours only extend Sunday through Wednesday and not the whole week? Is there another aspect?

**Senator Martin** responds that in her meeting with Bill, she said that people usually go out Thursday through Saturday night, so it was a good compromise. If there is a large need, then they could look into extending the hours in the future.

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

Vote on Resolution 018 → Vote passes with 22 yays and 0 nays

## **B. Senator Birth, School of Social Service (Resolution 019)**

**8:37 PM**

### **i. A Resolution to Promote the Usage of the Rave Guardian App**

**Senator Birth** greets her fellow senators and is excited to share this resolution that has been in the works for a while. It has evolved into the best resolution regarding personal safety. She originally planned on adding more blue lights but the resolution evolved into this. This is her second technology related resolution, which is ironic because she can barely work a cell phone. Rave Guardian is a personal safety app. It is not a change as it is already on phones, but getting more people to know about the app. It connects DPS to DC police and allows users to share their location. It alerts DPS and that alert does not go off until DPS gets there. It is a blue light in your pocket. It is extremely valuable for both student and staff safety. This is not removing blue lights but adding another layer of safety. She talked with Kirk McLean and he was so personable and friendly and was excited to meet with a student leader. If you reach out to him he would be excited to meet with you. She expressed concerns about app usage by students. There is a low number of students using the app but a high number of students coming to her about feeling unsafe on campus. Everything in this resolution McLean supports. The DPS information alert was sent out on the app for the first time, which shows change is already being made. The app can be advertised all over from a banner in the Pryz and other academic buildings, to Cardinal Ambassadors and Orientation Advisors promoting it. This is a support system for students and students need to know they have it at their disposal. She urges everyone to vote yay.

**Senator Scott** admits that he is one of the students who did not know what the app was. He wants to know if it is free to download and if the school is already paying for it.

**Senator Birth** apologizes for the confusion. It is free and the school already has it. There are no further steps for the school.

**Senator Schlee** thanks Senator Birth for bringing this to the floor. She can tell how passionate she is about it. She wants to know if in the conversations with DPS if they expressed to her that they were ready for more calls and could respond in the proper time. In terms of advocacy she says students using personal testimonials of their experience would be better than DPS just lecturing about how beneficial it is.

**Senator Birth** thanks Senator Schlee for her comments. Is DPS ready? Absolutely 100% they are.

The blue light system only two students have used. The first was a student who was on crutches and needed transportation and the other was an accident. The app was only used once. DPS is clearly ready to respond to students who need them. The influx is not something to be worried about. She is open to the idea for advocacy. The general phrasing leaves room for the app to be advertised during orientation and during campus tours.

**Senator Besendorfer** loves the idea and has never heard of the app. In terms of advocacy, she thinks a time for beneficial advertising would be during the RA one on ones. She did not have a normal orientation experience, but so much is brought at you in a short period of time. If it was introduced during one on ones more students would use it. She is a cardinal ambassador and knows how beneficial it would be to advertise during tours. It would show that our campus was safe and loves the idea,

**Senator Birth** says that Cardinal Ambassadors advertising it is only one example. She knows that her family would remember the app and love it. In general for orientation it should be advertised and not just at one specific event.

**Senator Sharpe** wants to second everything that Senator Birth said and talk about Major McLean. He is an expert in his field and the department is in better shape with him. He seconds that the app is great and we should be advertising it more. He does not think the influx of calls will be a problem because students would be contacting DPS regardless, this is just a quicker way to contact them. He was an RA for two years and can contact residence life for advocacy. If you are in your dorm and there is a drunk person or someone in a fight in order to call DPS you have to exit the room and it is not always safe to do that. Our campus is safe, but the city we live in is statistically unsafe. Our campus is a lot safer compared to other DC campuses. Things do happen but relative to other universities, we do not see nearly as much crime near or on campus. This is a testament to major McLean and he is fully behind advertising it. If it is advertised during orientation, students will remember it over time. RAs should also advertise it and it needs to be a whole university effort.

**Senator Birth** thanks Senator Sharpe. On the RA topic, an actual RA came to her and said they were on board. We often forget about RA safety. RAs have to walk alone at night from Gibbons to Caldwell, which is a long stretch. The resolution was highly supported by RAs.

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

Vote on Resolution 019 → Vote passes with 22 yay's and 0 nay's

### **C. Senator Schlee, School of Arts and Sciences (Resolution 020)**

**8:56 PM**

#### **i. A Resolution to Enhance the Center for Academic and Career Success**

**Senator Schlee** thanks Vice President Wallace. She is sorry everyone had to hear that long spiel. This is her most comprehensive and ambitious resolution. We are all aware that CACS has had many issues and gained a bad reputation for being useless and inaccurate. This is a joint effort across all of SGA for months. The resolution addresses all issues for fixing CACS. This is not the typical resolution format. There are both short and long term goals in order to improve CACS. The urgent needs are addressed, but it also sets long term goals for administration. She made sure to get

to the root of the problem. She thanks everyone for promoting the survey and it was very successful. She got permission to share a few results of the survey. 627 students participated, and as Vice President Wallace put it that is a statically significant number of students. One really important aspect of this is the percentage of students that have received clear guidance. 49.5% disagreed that they were getting clear guidance. That is half of the student body, which is very concerning. On a scale of 0-10 on how supported they felt in academics, 43.2 said 4 or less. This is alarming. They didn't even believe it deserved a 5. She wants to preface that this is not the final survey, but just a little snippet. She wants to highlight how many advisors students have had. 65.1% have had two or more advisors. This is not just juniors and seniors, but first years. This addresses the problems constituents have been facing. In the immedite future students can be their own CACS adivors with tracking. The Busch school does a really good job for tracking resources, and they are trying to replicate it. Other small term solutions are forced semester audits and specialized advisors. This is a hostile approach but it is needed. So much advising is getting lost that the quilty is gone. CACS advisors wear too many hats. The career aspect is getting lost. CACS cannot provide accurate information. The liberal arts requirements and majors are connected and CACS takes on too much responsibility. Academic advising should be back into the departments and resources should be shifted accordingly. This way students are talking to people who know majors and programs the best and would be getting accurate information. It would als free up CACS and allow them to better spend their time. In speaking with a lot of constituents, the career aspect has been lost and trust has been lost. This will localize all academic advising so we can ensure students have quality and personalized advising. There has been a lot of work done to take this problem head on and not miss a single spot. Everyone on this stage, adn startis, has done research and worked very hard. She feels the boldness is necessary to ensure our advising system for years to come. She urges everyone to vote in favor.

**Senator Sharpe** jokes that there are more people on the stage than left in their seats. He has had over three advisors over the course of his time here, not including temporary ones. He has been given the wrong information and facility advising in departments is hit or miss. He met with his politics advisor once because she made him and has not made the time for his philosophy advisor. He is a double major because of the philosophy dean. He urges everyone to support this resolution.

Motion to amend the resolution by Senator Schlee and seconded by Senator Farrell → motion passes

Motion to vote by Senator Cunningham and seconded by Senator Kwiatek.

Motion to vote→ Passes

Vote on amendment itself→ Passes

The resolution now reads “The Center for Academic and Career Success..” in the first whereas clause.

**Senator Kwiatek** thanks Senator Schlee. This is a very thorough resolution that was brought to the floor. She has two questions for clarification that might've gone over her head. In clause 2D, it talks about more resources for law school, medical, and graduate students. She knows that Ms. Ficke is the pre-med advisor and wants to know how this resolution would affect her job. Would she still be advising students or would someone else? In 1B it talks about adjusting future budgers.

Her question is more so towards the School of Arts and Science because there is such a wide range of majors. There can't be a few advisors for that school like there could for say a school like nursing. Will the department advisors be decided on the amount of students in a department or by similarities like chemistry and biology sharing an advisor and communications having their own. Or will this be something that is decided by the advisors?

**Senator Schlee** thanks her for her questions. To clarify pre-law, medical, and grad advising is all in 2D. She has learned through a lot of conversations that many students feel that the pre-law advising is ineffective and inaccurate. There are already advisors for that. She is pre-law and the professor is someone who does not have personal experience and there are often discrepancies about information for applying to law school. Students have to rely on each other, and the same can be said about pre-med. Yes there is an advisor, but they feel lost. They are not fulfilling their responsibilities to the level needed. They need to be improved in the future which is why she addressed it. In terms of 1B, Arts and Science is a large school. She talked about how this would look like. Ideally, there would be different central advisors for different majors. Politics is a large major so they would have one of their own, then maybe all the hard science together then maybe pre-med. History and sociology could go together for example, but she is not an expert. She wants to leave it up to the university and schools. She brought this idea up to the dean of arts and science and they loved it, which was a good sign. Another thing is that overtime we can see where we need more specialized central advisors and can increase the numbers. That grows with time and we wouldn't be bombarding the university with requests. This shows that we know it is a lot of work and recall that we want it because of students' needs. We need to be able to rely on advising. She hopes this answers the questions.

**Senator Crnkovich** thanks Senator Schlee for bringing this resolution forward. It is a huge resolution. He wants to touch on pre-med. This example could be used in advocacy. He talked with a friend and she emailed the pre-med advisor and it took six emails for her to finally get a response. She asked to meet and was told they would meet in the future and it kept going on. There is a pre-med problem in advising and he is not sure what the solution would be. He harps on the importance of bringing this up within the department. The politics department authorized more spending and they are putting in the resources to hire more faculty. Advisors can increase the quality of professors and advising. These professors are in the field and have good advising. He urges everyone to vote in favor of this resolution.

**Senator Besendorfer** says as Senator Sharpe mentioned earlier, departments are hit or miss. Luckily for her, the Busch school supports them a lot, but she does not have any CACS support. She had two advisors in her first semester who both left then she got no advisors.

**Senator Moore** thanks Senator Schlee, but is confused about 1B. Are we asking them to make plans in the budget? Are we hiring dedicated advisors or asking faculty to advise? He just wants clarification.

**Senator Schlee** thanks him for the question. She wants to preface that CACS is extremely understaffed. Hopefully the hiring would be new. If they also at the same time specialize in politics and come from the Hill as a senior staffer, they could teach a class on Congress and then take on the large role of advising. This can solace two issues, as we need more politics majors. If they have experience in their field, they can help students get internships and can use their specific



knowledge to further students careers.

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

Vote on Resolution 020 → Vote passes with 22 yays and 0 nays

#### **D. Senator Sharpe, Class of 2022 (Resolution 021)**

**9:30 PM**

##### **i. A Resolution to Ensure Students' Ability to Succeed on Comprehensive Exams**

**Senator Sharpe** thanks Vice President Wallace. He jokes that there are not as many co-sponsors as Senator Schlee's resolution. You are allowed to be a co-sponsor if you are absent, but you cannot be absent if you are sponsoring. This is just a fun fact. Throughout your senior year, you are always studying for comps. If you have your psychology comp on November 20, you cannot have an eighteen page paper due between November 18-22. This is a blanket resolution that covers all university departments and schools. This is an FYI to professors that they need to be vigilant. The Rome school has different comps than politics and philosophy and comps can take on all different forms. This allows student's focus to be solely on comps. It is a little vague, but that is so it covers all bases. There was some debate if it should be two or three days. Originally it was five days before, but a professor could circumvent the rule by not scheduling anything the day before, but the day after. This covers our bases and eliminates any loopholes.

**Senator Birth** says that on the nature of the resolution itself, she just wants some explanation on reasoning on one point. Comps are stressful and so is the time around them. If you are in a class with mostly freshmen, how would this resolution be implemented?

**Senator Sharpe** said this was a problem that he thought about. This is rare but in cases where it does happen, that would be a conversation between the students and the professor. If a class is two seniors and twenty five freshmen then the burden would be less. It should be an evolving conversation between professors and students. This would be most effective for classes with a majority of seniors in upper levels. Comps are scheduled at the same time each year. When seniors are statistically a minority, it is about placing that trust for professors to work with students.

**Senator Hermann** says that nursing majors do not have comps, they have HESIs. Would he consider including this in the resolution or in advocacy?

**Senator Sharpe** hears about HESIs and wishes them luck. He used comps in a broader sense. Nursing and the Rome school and politics all have different comps. Comps are an assessment in a broad way to cover all categories, so nursing is covered.

**Senator Schlee** thanks Senator Sharpe for this very relevant resolution. To add on, the university uses comps or a senior thesis, which are both applied the same. A personal example that could be used for advocacy is that she is an intelligence studies certificate. She took her politics comps exam this morning then had a ten page paper and presentation due at 3 P.M. She is just putting this out there because most intelligence studies students are also politics majors. She upholds all the work being put in as comps are a big issue and she appreciates it.

**Senator Cunningham** thanks Senator Sharpe for bringing this forward. He would love to tell Vice

President Wallace about the day he has had, but will save it for the second resolution. Giving three days shows a huge level of respect to comps. He doesn't want to name drop but politics.

**Senator Sharpe** agrees that Senator Cunningham raises a good point. Administration likes to reinforce that comps are the most important thing that you will ever do but then professors schedule other things that constantly conflict with comps.

**Senator Holcomb** thanks Senator Sharpe. For the Rome school comps for seniors are recitals that are held individually across different times. Would that fall on students to reach out to their professors and how would that work?

**Senator Sharpe** said that it would be a conversation between students and professors addressing work. They can't schedule work around every senior recital. The resolution benefits the Rome school because it reminds professors to be aware of the recital and be open and willing to work around it.

**Senator Besendorfer** loves this resolution. She has a follow up question. She knows nursing students don't take comps but HESIs. They take them multiple times and would Senator Sharpe be open to adding an amendments addressing this concern.

**Senator Lackey** says to clarify the sophomore fall is the entrance exam, sophomore spring is the pathophysiology HESI, junior fall are fundamentals, health assessment, and pharmacology HESIs, junior spring is community/mental health HESI, senior fall are medical surgical, pediatrics/maternity, and practice exit HESIs, and senior spring are pediatrics/maternity and exit HESIs. These are 25-30% of their grade. It would be beneficial junior year because all of them are in November and she still has PTSD from the fall.

**Senator Sharpe** says that in layman's terms, nursing majors are very busy. What she is describing is so substantive that it warrants a new resolution. He wants to support nurses, but adding to this resolution may take away from the other academic schools.

Senator Buckley makes a point of personal privilege to go to the bathroom.

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

Vote on Resolution 021 → Vote passes with 21 yay's and 0 nay's

## **E. Senator Farrell, School of Arts and Sciences (Resolution 022)**

**9:47 PM**

- i. A Resolution to Encourage Academic Departments to Explore Alternatives to Comprehensive Exams

**Senator Farrell** thanks Vice President Wallace. He is extremely proud to bring his first resolution of the year to the floor. He had many conversations with constituents. Everyone wants to do something about comps. Every senior in the math department reached out to him. They are not outgoing people, that stereotype does hold up. This resolution started off as students wanting a capstone. He went to a committee meeting for academic affairs and the senators brought up a lot of problems with it. He is now asking academic schools to look at other ways than just comps that

can more adequately test students' knowledge. Some schools can't do this like nursing students who have to take HESIs. Senator Cunningham would now like to tell you about the day he's had.

**Senator Cunningham** would like to tell everyone about his day. He could use some fresh air after his comps. This is like Senator Birth introducing her internet resolution after the blackout. He cannot speak for every department, but he can on politics. First thing first, he did something he rarely does which is he studies what was given to him by the professor who wrote the test. The test was completely different, to the tune of him getting more wrong than he thought. He left the room feeling queasy and he had lots of questions. He went to the professor who wrote the test and asked what is passing and failing. He couldn't answer his question. So he went to the office hours of the professor who wrote the test and he ever showed up. The respect is not where it should be. The time wasted on comps is astronomical and this resolution is a good first step. This shows their value and urges everyone to vote in favor.

**Senator Sharpe** has a story that is not as recent as Senator Cunningham's. In the politics department you can opt out of comps and instead write a senior thesis that is a sixty page essay over the duration of senior year. It is a six credit class just writing the thesis. This is a similar model to what we are looking at. All departments can look into doing something similar. Not all schools can do it, but it opens the conversation. The fruits he is getting from his thesis far outweighs what he would've gotten if he took comps.

**Senator Schlee** thanks Vice President Wallace and Senator Farrell. She congratulates him on his first resolution being brought to the floor. She wanted to touch on potentially abolishing comps and where this idea came from. She likes this much better than the one before. When Senator Farrell brought it to her committee they crushed it in a non positive way. It transformed a lot and she is really happy. She brings up the Busch school not having comps, but a lecture class of seniors. She would much rather do an exam than a sixty page paper and likes still having that option. everyone has different schedules and somethings work better for different people. It is good to have the option and freedom to choose.

**Senator Farrell** thanks Senator Schlee. He has never been in favor of abolishing comps. He points to his senate Instagram account. His policy post states that he wasn't in favor of abolishing comps but having an alternative of a capstone. He just wants to put that out there. He likes the potential of the Busch School model. He had a 7 A.M. math class that met in the morning for comps. He is still in favor of giving students the option to do comps.

**Senator Draushack** has a timeline question. Senator Sharpe's resolution had a three day limit and comps are around the same time of the year. When would the capstone be due and how would it differ between schools?

**Senator Farrell** says that it will be left up to the department's discretion. It would be due either fall or spring of senior year.

Motion to extend meeting by Senator Schlee and seconded by Senator Farrell

Motion passes

Vote on extending the meeting → passes

**Senator Kwiatek** says that in the chemistry department the first semester they have a long research paper due and the second semester is an oral presentation in front of a board of professors. It is up to every department because this model wouldn't work for all majors.

**Senator Martin** thanks Senator Farrell. She thinks that this is pretty beneficial for CUA students. She is only a freshman so she still has a while to go. She brings up the option of if students get a B or higher in all classes not having to take comps.

**Senator Farrell** admits this is not something that he thought about. He is not necessarily in favor of this. A lot of material you learn freshman year is useful after college. Comps make you review the information you learned freshman and sophomore year. For example, there were a lot of questions about calculus on his exam and it was kind of hysterical how much he forgot. He still needs to know calculus after college, so it was useful.

**Senator Cunningham** says this is something that he would be in favor of. It is open ended and up to the the departments to make this decision. In advocacy it shows another option. It is something up for consideration.

**Senator Sharpe** likes Senator Martin's idea but says the GPA requirements need to be much higher. He offers 3.85 in classes related to your major. He knows it is an example but a B is too low.

**Senator Shlee** started thinking about a senior thesis. Would it be pass , fail and if not what is the threshold to be able to graduate? Another aspect for a capstone is if it is due in spring, what do you do if you fail? Comps have another test in the spring, so there is that fallback option. This is all theoretical. She is trying to think about the students who might fail it. There could be a way to fail a sixty page paper if it is not graded objectively, especially in the liberal arts context. She wants to make sure that there is time to make it up and wants to know what is already in place.

**Senator Farrell** did not mention this earlier but the capstone due date would be up to each department. Now that this point was brought up, they could be due in the fall so there is the option to redo it if a student fails. In terms of the thesis being pass fail, he is not sure because he has never done a thesis.

**Senator Sharpe** can't speak for every senior thesis, but for the politics department, you have a two semester, three credit class and each semester you get a letter grade, not pass fail. Can you fail a sixty page paper? If you are going to fail, you would be made aware much sooner than May. You work under a faculty advisor and they would notice the red flags and bring it up with you. The student would not be blindsided. Very few students fail comps. The only way you can fail the thesis would be if you fundamentally did not do it, you are totally behind, or if there was ginormous negligence.

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

Vote on Resolution 022 → Vote passes with 22 yay's and 0 nay's

## 5. Vice President, SGA Updates

10:12 PM

**Vice President Wallace** acknowledges the productive meeting. First thing, the CACS resolution passes. To give more context behind it, we want to build the relationship between CACS. We do have a good relationship with them and the resolution will strengthen it. Senator Bowman is working with the engineering department and had a meeting with CACS to reach out to different companies to make connections and help with beta testing. This shows that not all things need a resolution to be fixed. Sometimes it is as simple as having a meeting. CACS was receptive and open towards the idea. She gives a timeline for CACS. The report should be ready by the Monday after Thanksgiving. The executive did have politics comps, which is why there was a delay. A final update is that the executive is having a Christmas party for SGA. It will be the weekend after we get back from break but the exact time is not final. It will be very informal and there will be food and good times. It is a great way to know more people in different branches of SGA. She went on a Habitat trip and met two people who were on the Catholic Values Initiative and she didn't even know. She wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

## 6. Open Floor

10:15 PM

**Senator Martin** is excited that her second resolution passed tonight, and believes it will be very beneficial to CUA students. She is also looking at getting the entire day off for the March for Life. Currently we only get 11-3:10 off. She met with the Catholic Values Initiative and Father Jude. After Senator Farrell's resolution she is interested in comps and wants to do more research into a GPA high enough to not take comps. This could motivate underclassmen. She wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**Senator Birth** previously mentioned wanting to work on a resolution next semester for better supporting students who are in a time of crisis. Students are left in the dark or do not have the proper resources. Maybe the deans and professors are not acting in a manner that is beneficial when they need it the most. The issues in the resolution can be a heavy topic and there is lots of circumstantial evidence. She will be handling this with proper care and please reach out to her.

**Senator Moore** thanks Vice President Wallace. He is working on a resolution about transfer credits. He has a draft and it will hopefully hit the floor next meeting. If you are interested in being a co-sponsor please let him know. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**Senator Kwiatek** is on the student philanthropy council and they are doing a deck the tree event with HSPC. In Murphy's there are four Christmas trees and students will get an ornament to decorate and put on the tree. Whichever class has the most will receive a free food truck that will come during finals week. It is happening Friday, December 10 when we come back from break. There will be hot chocolate and the Garveys will be there, including Lola.

**Senator Cunningham** is currently working on a resolution to raise the minimum wage of students working. He is in the process of reaching out to student employees. If anyone would like to get involved, please contact him.

**Senator Scott** figures since everyone is plugging events coming up, he will too. On December 2,

the Theology club is holding a student discussion where 2-3 students will present on a wide range of topics. It is in the Happel room at 6:30 and there will be free food. It's not free for him since he's paying but he wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**Senator Suarez** adds on to what Senator Scott said. Y'all should because why not? You do not have to a theology major and it will be very fun and informative.

## **7. Adjournment**

**10:21 PM**

Motion to adjourn by Senator Hermann and seconded by Senator Kazanci → Motion passes

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