



The Catholic University of America Student Government Association 2021-2022 Senate Session 7-6

December 6th, 2021
8:15 p.m. – 12:03 p.m. EST

ROLL CALL

Vice President - Monica Wallace

Secretary – Nicole Campos

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 X

School of Arts and Sciences

Maura Schlee X

Garrett Farrell X

Busch School of Business

Isabel Buckley X

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 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 **8:16 PM**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE **8:18 PM**

PRAYER **8:17 PM**

Senator Farrell opens the Senate in a short personal prayer asking for the wisdom to represent the student body of the Catholic University of America well and continues his prayer with a Hail Mary.

1. Public Comment **8:19 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.

Joe Stoles comments that it has come to his attention that tonight, the Senators would be debating and speaking on a resolution Senator Schlee has worked on about a painting that has been in the news recently. He strongly advises that the other Senators vote in favor of this resolution and for that an actual Catholic icon be put there instead. He notes that we are a 2,000 year old church and that it is guaranteed that there is going to be a little something for everyone. We should find an icon that actually represents Jesus Christ, and not an ordinary man.

Eve Garris is a sophomore nursing student. She has come in support of Senator Michels Resolution 023, as it brings up an issue that hits close to her. She got assaulted this past spring and did not know her options, even with the training she got before her freshman year. No one should have to go through the struggle she went through and believes additional training will empower

students to take the action they need to feel safer.

Emily, a senior psychology major, is excited for Senator Michels' Resolution 023. She is hopeful that it passes and knows that the Title IX task force is working on a training module to go along with this resolution.

Thomas Hamese, a junior, has come to support Resolution 027. He understands the freedom of speech is important, yet found the "Mama" painting by Kelly Latimore disgusting. He understands no human is perfect and is angry about the painting, not because of Jesus' depiction as a black man but as a depiction of a flawed human. The artist himself has claimed that they used George Floyd as the model of Jesus. He does make note that while he does not support the theft of the painting, he hopes it is permanently taken out.

A junior transfer student spoke about their time trying to get her previous credits approved. On the website, it states that it should only take 2-3 weeks to get approved. For her, it took 7 weeks, which took up until the week before class began. She supports Senator Moore's resolution.

A senior theology major wants to comment on the most pressing issue of an icon and its theft. He agrees with the previous sentiment that the icon is idolatrous and offensive, yet would like to condemn those who stole it. He is sure that the best way to resolve this issue is Resolution 027, not theft.

Fernando Hernandez-Reyes, a freshman psychology major, urges the senators to not vote in favor of Resolution 027. He also condemns those who stole it and states that people are being ignorant about the painting.

Micheal Pedel, a junior, has come out to speak about Resolution 027. He speaks about how Catholic University has been his home for the past three years and wishes everyone to step back and look at what the painting is representing. It is representing a man who is taking the face of Christ. He states that no human is perfect and that no human can take what Christ did. That is the center of our faith and this painting nullifies it. This painting is not something of justice and does not raise racial equality. It hurts our world and we must stand against it. He also reminds us what George Floyd is most famous for: doing physical harm.

Jessica, a sophomore marketing major, states that she personally does not care how the administration interprets the "Mama" painting, she still finds it blasphemous that George Floyd is depicted as Jesus, which is not okay. She does not think this is a race problem but instead maintaining the integrity of the church and university. A lot of students have chosen this school for its Catholic background and we should be doing something about this.

A politics major speaks out in favor of Senator Schlee's resolution. The "Mama" painting is sacrilegious and it has caused a mostly negative reaction among alumni and millions of concerned Catholics. It is a deceptive painting and a violation of Catholic canon. In accordance with canon, icons are allowed and the most appropriate like the painting behind us in the Caldwell Auditorium. He urges the Senators to please vote in favor of this resolution.

Kaitly Williams, a first year graduate student, would like to share her support for Resolution 027. While the university had positive intentions, it did not bring light to an issue and instead caused more controversy within the university community. It is in the best interest for the university to

remove the painting and replace it with another painting of Jesus and Mary, in a style that is not depicting Jesus as George Floyd, as no one is Jesus.

Alex Diaz, a sophomore politics major, is speaking in favor of Resolution 027. He is from southern Arizona, where a beautiful celebration of our Lady of Guadeloupe has the power of unifying the community around him. He does not believe it is fair for the university that our faith is dividing our community. The painting should be replaced with another icon, with some sort of depiction of Mary and Jesus. We should not let our faith divide us.

Gaall Fitzgerald, a junior sociology major, is here to share their support in favor of Resolution 027. As humans, we are made in likeness of God and no human should be depicted as God.

A school of theology of religious studies majors waits to raise awareness of an action that they think would be beneficial. They wish that draft versions of the resolution provided to the public would be useful because the actual language of the bill is important to note. As they are Greek orthodox, who have a different perspective than Catholics, the use of icons would be wrong here. An icon is not meant to be a photographic representation of an individual, the icon is intended to be a symbolic piece of art. Their issue is the piece of art, which uses George Floyd to create a likeness with Jesus.

Vice President Wallace responds to the previous comment about having access to the resolutions prior to the Senate meeting, stating that all resolutions are available on the SGA website.

Andrew Green, a business major, is here in support of Senator Michels' Resolution 023. He himself was subject to three months of harassment and would like to see some change. In the case of Resolution 027, he is glad that Senator Schlee is addressing the issue and supports the resolution, however he does want it to be addressed in a way that is still advocating for black people, which is what the artist had the intention of doing.

Katrina Fee, a politics major, has come to speak on Resolution 027. As President of the Young Americans for Freedom club, she launched a petition to gather school agreement over the "Mama" Kelly Latimore painting. The petition had over 5,000 participants who signed it. She says this is a pretty clear indicator that this is an issue that is very dear to the university. She does note that it is not possible for them to poll people, since people signed the petition, but as the Senators are representing their student body, it would be a disservice to them to vote against it.

2. Adoption of Agenda

8:36 PM

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

Motion to adopt the agenda→ Passes

Vote on adoption of agenda itself→ Passes

3. Approval of Minutes

8:37 PM

A. Session 7-5 (November 22, 2021)

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of session 7-5 by Senator Farell and seconded by Senator Schlee

Motion to approve→ Passes

Vote on approval itself→ Passes

4. Committee Reports

8:37 PM

A. Senator Sharpe, Rules and Administration

Senator Sharpe informs the Senate that the committee of Rules and Administration have no updates, beyond what they spoke of at the last Senate meeting. If any of the Senators wish to speak on issues on bylaws or of similar nature, please go to him or anyone in the committee so that they can help.

B. Senator Schlee, Academic Affairs

Senator Schlee thanks President Wallace and her committee. They had another great meeting last week. They gathered to discuss the resolutions that they would bring tonight and they had a fruitful debate so that each resolution was the best it could be. They also began to set goals for next semester which Senator Schlee is looking forward to. She also wanted to thank everyone who came to public comment to support Resolution 027, the resolution she is sponsoring. She is proud of the students who spoke their minds and that is a great sign for the entire student government.

C. Senator Besendorfer, University Services

Senator Besendorfer thanks President Wallace and to her committee, who had a very good last meeting of the semester, which included finalizing her U-Pass resolution. Some upcoming resolution topics are looking into the morning hours of the Kane Fitness Center and more brainstorming ideas that the committee can tackle in the spring.

D. Senator Farrell, Student Resources

Senator Farrell discussed that his committee met last week, and had a great meeting as always. They discussed Senator Drauschak's resolution that would hit the floor tonight about getting Veterans day off. They also discussed another resolution Senator Drauschak is working on about changing the policy of food in the library. They discussed Senator Martin's future resolution about excused absences for the March for Life. Currently, she and the co-directors of Catholic Values Initiatives are scheduling a meeting with Father Jude in regards to that. Some other topics they discussed was Senator Cunningham's resolution on raising the student minimum wage. Currently, he has contacted the Research Committee for their help. Another resolution that was up for topic was Senator Hermanns future resolution for the continued use of the technology that was put in place for use during the pandemic.

E. Senator Birth, Campus Life

Senator Birth says her committee had a productive meeting last Monday. They are proud of Senator Michels' Title IX Resolution. The committee weighed in on that resolution and she is very grateful it was all hands on deck. They also investigated the laundry in Opus hall. They discussed a resolution Senator Kwaitek is working on to extend the Market hours. They also spent a lot of time brainstorming ideas for next semester. Lastly, this morning she had a really productive meeting with Mr. McNally, the head of HR, to look into expanding the options for healthcare coverage.

4. New Business

A. Senator Michels, Class of 2024 (Resolution 023)

8:41 PM

i. A Resolution to Increase Student Knowledge of Title IX Policies

Senator Michels thanks Vice President Wallace, his constituents in the audience who spoke up during Public Comment, and his co-sponsors. He believes that his resolution is in dire need of passing. He was fortunate enough to work with the Title IX task force. They are fighting the good fights and tackling issues that need to be resolved. Senator Michels also encourages other Senators to reach out to any of the task forces for any future resolutions, as they are resourceful and were helpful for him. As it stands right now, students begin their time at the Catholic University of America, with a couple of videos to train students about the Title IX resources they have on campus. After this training is completed, there is no mention of it again during a student's career here. Students are not required to do it again nor are they educated about any changes. In his resolution, students would do this training again one more time before their sophomore year. condusvice of the goals of IX. Senator Michels cannot speak for all survivors of sexual assault, but he can speak about his own experience. He was sexually assaulted yet did not realize what had happened during his time on campus. He still thinks about it a lot and this experience has impacted him. He has many constituents that have experienced similar cases and were also sexually assaulted. At the Catholic University of America, we need to evaluate what our values are. Our values align with the church and the church believes in the dignity of the human person. As a Catholic institution, we must make sure that these beliefs are reinforced, to protect the dignity of the human person and of the students, staff, and other faculty members. Senator Michels urges all of his fellow Senators to vote in favor of this resolution and help the administration step up and be proactive.

Senator Holcomb thanks Senator Michels, and the Title IX task force for all the work they put in. This is a resolution that is long overdue. Sexual assault happens on college campuses everywhere, including on our campus. This semester alone, Senator Holcom has had two of his friends who were assaulted. With the passing of this resolution, this is another step closer to creating a more safe environment on campus. He urges all of the other Senators to vote in favor of this resolution.

Senator Suarez thanks Senator Michels for presenting this resolution. She is in complete support of this, not only for her personally, but also for her peers. She asks Senator Michels a question: Will this training become a requirement for upperclassmen in the future?

Senator Michels responds to Senator Suarez's question. Ideally, he could hope that this training

happens every year and will advocate for that. After meeting with the Title IX task force coordinator however, this is unfortunately not a goal. The Dean of Students oversees the training, and when training is not complete, they must go after the students to ensure they complete it. The fear would be that too many students have not completed this required training and the dean would have to go after many students, which takes up too much time. A good place to start right now is with this current resolution, and if needed, he could advocate for more training to be given.

Senator Martin thanks Senator Michels and applauds him for his bravery. As a freshman herself, she has just recently completed the training and remembers watching the different videos of sexual assault survivors. While students think it would never happen to them, sexual assault is still the reality for many students across the globe. She supports this resolution and is hopeful for the future of it.

Senator Michels thanks Senator Martin and mentions that she brings up a good point about the training freshman must do before coming to the University. The video training is also meshed in with other orientation videos, which causes the students to have to retain a lot of hard information. It would be a good idea to refresh your memory at the end of the school year.

Senator Scott would like to second Senator Martin's comment on Senator Michels' bravery. This resolution is completely in line with Catholic values. This resolution has his support, however he does have one question. Does Senator Michels know of anything during the course of the academic year of resources for Title IX, including videos and help for understanding what is happening and to get rid of any doubts in someone's mind. It would be useful if resources were more available during the school year instead of when students are off campus.

Senator Michels thanks Senator Scott for his support and his question. He understands that stuff can happen off campus and in between semesters. Currently, the Title IX task force has resources on their website, however those resources would not apply for when students are not on campus. Currently, the task force is also working with PEERS to work through these holes.

Senator Pelekasis gives her strong support on this resolution, noting that it is also very strong and well-thought out. She has one question about how the training would work at the end of the year. Would it be the same as for students coming into freshman year or would it be slightly different?

Senator Michels answers Senator Pelekasis' question. The Title IX task force is looking at how they would revamp the training for after freshman year. It would not be the same training. There have been conversations on how different it would look, as in if it would be just a refresher or if it would go more in depth. Currently, he cannot say for certain.

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

Vote on Resolution 023 → Vote passes with 24 yay's and 0 nay's

Senator Moore asks for a Point of Personal Privilege to use the restroom.

B. Senator Drauschak, Class of 2023 (Resolution 024)

8:56 PM

- i. A Resolution to Cancel Classes for Students and Faculty on Veterans Day

Senator Drauschak thanks all his co-sponsors for their help and is excited to bring his first resolution to the Senate floor today. He notes that Veterans Day is one of the two federal holidays that students do not get off. He would like to tell the senators a story, going back to the time where we experienced a lot of trifles and wars. During WW1 and WW2, over eight hundred CUA students fought in those wars. At the conclusion of both of those wars, 36 of our own students died. If you are a CUA student who died, know someone who died, or are a student who served in those wars, imagine not being able to get the opportunity to honor them. There are a lot of events in Washington, D.C., and even on campus that students could go to but most likely do not get the chance because of class. Senator Drauschak also wants to talk about the importance of actual Veterans from CUA. Some big names he lists out are Father O, an army chaplain who died at a prison of war camp. He received the Medal of Honor in 2013. Colonel Mary of Kiel, who has a bachelor's degree at CUA, is the current chair of the Purple Heart Foundation. CUA has some very notable alumni who have served and are current veterans. Steven Murphy is the director of military services. Over 250 alumni and 70 faculty members are veterans, with an additional 45 ROTC students currently attending. Something CUA should be very proud of is being a military friendly school, receiving a gold level in the ranking, which is the highest of its kind in a university. The Catholic University of America is also a Yellow Ribbon participant, which gives a number of scholarships to veterans. However, Senator Drauschak did raise some concerns. In order to get Veterans Day off, another day in the school year would have to be substituted. This could be up to the administration moving forward. He also adds that many other universities take off Veterans Day as well.

Senator Sharpe opens up the floor by telling the senators that this resolution is asking for a trade off. This day off would not be a plus one day off but instead a substitute. He would like a more specific description of what that trade for this be, so that the executive branch can advocate for it during advocacy. He states that we get Labor Day off yet we don't get Columbus Day. There are also a couple of church holidays we need to recognize so we also need to know what other holidays we are willing to give up for Veterans Day.

Senator Drauschak responds to Senator Sharpe, noting that this comment was something he did not realize until he met with Matthew McGonaw. Mr. McGonaw told Senator Drauschak that this would be an unfortunate consequence of asking for Veterans Day. However, from an Academic standpoint, this would actually not affect the students. From an employment standpoint, this substitution might take away a day of Christmas break and only applies to those who work around campus.

Senator Farell thanks Senator Drauschak for bringing this resolution to the floor. In a committee meeting, some things were discussed that he believes would be beneficial for the entire Senate body to hear as well. Last spring, Resolution 6-023 asked the university for more events and structure for veterans to be supported. The University has yet to enact this resolution and hopes to be enacted this year. it would be beneficial for the best of the. He also adds that both of his grandfathers served for the US and God saw them through their service. He knows that this resolution would allow members of the university for the proper respect our veterans deserve. Senator Farell states that he is a massive nerd and would like to sum up with a bible verse: The value of such a brace spirit cannot be expressed in words, any one can discourse, instead of listening, dix your eyes on the greatness of these events. Spectacular of her flory, acquired by men, who knew their duty, fear of dishonor always present to them, no allow vertitues lost in their

country. He adds that he encourages everyone to vote in favor of this resolution.

Senator Drauschak appreciates Senator Farrell's comment and understands that having the day off for Veterans Day means so much to anyone who knows someone who has fought in the army.

Senator Lackey notes that her roommate is a nursing candidate who has a lot of family members who are veterans. She spoke to Senator Lackey about her disappointment about not getting off Veteran's Day to spend some time with her family and paying her respects for those who have served for her.

Senator Drauschak comments on Senator Lackey's notice, saying that as our university is located in Washington, D.C., the nation's capital, there is so much to do and many memorials to visit. Students should be given the opportunity to learn more about the Veterans who have served and pay their respects.

Senator Suarez thanks Senator Drauschak for his resolution. She personally does not have any veterans in her family, but she does have friends who do. This resolution will allow students to have the perfect opportunity to show compassion and honor those who have sacrificed their lives for our country. She fully supports this resolution and urges other Senators to do the same.

Motion to vote by Senator Schlee, seconded by Senator Pelekasis→ Motion passes

Vote on Resolution 024→ Vote passes with 24 yay's and 0 nay's

Senator Kwiatek asks for a Point of Personal Privilege to use the restroom.

C. Senator Moore, School of Philosophy (Resolution 025)

9:10PM

i. A Resolution to Ease the Transfer Credit Process

Senator Moore begins by thanking all the senators there tonight. He is very excited to bring his first resolution to the floor and thanks everyone who has helped him create the best resolution he can. He also thanks the students who spoke up during the public comment portion of the Senate meeting. Senator Moore, being a transfer student himself, had great difficulty with the whole transfer credit experience. One of his constituents expressed their frustration with the university transfer policy and office. A student who matriculated in December 2020 to the university had not had their credits evaluated until just recently in December 2021, a full academic year. One of the biggest problems that the university transfer credit policy is facing is that a lot of the work that needs to be done needs to be approved by the school's dean. The dean must approve the credits and that is a long and complex process. A sophomore student had to fight for some of her credits, including having to make calls about the classes she needed to take. She felt very unsupported during the whole process. The Catholic University is proud about being a place for all students and should work towards making the path of transferring into the school as seamless and supportive as possible. Senator Moore met with Dr. Jen Carter and was able to understand more about the process of transferring credits. He wants to reiterate that the process of transferring credits is complex and that the deck of the stack is against them. The issue that is causing these long delays is also that the transfer office is understaffed and there are only two full time staff members. Most of this work has been left to Miss Carter, the transfer coordinator, as Dean Mayer must also work

full time being the Dean of of Undergraduate Studies. The office was able to receive some part time help from other staff members, yet because of the ongoing COVID pandemic, has caused the office to be left with no help at all this past summer. The University should be helping the Office of Transfer Credit to get the help they so desperately need and hire a third person to be a full time staff member. It would help speed up the office and allow things to flow easier. Further, individual schools must also evaluate the credits from other universities that transfer students have taken. These evaluations, according to the transfer credit website, should take about 10 academic days. However, most of the time, they take over a month. Deans and chairs of each school are encouraged to help with those evaluations on time for the students sake, yet this time line needs to be updated on the website. At the current moment, a course approval system is completely outdated. Senator Moore does also make an important note that he does not blame the transfer credit coordinator as he understands that she is working against a great deal of adversity and that some emails just fall through the cracks. He is asking for the office to be more proactive. This resolution only scratches the surface, as he feels the need that future resolutions should be created to create more support for students and the office of Transfer Credit. He urges his fellow Senators to please vote on this resolution.

Senator Holcomb, a co-sponsor for this resolution, thanks Senator Moore for his time and dedication to it. As a musical theater major, he takes 21 credit hours every semester, maxing out in the amount of credits he can take. However, Senator Holcomb had also attempted to take a minor and wanted to take classes at his local community college, as two classes there cost less then one class at our university. He faced so much difficulty in getting his transfer credit approved prior to taking the classes, he ended up taking the classes at CUA, spending more money, in order to receive his minor.

Senator Cunningham notes that this is such an important issue. This is a true problem that many CUA students face and he is speaking on behalf of his constituents and their own experience. He is glad this resolution has hit the floor and will be supporting it. A point of personal privilege is made by Senator Cunningham to step out for a second.

Senator Pelekasis expresses her strong support for this resolution. She is also a musical theater major and understands that this issue applies to all departments. She is curious as to when the office of transfer credit is looking to find a third full-time staff member.

Senator Drauschak answers Senator Pelekasis question, saying that the provost got behind in the search for another staff member, but he is hoping before next year.

Motion to vote by Senator Schlee, seconded by Senator Scott→ Motion passes

Senator Schlee asks for a Point of Personal Privilege to use the restroom.

Vote on Resolution 024→ Vote passes with 23 yay's and 0 nay's

D. Senator Besendorfer, Class of 2024 (Resolution 026)

9:25 PM

- i. A Resolution to Institute the WMATA U-Pass Program at The Catholic University of America

Senator Besendorfer thanks all of her co-sponsors. They have been working very hard to make this resolution throughout the year. She first starts off with how the WMATA U-Pass Program would benefit the university. When she was first looking for colleges during her search a few years back, she knew was looking for something in the metropolitan area. When she visited American University, it stood out as being the only university in D.C. to offer the U-Pass. When she chose CUA, she was hoping it would match AU. Yet, George Washington University ended up matching them first, also joining the U-Pass. Their joining raised the standards for D.C. universities and now CUA should join in order to remain a competitive school. She loves the area and knows many students choose CUA because of its location. Small things like joining the U-Pass would help the university stay competitive. When she began researching the U-Pass program for CUA, she did see a lot of issues in the past. In previous years, the U-Pass program was a pilot program. It is no longer a pilot program and is a full time program for the metro. It is also not a program that is being renewed on a yearly basis. Additionally, Senator Besendorfer had a meeting with the accountant of the law school. There was a concern that the U-Pass would not be utilized yet still charge students a 100\$ fee per semester. In order for the U-Pass to work at a University, the undergraduate students must all pay the fee. However, graduate and doctorate students can opt out of the program with a waiver. There is support for this U-Pass. It is the cheaper and cost effective option. Students would be paying for a dollar a day and the prices are not going to go up and change. While everyone will not utilize this program, it should be noted that the American University saw a 10% increase of traffic since 2015. 2.2 million rides have been used in this program so far. This is something that should be taken advantage of. We the students pay many fees in our tuition that go to programs that we do not use. This program has way more benefits to people who will utilize the program. This program would also help CUA stand out when prospective students, especially as we are in a metropolitan area. As senators, we are all representing our constituents and our voice can make a difference. She urges all the senators to support this resolution.

Senator Birth applauds Senator Besendorfer for all her work on this resolution. She can attest that she uses the metro quite frequently and so many of her constituents. As a social work student, she needs 100 hours of field placement to graduate. She is 100% responsible for getting to a from that work. This resolution truly enables students to get the education that we are here to get and serves the population that they are studying to serve. Also, within the social work school, there is an internal effort to grow the program, as it is very small. A draw of the school is the accessibility within the city that it is located in due to the field placement. In the viewpoint of the Social Work school, the U-Pass program would add as another appeal to our location and quality of our education.

Senator Besendorfer would also like to note that on Thursday, she had visited Enchanted in the Nats Park and paid out of pocket for the metro. The cost is not going to stop anyone from going, however it is helping students make the decision to go to off campus activities and not worry about being .5 cents too short. This is an easy convenience that will alleviate a lot of worries and second guesstimates. This U-Pass program also goes in line with the University's initiative of sustainability and cutting down on less environmentally sound options.

Senator Lakey comments that she believes this is a great idea and seconds what Senator Birth said. As a nursing student, she is responsible for her mode of transportation, no matter how far she must travel. Free metro rides would be useful to not only her but many other nursing students.

Campus events that use the metro for transportation, such as the Cardinals For Life sidewalk prayer on Saturday mornings and metro madness. These events would be more accessible for students and the fee could also be covered by scholarships for students.

Senator Besendorfer commented that graduate students said they spend \$253 monthly out of pocket. Compared to GW, who spend \$100 per semester, the U-Pass is much cheaper and gives students the flexibility to be covered at a cheaper price.

Senator Cunningham definitely supports this resolution. Like so many of his constituents, he is a Hilltern and is constantly using the metro. He has a quick question that he hopes Senator Besendorfer could answer: Does the U-Pass cover the summer as well? School is in session in the summer for summer classes, so what would those students have to do?

Senator Besendorfer responds to Senator Cunningham by saying that it works as if you were studying abroad. The fee is on a semester basis during the Fall and Spring semesters, and if you are studying abroad, you don't have access to the U-Pass program and would not have to pay the fee. However, you could only use the U-Pass during the Spring and Fall semester.

Senator Jagiello asks if this would be a mandatory or optional fee? Some students do not use the metro that much and think it is reasonable, but that it should be the students choice, if they will use it or not. If it would be optional, he asks Senator Besendorfer if she would consider an amendment.

Senator Besendorfer responds to Senator Jagiello's question, saying the decision to make the fee mandatory is not up to her but something the U-Pass program decided. All undergraduate students must enroll for this pass and pay the fee. However, it is optional for graduate students to give some flexibility. This decision is not up to her and cannot be amended. However, she would like to note that nothing on campus that their tuition is used for is 100% useful to the entire student body. Just because she herself does not use the Dufour Center means that no one else uses it. As she is a representative of her entire grade, she wants what they want.

Senator Schlee thanks Senator Besendorfer for her work and also would like to address any concerns some Senators may have. For the fee of the U-Pass program, it can be covered with financial aid and scholarships. She also talks about how she must take the metro to get to her internships around the city and it would alleviate her of the burden to worry about paying for that transportation. This would be a university service for the students and help make us a more competitive school. She asks all other senators to please vote in favor of this resolution.

Senator Scott wants to add that for the majority of campus, a lot of students spend quite a bit on the metro each semester and that the 100\$ fee is completely reasonable. He sees its use for people like Senator Besendorfer and Schlee, who need to use the metro to get around the city. He is completely in favor of this resolution and will be voting for it. He also uses a point of personal privilege to use the restroom.

Senator Besendorfer thanks Senator Scott for his comments.

Senator Farrell briefly addresses something that was not spoken about yet. He is completely in favor of this resolution and also believes that experiencing the city and traveling is priceless to students' education. Experience does for the soul what education does for the mind.

Senator Besendorfer thanks Senator Farrell for his comment and adds that for people who do not have the type of major that need to go in the city and travel, there is still something to utilize the metro for, such as getting a job or simply just experiencing the city.

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

Vote on Resolution 024→ Vote passes with 24 yays and 0 nays

Motion to extend the meeting to the completion of the agenda by Senator Moore, seconded by Senator Farrell→ Motion Passes

Vote on the Motion of extension→ Vote Passes Unanimously

E. Senator Schlee, School of Arts and Sciences (Resolution 027)

9:47 PM

i. A Resolution to Greater Unify the University by Replacing Controversial Icons

Senator Schlee thanks Vice President Wallace and all her co-sponsors. It is not always each one who gets up and stands up for what they believe in. She also would like to thank everyone who came to public comment, she appreciates all of this support. She also appreciates everyone who came to her, complaining about this issue. That is why she brought it to the table tonight, because of everyone's immense passion. She also thanks her fellow senators and is hoping for a wonderful respectful debate tonight. She brings up the question as to why this resolution should be brought up tonight. She is the first tonight to admit she is not a theologian. The main reason why she is bringing this up is because she wants to bridge a divided community. There is deep concern of the icon that had originally been placed in both the campus ministry and the law school. She wanted to make sure that they could come up with a resolution and a solution, however between then and now, both portraits have been stolen as of this morning. She states that we should never consort to illegal theft. This body is holding a civil discourse, which is the best way to converse about an issue. The solutions some people resorted to are both illegal and inappropriate. However, there will be some amendments to her resolution because of the recent thefts and honor to represent her constituents. There should be discussions prior to hanging any painting with the whole university so that it may be more widely accepted and non-controversial for the future. This argument is not about raising, but an admission to faith.

Senator Crnkovich thanks Senator Schlee and his fellow senators for the resolution that has been brought forth tonight. The icon of the law school has become quite controversial and has caused a campus-wide divide. He asks that it be replaced by another painting of Jesus portrayed as a black man. If the man in the portrait is Christ, then all this fighting is embarrassing to the community. However, if another is depicted in that portrait, this is a grave moral and theological dilemma, as if saying that it was not Christ who died for our salvation but someone else. Not trying to stir emotions, but this icon is blasphemy. When the painting blew up over social media, the artist did not deny that it was George Floyd. The University however chose to interpret it in another view. It is clear that the artist wanted to show George Floyd. The artist did not show Floyd dying through crucifixion, as Christ did, as his death took another form. He does however, want to give the benefit of the doubt to the artist. George Floyd suffered a horrible death and to see him comforted by the blessed mother is beautiful. It would have remained uncontroversial if there were no halos

or sacred letters in the painting. There have been other paintings of the Holy Family that have been correctly portrayed. No particular one person is shown to represent Jesus, Mary, or Joseph. However, in line with President Garvey's free speech violation, this is not one. This policy should not be with absolute license, especially in matters of faith, dogma, and theology. As history can attest to, there are completely different levels of free speech. Senator Crnkovich also notes that some people may think that as an undergraduate student government, we have no jurisdiction as to what happens in the Law School. In response to this, this is not a suggestion on interior design, but instead an appeal to the whole university. The university and its students should remain true to the faith it professes. He urges his fellow senators to please fight for this resolution and bring this community back together.

Senator Scott thanks Vice President Wallace for the floor and then thanks Senator Schlee for all the hard work she put into this resolution. This resolution is based on preserving the unity of this campus through perseverance of the true principles of the Catholic faith. Recently, the Sister Bowman Thea Report was released. Racism is a sin and it is important for our community to be unified in faith. He has sympathy and source for the good faith symbol but we must take a look at it objectively. We as a campus can do much better. As Senator Crnkovich pointed out, the icon is not simply depicting Jesus Christ, but of George Floyd. This painting shows another person as Christ himself. Senator Scott has seen beautiful representation of every race in the national shrine, with so many beautiful styles and ethnicities. All of the different nations have a different depiction of Mary. This is a wonderful and blessed thing. We should encourage this diversity of art and praise the faith with it. He unfortunately does not believe this image contributes to this praise, as it has caused great confusion and conflict in the faith. This has gone international as well. The confusion is in the ambiguity of who is in this image. The painter has said that it is George Floyd, who was lynched. Before going forward, Senator Scott would like to point out that according to canon, only servants of God can have a venerated icon. That means that no one in the room could have a venerated icon made of them. Perhaps in fifty years, George Floyd can be made an icon, but as of now, it could not be. This painting has caused great confusion with its image. It shows an inappropriate devotion. In the second Vatican council, sacred images have to be rightfully ordained. George Floyd is not. Senator Scott does take a moment to condemn the theft of the two paintings, as this does not solve anything. We must look to the church and the bishops to act to remove the painting. Senator Scott also points out that none of the bishops have approved this image. This is truly a fine and deadly issue. We must respect the tradition of our history of the church. This image should have never been hung up.

Senator Drauschak asks for a point of personal privilege to step out of the meeting.

Senator Lackey says that she was originally not going to stand up here, as a co-sponsor. When she first saw this resolution, she noted she was only a nursing major and this was not her area of expertise. However, the more she thought about it, the more it seemed like she was just making excuses. She realized that there was a reason why she decided to study the health sciences here, at this university, instead of anywhere else. Any issue with our Lord and savior is also her issue. She would also like to reiterate that the issue isn't about who is depicted in that painting, but instead that a person is shown to be representing Jesus. It could have been Pope John Paul II, the painting still would have been blasphemous because we are putting a person on the same level of our God. She urges her fellow Senators to all vote in favor.

Motion to amend Resolution 027 by Senator Schlee, seconded by Senator Farrell. The contents of

the amendments are such as: In the 4th whereas clause, at the end. Insert: “This second, smaller copy, was reported missing the morning of December 6th, 2021.” Also, a second amendment reads as follows: On the first point of the Be it enacted clause. Remove the current language and Insert: “That no forms of art titled ‘Mama’ by Kelly Lattimore be hung or put on display in any University buildings.”

Senator Besendorfer makes a point of order and asks Senator Schlee to hand the Senators a copy of the amendments that she had printed out to help the Senators make a decision on the amendment.

Motion to amend Resolution 027 → Motion passes.

A period of debate opens on this amendment.

A motion to vote is ruled out dilatory.

Senator Buckley asks for a point of personal privilege.

Motion to vote on Amendment 1 on Resolution 027 by Senator Schlee and seconded by Senator Moore.

Vote on Amendment 1 on Resolution 027 → Vote Passes

Motion to amend Resolution 027 by Senator Schlee, seconded by Senator Crnkovich.

Vote on the motion to amend Resolution 027 → Vote Passes

A period of debate has been open for the second amendment

Motion to vote by Senator Schlee

Motion to vote ruled dillitatory.

The floor is open once again for debate.

Motion to vote by Senator Cunningham.

Motion to vote ruled dillitatory.

Senator Besendorfer has one clarifying question about the amendment. This amendment states that no forms of art should be hung on any university building whereas in the rest of the resolution, it is considered a painting. What did Senator Schlee mean when other forms of art should arise in being put in.

Senator Schlee added this in because it will apply to both print copies of it as well as the original. She wanted to make sure that was clear.

Motion to vote on Amendment 2 of Resolution 027 by Senator Farrell, seconded by Senator Suarez → Motion Passes.

Vote on Amendment 2 of Resolution 027 → Vote Passes

The senators return to a period of debate on the resolution itself.

Senator Jagiello is a high supporter of this resolution. He commends Senator Lackey for going up and standing for what she believes. This image has caused controversy, understanding that there's a lot of ambiguity and different interpretations of the painting. He verbalizes his disagreement of an icon that sends mixed signals instead of being clear. He believes the best action would be to not have these icons placed or put up at all. They could be devil devices, as we all know Christ likes to be clear. He would like to replace the icon with one that is proper and sacred. From a theological perspective, all he has seen is a community torn apart. He wants to stand up for a social issue, in which George Floyd was murdered unjustly. However, this painting does not do him justice.

Senator Schlee thanks Senator Jagiello for his support.

Senator Michels thanks Senator Schlee for bringing this forward and commends her efforts to unify the campus. He does have some overarching concerns: her efforts on bringing this forward may be seen as counter-intuitive, as the controversy will die down in two to three weeks. He likes the idea of bringing unity to the campus but does not think that censoring pieces of art to appease some people but not to all is not the correct way of unifying the community. If anything, he believes it will polarize the Catholic community further.

Senator Schlee respects Senator Michels comment on his concerns. She does not think this is a counter-intuitive response. While the controversy ceased when it first came up, there is still ongoing pushing back and it is being spoken about in the media and within the community itself. The university is currently not being clear on what they will do and it is still something people remember. This is not censorship as she is the first person to support free speech, almost as much as religion. She believes Senator Crnkovich said it well. A private institution has the right to say if something is consistent with the values it upholds. She is just asking in this resolution a discussion is held and to bring in student voices. In no way is this to censor anyone. Second, she does not believe people will be able to come to a more compromising solution. A testament to that is her and Senator Lackey, who typically butt heads politically. This is not a political resolution. She also does want to think any voices are silences and the SGA has worked so hard to make sure that inclusion and diversity are included.

Senator Pelekasis thanks Senator Schlee for her bravery and passion on the subject and really appreciates everyone who spoke during public comment. As a senator, she loves hearing from her peers about issues revolving around the school. She has two questions about the resolution itself. First, she asks Senator Schlee if she cited where she received the information about the artist saying that their painting looks like George Floyd. Her second question is moving forward, how do they plan on reaching out to the Brookland community and their plans on initiating these steps.

Senator Schlee responds to Senator Pelekasis' questions, saying she tried her best to directly cite everything she could. Citations are at the bottom of the page. Responding to the second question about reaching out to the Brookland community, Senator Schlee says that the university has a great Center for Cultural Engagement that could reach out to the community. She thinks that an event could be held that brings in a lot more student interest. A new painting could be picked that holds more representation in a non-controversial way. This could also become an advocacy thing, in which SGA holds events with the CCE for outside groups. Even Campus ministry could get

involved in helping to pick a new painting, giving the entire community the opportunity to bring everyone together.

Senator Scott wants to speak for a moment on what Senator Pelekasis said. The artist themselves has directly responded on whether or not George Floyd is in that painting, and they said that was their purpose. This could be found in interviews. He also commented that in the painting, there are no crucifixion wounds because George Floyd was lynched, which is a strong implication of the painting that it is George Floyd. This painting is problematic because it isn't just a piece of art and it is an icon. It is wrong to see Floyd as Christ.

Senator Suarez wants to address a few things. On the topic of censorship, she does not believe anyone is trying to censor anything. She believes Senator Schlee is just trying to include everyone's opinions and hear their voice. This is not a political issue but a sacrilegious issue. This icon is clearly not following the Catholic mission by portraying a human being as Christ. By removing this painting, no censorship is happening. This is just following the Catholic mission.

Senator Lackey brings up the valid concern of her peers, however believes that it is more important to give our Lord the reverence and respect that He is due over the polarization of our campus. She also believes that over time, the campus will be more unified than polarized over the issue.

Senator Drauschak thanks Senator Schlee for her bravery and brings up how working on the Hill, everyday when he walks into the capital, he notices the art displays of each state, taken art from a local high school from that state. He suggests that we do something similar. A fundraiser could be held from a local Brookland school, where they send in their art work and we purchase it. A different art piece could be chosen to replace the painting while also simultaneously helping the community and connect us all in an amazing way.

Senator Schlee thanks Senator Drauschak for his support and for his wonderful ideas that will help the executive during the advocacy process.

Senator Martin thanks all the co-sponsors and Senator Schlee for this resolution. She thinks it is very impertinent, especially with recent controversy. She wants to clarify a few points as to why she is supporting this resolution. She thinks there is a lot of miscommunication of the painting in general and that it has been misconstrued in a bunch of different ways. This resolution is simply about upholding our Catholic values. On the point about censorship, there is no censorship happening here. We should also want to abide by CUA rules. Some well known ones are no harassment, no alcohol, and of course there is a fee if you have a condom in your room, as we must save ourselves for marriage and we believe in natural birth planning. In this painting, we are not representing Jesus the way he ought to be. He is using the likeness of another human to represent Jesus.

Senator Holcomb thanks Senator Schlee for this resolution. Everyone knew the painting was going to be brought up in the Senate and he commends her for her bravery. While he does agree with the goal of unity, especially in this time, he does not think that this resolution is doing that. He has spoken to many of his constituents, across all classes, and many students of color seem to find themselves particularly unhappy with this resolution. Senator Schlee had mentioned that Senator Drauschak's efforts of outreach were great and that they should be proposing more efforts as well, in addition to condemning those who stole the paintings in her resolution. For this reason,

he will be suggesting that this should be sent back to committee, especially given recent events, in order to figure out a more unifying solution for the campus community.

Senator Schlee thanks Senator Holcomb for his comment and thinks that this resolution does address the overall mission to reach out. That is the second part of the be-enacted clause. She would love to hear more ideas that would help the executive in the advocacy process. Additionally, the theft of the second painting happened today. None of the senators who are standing today support this action and condemn it feverently. That is why she is here, to debate in a civil discourse. On the comment of sending this resolution back to committee, she would only agree in cases when there has not been a lot of research and a lot of misunderstanding surrounding the resolution. Sending this back to committee would solve nothing and it took a lot for it to be put on the agenda today. Any changes to her resolution have already been solved through amendments. She would not like to waste this time when they could have the student voices heard tonight. She wants to unify the community instead of driving it apart. We can take that stance now and specific issues can be addressed in advocacy. If this resolution is sent back to committee, she will be bringing it back again.

Senator Besendorfer would first like to say, before she saw this resolution, right before leaving for break, she did not know what to think, as she is not an expert of faith and will never pretend to be one. However, she understands that this resolution is tipping the balance of its jurisdiction of the undergraduate student government versus the law school. The law school has its own representation. In her last resolution, she had numerous meetings with the graduate student association and she was so open to hearing everything. However, in this resolution, she did not see if Senator Schlee met with the law school, who have in many cases, different views on social issues. As we continue debating this resolution, we must ask ourselves if it is within our right to tell the law school what to do. She does love Senator Draushaks' idea of using a local school for the new paintings and art. She loves the spirit of its intent, she just doesn't know if it is specific enough and if this is the best way going about it. She would give her full support to this resolution if it was sent back to committee so that there is time to meet with the law school. Without meeting with the law school, there could be things missing from this legislation that we are unaware of until a meeting takes place.

Senator Schlee thanks Senator Besendorfer for her comments and knew this was coming. She appreciates her candidacy. First thing, she will address the motion of sending this resolution back to committee because a meeting with the law school has not taken place. However, she argues that the law school is under the undergraduate scope because of many different reasons. One, we set a precedent when we make decisions for the law school because of a resolution passed a few weeks prior about crucifixes. There are also daily masses at the law school chapel where everyone is located. The image was in front of the chapel, very much impacting anyone who saw it, including undergraduate students. Another reason is that the office of many politics teachers is located inside the law school, so many politics majors go there for office hours. A third reason is that student organizations will have meetings in the law school, such as mock trial club. She also would like to address why she did not meet with the law school yet. It was not until this past Thursday that it had been decided that this resolution would be on the agenda. Also, President Garvey has full jurisdiction of both undergraduate and graduate schools. As we represent the undergraduate school, which is under his jurisdiction, this impacts President Garvey's decision. We are also not asking him to remove the painting, as it has been stolen, but to make sure we do not put it up again

and instead replace it. She also notes that Senator Besendorfer has just passed a resolution that would affect the law school itself. No matter what any meeting would have said, it would not change anything in her resolution. This is also a concerted effort. The painting was gifted from campus ministry to the law school. We wanted to make this an across campus effort. She is very strong in her decision that they do have the jurisdiction and responsibility to stand up for it. She urges all to support and vote in favor of this resolution.

Senator Sharpe speaks about the dangers of sending this piece of legislation back to committee. We would miss our chance to make the students' voices heard. If this resolution gets pushed to the next Senate meeting in late January, the decision has already been made up in everyone's mind. This debate is whether or not we will have a picture in the Law School depicting George Floyd as Jesus. Between now and then, nothing is going to change. No meeting will change anything. Sending this back to the committee will cause a smoking mirror effect to change the focus from teachings of the church and very fundamental truths of our church to some abstract technicality of debate. He urges the senators to please vote on this legislation tonight. The conversation on this resolution has in part changed, now that the second one has been stolen. The debate was remove and replace versus keep to now has switched to replace the painting with the same exact painting or replace it with a similar but different image. In response to the later question, Senator Sharpe believes the university should replace the stolen painting with one that represents Jesus as African American, but not as George Floyd, a man. The debate tonight, whether or not the icon in the painting is George Floyd or not, is actually an abstract meta-physical question. Does the interpretation of art lie in the eyes of the beholder or the artist, or both. This is a philosophical question, one with no clear cut answer. What cannot be ignored is that the artist has stated multiple times that she is depicting George Floyd in this painting, alongside Jesus Christ. In the image, it is not the crucified Christ because it does not depict the crucifixion wounds. However, there are Greek words that do indicate that this is Christ. There is a lot of tension there. This was intentional by the artist who wanted to represent both the divinity of God and the humanity of George Floyd. The university has made a sneaky argument, claiming that they do not see it that way, in an attempt to abide by President Garvey's free speech policy, which he is very firm about. President Garvey has previously cited the Abby Johnson issue that plagued the campus last spring. The issue is that the commitment to the free speech policy is not absolute and should never trump your commitment to the teachings of the Church. Even if the university genuinely interprets the painting differently, it still deserves push back for two reasons: The artist themselves has spoken about how they interpret Jesus as George Floyd in their painting, and second, students too have interpreted the painting as George Floyd. The university has courted the appearance of sacrilege by installing a highly contestable interpretation painting. This was a bad move for public relations and a bad move for our Catholic identity. Our school should not be in the business of representing Jesus as another figure and we can represent Jesus as a man of all different races and cultures more appropriately. He reads a quote from the Second Vatican council, something Senator Scott already did, but it basically says that art needs to contribute its own voice to that wonderful chorus of praise, in honor of the Catholic faith. He is afraid this image does not contribute to this wonderful chorus of praise. It is not unifying, but it divides. Now that both paintings are gone, the university has the chance to replace them with a reasonable painting, ones that do not cross the line and confuse. Last year, under his leadership, the arts executive initiative launched a project where about 50-60 images of Jesus, the Holy Family, and various saints, were depicted as members of the African American race, of Hispanic heritage, and Chinese and Native American. A lot of them were donated to the Center of Cultural Engagement. Senator Sharpe notes that not one image caused an uproar.

Senator Jagiello says that there are many great arguments here that are taking away the main purpose of this resolution. He has learned a lot about our Blessed Mother Mary, who loves us all. She loves George Floyd. However, the issue lies in the depiction of George Floyd as Jesus. We now have an opportunity to replace the painting with one that honors the Catholic church. He also suggested that in order to also honor George Floyd, the university could commission a painting of him in Mary's arm, similar to the original "Mama" painting, yet not depicting him as Jesus Christ, with a golden halo and the Greek words symbolizing this is the crucified Christ. Right now however, our community is being ripped apart and around the nation there is uproar and division. He asks why can we just come here and do what is right: Replace the painting.

Senator Schlee thanks Senator Jagiello and states that she has heard this from several people. Specifically, one person in a small town in Michigan has had to defend her decision to come to the Catholic University next year. This person has been told that the university is not being true to the Catholic mission and is an elite place that has Catholic in its title. The school is currently facing a PR issue, which is huge. It has been said that we are striving away from our faith. Right now, the student body can come together and push politics aside and do what is right for the faith.

Senator Kwiatek says that there are a couple points she wants to make. First, she wants to thank her constituents from the class of 2023 and for coming to public comment tonight. This is democracy in action and she wished they had come to her office hours because many of her constituents have expressed their disagreement to this resolution. If the many constituents in the crowd had gone to her office hours, she would have been able to sway her decision. Unfortunately, she will not be voting in favor of this resolution. The main reason is that she does not think this resolution will actually unify campus. She thinks instead we should work on the future, when deciding what painting should be put up. Those future paintings should be decided by the majority of campus, including campus ministry. We should involve students, alumni, and sponsors of the school for the art. Senator Kwiatek has a more opinionated reason as to why she will not vote in favor of this resolution but she will not voice it because of the time.

Senator Schlee addresses Senator Kwiatek's concern that the issue won't be resolved with her resolution. She wrote the resolution in a way so that it was more general and open ended on purpose so that the university can do what they seek fit. The university can specifically list how they want to resolve this conflict. Whether it is to make this as big of an event as possible or to make it quite small, that is up to the university. There are a lot of opportunities here. Senator Schlee also points out that it was Father Jude who gave the okay for the "Mama" painting to be hung up. She notes that Father Jude did not speak to students on the painting and get their thoughts on it. That is the reason the SGA exists, to give voice to the students.

Senator Birth notes that she has been sitting on a speech, but wishing to not be repetitive, will try to cut it down. First thing, she will be voting against this resolution because many of her constituents have voiced their concern for this resolution. She believes that there is a perspective of this resolution being intent on censoring the artist. She thinks that the opportunity to learn from this painting has been ripped apart, regardless of belief. She finds it very alarming that these bully tactics of theft occurred. Instead of taking down this painting, we should be more focused on more open dialogues of the student body. The outcome of those dialogues should judge what is to happen. She finds it odd that the senate wants to censor this painting but wants to know where the limit is, as last year, there was a similar debate when Abby Johnson visited campus. She thinks it is

in the best interest of the student government to vote no to this resolution and to send it back to committee.

Senator Schlee responds to Senator Birth's point of censorship, as they will not be removing the painting, as it has been stolen, and instead just replacing it with something else more appropriate. She appreciates the sentiments of the importance of free speech. However, she thinks that in her resolution, there is a chance for the whole community to be involved in the second Be and Enacted clause, so that there are learning experiences for everyone. She thinks it is important for these uncomfortable conversations to happen in thoughtful dialogue and debate. She wishes to replace the painting with a different wrong, not because of her political beliefs, but because of her Catholic faith. We see this as a wrong depiction of it and we must not support it. She knows that if anyone was present for the Abby Johnson debate, she knows it was not a good time for anyone there and that they do not need to be talking about it now. The current debate is just if we are okay with this depiction of Jesus Christ. Also speaking on the authority of the president, we are asking him to reconsider the painting. Our job is to give the recommendation of the student body. As we can see now, this is what the students want and in order to preserve the soundness of the student government, we must stand up for what our constituents believe in, especially consistent with the Catholic faith. On her last point about sending this back to committee, Senator Schlee knows that nothing that happens between now and the next meeting will change Senator Birth's mind, and this is just an easy way out. Senator Schlee will bring this resolution back and nobody wants this.

Senator Farrell makes a point of personal privilege to note that a lot of senators still wish to talk
A motion to vote has been ruled dillatory

Senator Crnkovich responds to Senator Birth's comments on free speech. He does not think that the Abby Johnson comparison is appropriate. A more apt analogy would be if the artist came to campus and created the blasphemous painting. In this case, he respects President Garvey's free speech policy and allow Kelly Latimore to come on campus to talk about his art, as other priests have come previously to talk about Church doctrine. When we have artwork, there is not really any dialogue, it's more of an open statement.

Senator Lackey also responds to Senator Birth, saying she understands what she is saying. However, the university has more of a responsibility to its Catholic teachings than to a free speech policy and to follow the university mission.

Senator Scott chimes in, noting that he will keep his commentary super short this time, that this art piece is not comparable to another art piece because this one is very specific in a religious context. There are rules for religious art and we must respect the Catholic faith.

Senator Cunningham will make his speech as quick as possible but starts off by saying that he does not think it is George Floyd in the painting, as it is up to his interpretation. He believes we are asking the wrong question as to who Jesus is in this painting. It would be better to actually understand why the painting was created. Mary is looking at the audience in the painting, looking at us to remind us that any unjust killing is wrong. If this univeristy is truly pro-life, then this notion is not politically at all. This painting was not controversial until it was posted on a political website. He believes that the second "Be and Enacted clause" is tone-dead because if we truly wanted diversity with our art, after the unjust murder of George Floyd and many other black

people, then we would recognize their struggles and this painting for what it truly symbolizes.

Senator Schlee thanks Senator Cunningham for his comments and notes that they do not usually agree or have the same ideas, but does understand that some people will interpret this art differently. There are a lot of cloudy arguments and many people agree that they see George Floyd in the painting. She also states that she is not even going to touch on the points of the pro-life argument as it is a distraction and very much politically emotional. Senator Schlee also states that the reason as to why she nor anyway else was speaking about the painting prior to it being shown on the media is because no one had discussed the painting with the students and told them that it was going to be hung up. It is important to respond to injustices, such as in the case of George Floyd and that she does not stand for police brutality. However, she thinks that a piece of art must be agreed upon by the community. She believes a more appropriate painting would have been one representing George Floyd as a man, not as Jesus Christ.

Senator Sharpe was going to make a lengthy speech but has decided to make it short. Just recently, the President Newman Guides speech has declared that the “Mama” painting to be inconsistent with Catholic teaching. This is coming from a Catholic group who are faithful to the identity. This is a very big issue for the school and is dangerous for our students. If we are showing to only be Catholic in name, then this will be a bigger problem for President Garvey. We are fulfilling a call to serve our student community and our Catholic faith in passing this resolution.

Motion to vote ruled dilatory

Senator Besendorfer promises to keep her statements brief. She wants to address that if this resolution passes, the university would have to take back their official stance. At the end of the day, no decision will make 100% of the people happy, as this is a hot topic item. Switching stances will make the university weak. Putting politics aside, this resolution hinders free speech. Not every topic is discussed here in the senate, but it is important that we do talk about the hard topics. It is important that we grow in our society. Going back to Senator Schlee’s response to Senator Kwiatek’s comment on who in campus ministry gave the okay to this painting. Senator Schlee made comments on Father Jude, about knowing where he stood in this stance even though there was no meeting to be held. Lastly, Senator Besendorfer also notes that now that the painting has been stolen, it is now a question on whether it should be replaced or put up again. It feels as if it is now much easier for this resolution to pass because of this early theft. We should take time to reflect on what happened, as it is all happening quickly. Senator Schlee herself noted that on Thursday she was made aware that her legislation would hit the floor tonight. That is not enough time and wishes for her to get more time if it were to be sent to committee.

Motion to send Resolution 027 back to committee by Senator Besendorfer

Senator Drauschak asks for a point of personal privilege

Senator Schlee asks for a point of clarification. She asks if she will be getting a period of debate to respond to her resolution getting sent to committee.

Vice President Wallace clarifies for Senator Schlee that if the motion to send Resolution 027 back to committee passes, then a period of debate will open where Senator Schlee will get the opportunity to defend her resolution. If the vote does not pass, then the senators will return to debate on the contents of Resolution 027.

Motion to send resolution back to committee by Senator Besendorfer, seconded by Senator Pelekasis→ Motion Passes

Vote on the motion to send to committee→ 9 yay's, 15 nay's, the vote does not pass and Resolution 027 does not get sent to committee.

Return to debate on Resolution 027

Motion to vote ruled dillatory

Motion to vote on Resolution 027 by Senator Drauschak, seconded by Senator Moore→ Motion Passes.

Vote on Resolution itself→ Vote passes with 15 yays, 9 nays.

5. Vice President, SGA Updates

12:01 PM

Vice President Wallace plugs the SGA Christmas party on Sunday, December 12 at 2 p.m. in the Pryz Great Rooms. She makes a side note about having thought about not putting this piece of legislation on the floor for the reason that the meeting is still going on past midnight. Some people may assume that she makes the decision about which legislation should go on the floor because she does not want certain things to go, this has never been the case. She does foresee certain legislation taking quite a while to debate. She wants the Senators and everyone in attendance to keep this in mind.

6. Open Floor

12:02 PM

Senator Moore states that he thinks it was no mistake nor coincidence that the Senate meeting was relocated into Caldwell Auditorium, which notably contains two appropriate depictions of Mary the mother of God and Jesus, along with a portrait of Jesus alone. The room they are in is blessed. There is a wound that needs to be healed, only through prayer. Prayer for another so that the Senators can move through this.

Senator Suarez notes that tonight was exhausting and she wants the senators to end on a good note. She plugs in that the Theology club is hosting a faculty discussion night in Happel room, speaking on interreligious relationships specially Christian-Muslim relationships. There will also be free food.

Senator Besendorfer comments she will be very brief, she just wanted to say that whether they agreed or disagreed, she is thankful for the fruitful debate, getting the chance to hear and hear what everyone else has to say, and does want to remind people of Senate decorum. She wishes

everyone a wonderful Christmas Break and looks forward to another great semester next semester.

7. Adjournment

12:04 PM

Motion to adjourn by Senator Sharpe and seconded by Senator Farrell → Motion Passes .

Vote on adjournment itself → Vote Passes.

Senate 7-6 has adjourned.