



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

January 24th, 2022  
8:15 p.m. – 10:15 p.m. EST

## ROLL CALL

**Vice President** - Monica Wallace

**Secretary** – Nicole Campos and  
Jordan Gehrig

**Parliamentarian** - Mike McCabe

### **Class of 2022**

Gerald Sharpe   X    
Alan Cunningham   X  

### **Class of 2023**

Matthew Drauschak   X    
Patricia Kwiatek   X  

### **Class of 2024**

Jamie Besendorfer   X    
Matthew Michels   X  

### **Class of 2025**

Maevis Fahey   X    
Ashley Martin   X  

### **School of Architecture**

Melissa Kazanci   X    
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   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 Fahey** begins Senate 7-7 with St. Michael the Archangel's prayer.

**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.

**Grace O'Donnell** is a sophomore nursing major and voices her support for Senator Besendorfer's resolution.

**Anna Corona** is a sophomore nursing major and voices her support for Senator Besendorfer's resolution.

**Lauren Cerda** is a sophomore nursing major and voices her support for Senator Besendorfer's resolution.

**Mary Parker** is a sophomore nursing major and voices her support for Senator Besendorfer's resolution.

**Kellie Caputo** is a sophomore politics major and voices her support for Senator Besendorfer's resolution.

**Dorothy** is a sophomore and voices her support for Senator Besendorfer's resolution.

**James Garrett** is a sophomore sales major and voices his support for Senator Besendorfer's resolution.

**Julia Ferraiolo** is a sophomore nursing major and voices her support for Senator Besendorfer's resolution.

**Jordan Siok** is a business major and voices her support for Senator Besendorfer's resolution.

## **2. Adoption of Agenda**

**8:20 PM**

Motion to adopt the agenda by Senator Farrell and seconded by Senator Schlee.

Motion to adopt the agenda→ Passes

Vote on adoption itself→ Adoption has passed

## **3. Approval of Minutes**

**8:21 PM**

### **A. Session 7-6 (December 6, 2021)**

Motion to approve by Senator Michels and seconded by Senator Besendorfer.

Motion to approve the meeting minutes→ Motion Passes

Vote on approval of meeting minutes for Senate 7-6→ Approval Passes

## **4. Committee Reports**

**8:22 PM**

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

**Senator Sharpe** begins by apologizing for being last, as he was locked out. He asks to make sure that no one else is locked outside. He is planning a committee meeting for next week and will have updates then. He is looking forward to a great semester and if anyone has any bylaw related questions or changes, let him know.

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

**Senator Schlee** thanks Vice President Wallace. The committee had a wonderful first meeting. There is a resolution coming to the floor tonight about grading consistency from the committee. They have a lot of goals for the upcoming semester including researching the tenure process and increasing rigor in programs. She is chairing the Special Committee on the Academic Calendar, which sounds boring, but she is excited. This committee will holistically look at the calendar due to an increase of legislation related to the calendar such as students wanting reading days on specific dates and having Veteran's Day off. Herself, Senator Lackey, Senator Fahey, Senator Martin, Senator Drauschak, and Senator Suarez will be meeting next week. She is excited to get

started.

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

**Senator Besendorfer** thanks Vice President Wallace. The committee is meeting on February 28. Her resolution about on campus housing is hitting the floor tonight. The committee is working on looking into housing service hours on move in and out day and Senator Suarez is working on her lighting resolution. If anyone has any ideas or wants to share, she is always here.

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

**Senator Farrell** thanks Vice President Wallace. The committee has not yet met this semester, but the first meeting is next week. There is a lot of legislation in the works from the committee such as Senator Cunningham's resolution about minimum wage on campus, Senator Martin's resolution about getting the full day off for the March for Life, Senator Drauschak's resolution on the Mullen Library, and Senator Hermann's resolution about using the audio visual resources that were places in classrooms during COVID-19 moving forward.

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

**Senator Birth** thanks Vice President Wallace. The committee had a wonderful meeting on Zoom Thursday. There are a few resolutions in the works such as Senator Fahey's resolution about mass and dining hours being posted, Senator Michels has a resolution on the floor tonight and is working on the laundry situation in Opus, Senator Kwiatek is looking into counseling and Senator Birth is looking into supporting students in a crisis as well as general living conditions in residence halls, specifically Gibbons. She asks if you have any ideas to please reach out.

## **4. New Business**

### **A. Senator Besendorfer, Class of 2024 (Resolution 028)**

**8:25 PM**

#### **i. A Resolution to Increase Transparency with the On-Campus Housing Requirement**

**Senator Besendorfer** thanks Vice President Wallace. This resolution has been long in the making. She thanks the members of the public that came to comment and for all the support she has gotten during her time on campus. There are a lot of issues with all aspects of campus life and housing is the biggest. She is really excited to be here. She remembers when she was a prospective student in 2019 and took a tour with a Cardinal Ambassador, which she is now one. They pointed out how they were changing to the juniors living on campus, but the new residence hall is not there. COVID was not a thing and we have to make changes when there are unpredicted circumstances. When she looked into what other D.C. schools do, many did offer three year housing, but housing options like townhouses and apartments were available. She did not have a normal year of housing and has been in Opus for the last two years. There is concern with isolation and new variants, so who knows where we will be in a year. There are residence halls that are being used for isolation. There are three full classes and there is concern about space not only for students but for isolated students too. This has never been done. The class of 2023 felt some of this policy, but not all of it. 2024 and some of 2025 are concerned about the lack of transparency. It took a while for her to get

an email response. She looked on the website and found a link and saved it in her notes. When she went back to look at it, it did not load. There was an update to the housing policy on November 12 and she would have never known if she was not researching this because there was no advertisement. The age for living off campus changed from 21 to 23. There is no precedent for where a full class of juniors will live.

**Senator Schlee** thanks Senator Besendorfer for bringing this forward. For some context, last year she brought forth a similar resolution. There was a constant issue with miscommunication and a lack of communication, as well as misleading information from housing. They like to change their policy at the last minute to the detriment of students. This is really great because it increases communication and information about where they can live on campus. It is important to know that the class of 2024 has lived in Opus for two straight years. The progression would be going backwards, which is not beneficial. Going from a more independent living to a communal freshman style dorm would not be progressing. She is really proud of the work Senator Besendorfer is doing, as this is an ongoing housing issue. She urges everyone to vote in favor.

**Senator Hermann** thinks that this is an interesting resolution, but saying we are going backwards is not a strong argument as she lived in Opus then Gibbons.

**Senator Schlee** says that she has lived in Gibbons for two years now and while some people enjoy living there, everyone has a different idea of what works for them. There was the impression that 2023 would have brand new housing. The previous executive argued for them. They deserve leniency. This is not something that is unprecedented, as exceptions were granted last year.

**Senator Besendorfer** does understand Senator Hermann's comment and has looked into it. Not everyone loved living with four other people and wanted more personal space. She came into college as the only class here, spent twenty one days in isolation, and ate food in a tent in the parking lot. There was a lack of freedom and she has not lived anywhere other than Opus. This will give 2024 the freedom that they felt has been lacking. COVID restrictions were put on everyone and we have to be able to rebound and update when unexpected things happen.

**Senator Bowman** has a question about the 4th whereas clause. She wants to know if the amount of students for each class and the number of beds can be added.

**Senator Besendorfer** responds that she got information from The Tower, and Senator Farrell is happy about that. She can't give the exact number, but there were 642 students her freshman year and 709 this fall. She reached out to administration and no one can accurately predict the size of the class of 2026. 2024 and 2025 were unusually lower than normal due to COVID, but 2026 is anticipated to be a normal size. At a luncheon with President Garvey last semester, he said they anticipate around 800 students. There are 1,970 beds for students, which does not include RAs, RMs, and others.

**Senator Jagiello** believes that this is a good resolution. He wants to know where the information about housing that is on the last whereas clause on the first page is from.

**Senator Michels** answers that the University put out a ten year plan in 2012. There are a lot of plans for everything from knocking down Leahey to taking down Centennial Village. The residence hall was going to be in the Opus parking lot and the lawn in the front. He wasn't able to break down all of the data.

**Senator Schlee** says that the school has been advertising the promise of a new residence hall since at least 2018. It has been advertised as something that is going to happen and has been delayed. Students deserve flexibility. Some have already been given that flexibility and it should be extended.

**Senator Crnkovich** thanks Vice President Wallace and Senator Besendorfer. During RA winter training, Dean Kerr mentioned that there would be enough room through 2026 and he doesn't know how that fits in with the data. His second concern is it seems that the underlying theme is that a lot of them want to get off campus. In the second be it enacted clause it asks the university to lay out an alternative. It might be helpful to provide a deadline for leases. It gives accountability to the university by asking that responses are given soon.

**Senator Besendorfer** says that both of those points are valid. During RA training, both her and Senator Michels talked to housing about sizing. She understands now why some things cannot happen, but truly does not know how this can't happen because she can't understand how it isn't possible. There is inconsistency from the website and staff training. She has been looking into it extensively and does not understand where these conclusions are coming from. She could see how adding a deadline in the second be it enacted clause could be useful and she hopes she covered it all.

**Senator Michels** got the 1,970 figure from a representative in housing. Not every student in the class of 2024 lives on campus as some are commuters. In terms of not having enough beds, three halls in Centennial Village are being used as isolation. Some of those beds are not going to be able to be touched if isolation continues.

Motion to vote ruled dillatory

Motion to amend the second be it enacted clause at the end to read "...the leniency that was taken with the class of 2023's housing exemption before the due date of the intent to live on campus form." by Senator Schlee, seconded by Senator Besendorfer → Motion passes

Motion to vote ruled dillatory

**Senator Martin** thanks Vice President Wallace. She supports the resolution but is concerned that the February 18th deadline will not give administration enough time.

**Senator Schlee** says it sounds like administration already knows if there is going to be enough room. It is very realistic because it is about a month and it gives them enough time. If they can't reach that deadline, they can move the intent form deadline.

**Senator Besendorfer** hopes that the university has solid information and facts that they can back up bold statements. Therefore a month isn't an unrealistic time and if they can't back it up, they can move the deadline back.

**Senator Birth** says that this has become an issue of transparency. A new amendment can be more helpful. As a member of the class of 2023, it would help rising seniors know where they fit into housing. The amendment can only be more helpful.

**Senator Besendorfer** adds that they also changed the policy to be 23 years old and not 21 to live

off campus on November 12 and made no effort to tell students. They should feel confident about a month.

**Senator Jagiello** likes the addition. He went in person to housing today and still does not know specifics. What happens if they have to pull more beds for isolation? Housing is dynamic. The intent to live on campus form should be able to be changed by students and they should be able to pull out of it.

**Senator Besendorfer** is not opposed to the intent to live on campus form being pushed back, but it is not the intention of this resolution. That can be done in advocacy. The future is unpredictable and this is why she did not set a date. How does one know if they want to live on campus without full knowledge of what that entails? The university should give all resources to allow students to make informed decisions.

**Senator Birth** would argue that if all of the information is laid out, students' confidence will be increased and it can only work in the school's favor.

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

Vote on amendment itself → Passes

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

Vote on Resolution 028 → Vote passes with 25 yays and 0 nays

## **B. Senator Drauschak, Class of 2023 (Resolution 029)**

**8:59 PM**

### **i. A Resolution to Change the Food and Drink Policy in Mullen Library**

**Senator Drauschak** states that this resolution is straightforward. He believes that the current food and drink policy inside the Mullen Library needs to change. He had recently been eating a burger in the library and was finishing his fries when a guard told Senator Drauschak had to leave and finish his meal outside. He had never been kicked out before and realized this was a poorly enforced policy. There is a vending machine that students have 24 hour access to during finals week. He instead proposes that they take out the policy and instead allow food on the first floor to the left, away from the computers and stacks. As we are all college kids, we should be able to keep the area clean.

**Senator Fahey** thanks Senator Drauschak for his resolution. She has one quick question though. She has a nut allergy and cannot eat in areas where someone ate nuts before her. Senator Fahey would like to know if there are any procedures in place for nut allergies?

**Senator Drauschak** knows that the library has a good maintenance team and will make sure to push for more protection for nut allergies in the advocacy process. He thinks that there could also be a nut free area in the library just to protect those students.

**Senator Jagiello** likes the idea of the resolution but has a concern. In the food court and eatery, things end up messy and the tables, greasy. He is concerned that the books could get damaged and it is difficult to manage all the different messes in the library.

**Senator Drauschak** states that everyone in the university is an adult and it is a shame that some people do not clean up after themselves. When people enter the library, there is an understanding that people are there to learn and study. It is a privilege for this policy to be in place and anyone who brings food needs to respect the library.

**Senator Pelekasis** thanks Senator Drauschak for his resolution but has a question about sanitation. Is there already a cleaning staff that is working in the library?

**Senator Drauschak** responds to Senator Pelekasis question, saying yes there is a cleaning staff who have been stepping up sanitation because of the COVID pandemic. There could also be a station with cleaning supplies for students to use when they are done eating.

**Senator Birth** appreciates this resolution but has some concerns. She knows that students should be responsible, however she thinks that changing the policy would lead the library to become harder to police and ensure that the food remains where it needs to. Especially now, as we are in a pandemic and a new infectious variant is going through the world right now, having another location on campus where it is completely normalized to not wear a mask under the guise of eating can be really dangerous.

**Senator Drauschak** responds to Senator Birth's comments, saying that the current policy is poorly enforced, which has not stopped students from not wearing a mask or eating. There will be no problem with the cleanliness of the library. To her second point, currently, students can eat in the Pryz again. There is no problem with not enforcing things that should be enforced there.

**Senator Scott** agrees with sentiment of the resolution but is leaning from a different point of view. He thinks we should be focusing more on the enforcement of this policy before opening it up. The library is not a cafeteria and there is already food being offered by the vending machine. Students should be eating outside the library and if they get hungry, can grab snacks from the vending machine. The current policy should be enforced and meals should not have been allowed in the libraries.

**Senator Holcomb** responds to Senator Scott's concern. This resolution keeps the eating in the library in a certain area and this policy could be enforced better. Food would stay away from the books and the computers. Even with the passing of this resolution, he does not believe that students will be eating dinner in the library. If the library is being kept clean and staying contained in an area, then there is no issue.

**Senator Besendorfer** loves the intent behind the resolution but she isn't sure about the practicality of it. Going back to what Senator Fahey said about the allergies and the general cleanliness of Mullen Library. For students with allergies, they must be on alert for where there is a clean spot they can eat at. Senator Besendorfer admits that she has brought food into the library that she has had to give up. If we allow for the first floor to have food, what about the second floor? She unfortunately does not trust everyone in the community to follow the guidelines and the extensive cleaning is due to COVID. The cost, labor, and practicality of this resolution is not really worth the end result. Maybe we can amend the resolution so that this policy is in place during midterms and



finals. This resolution is also a slippery slope to greasy foods contaminating our library. The beauty and history of the Mullen Library must be protected and is not a place to allow food. Her final point is that currently, in the Pryz, students are expected to clean after themselves. Yet everyday, Senator Besendorfer finds the Pryz dirty and students being cleaned up after by the staff. As a community, she wishes we could trust one another to keep our spaces clean but is unsure if this resolution is the policy to take that leap of faith.

**Senator Drauschak** responds to Senator Besendorfer's concerns. This policy would only allow food on the first floor, to the left, where the tables are. This is a small area in the library where food would be allowed. This policy would only help the library stay more clean, as more students will be vigilant about the spaces on campus. He does not think that hundreds of students will now go to the library to chow down their food. Instead, this policy is meant only to serve the students who want to bring some food in, who can now have a safe space to do it without fear of getting thrown out. The library could also enforce this policy on the upper levels without any additional cost.

**Senator Moore** states that he too is allergic to nuts and if they were in the air, he could get sick. People with allergies are always on high alert in the dining hall. Library Mullen is a safer space for students with allergies, allowing them to have more peace of mind because others cannot eat meals there. The students already have the Pryz to eat meals. It is also important to create a healthy balance between resting and going back to work. There is no reason to change this policy.

**Senator Drauschak** notes that this new updated policy would allow people to bring in food to the library, especially for those students who need to grind out on an assignment. Some people enjoy eating small bites for brain food when they work. This policy will not make the library a cafeteria, it is only sanctioning a small section of the library so that students do not get kicked out when eating. This is an already poorly enforced policy that students are currently breaking.

**Senator Suarez** thanks Senator Drauschak for his resolution, she likes the idea. She wants a clarification on the food and drink policy. On this resolution, it includes drinks. What does the past policy say about drinks? What drinks are allowed? And is Senator Drauschak concerned about the mess drinks could potentially cause and create complications?

**Senator Drauschak** thanks Senator Suarez for the question and quotes what it says on the website: beverages in open containers are not permitted.

**Senator Hermann** asks for a point of personal privilege to use the restroom.

**Senator Cunningham** adds that while people should not be breaking the policy of Mullen Library, they already are. The current policy states that no greasy foods be allowed but he finds it hard to see the difference in the vending machine food of what is cheesy and greasy. This resolution would stop the picking and choosing of what food is and is not allowed in the Mullen Library.

**Senator Schlee** would like to bring up a few points. First, she has been in the library a lot and has witnessed first hand the cleaning staff and their frequency. The first floor remains pretty clean and if there is a mess, there are wipes and paper towels for students to use to clean up themselves. Second of all, she makes the point that she is a caffeine addict and to her, it is really important to have her coffee. It wasn't specifically stated but during advocacy, she wants to make sure all sorts of drinks are allowed, specifically coffee. She has previously been told that she has to either drink

all of her drink or throw it away. There is not a consistent policy.

**Senator Drauschak** says that Senator Schlee has made some great points. He has never been kicked out for coffee but cannot believe Senator Schlee has.

**Senator Pelekasis** asks for a point of personal privilege to step out.

**Senator Besendorfer** notes that just because a policy is not being enforced does not mean it should be completely taken away. If the visitation policy was being ignored, would we get rid of it? She also makes note that when a policy is loosened up, students will continuously push the envelope and bring food into areas they should not. She also sees the benefit of students taking a break from studying. While she sees Senator Schlee's point of the library remaining clean, she does not see the benefit of adding another place for students to eat in, such as Maloney Hall. She would rather have this policy clarified rather than extend the allowance and tolerance. She loves the idea of the resolution but will vote no. She also notes that the current practices in place to keep the library in place are for COVID. When COVID is hopefully over, what will the protocols be then and where is the money coming from to pay the staff to clean more?

**Senator Drauschak** thinks that the problem is not that the policy is poorly enforced, but that the policy should not exist at all. He also notes that there has always been consistent cleaning in the library.

**Senator Birth** wants the Senators to bear with her. Previous comments and their response have been focused on the concern about masks staying on and off. Along the line, when the covid situation hopefully gets better, she thinks this is a resolution that could get enforced. Why not tackle it then, when masks and a pandemic are not a concern. As an immunocompromised person, she is constantly making informed decisions about where she can be. She feels like people like Senator Fahey, who have a nut allergy, are being left on their own. Another space is being taken away from people when they really only had one on campus. She notes that shellfish is aromatic and that it can linger on much longer than its physical presence. She will be voting no on this resolution. She can agree that a reasonably sized snack is alright but changing this policy to allow all food is a no.

**Senator Drauschak** hopes to see no fish in the library. He sees nothing wrong with allowing a small space in the library to be able to eat. He does not expect to see students bring in anything more than snacks and just wants students to not get penalized for eating. Many students already break this policy frequently.

**Senator Jagiello** has seen both sides of the debate. He thinks we should be enforcing the original policy instead of just getting rid of it completely, yet likes the spirit of it. He will be abstaining his vote from this resolution because of that.

**Senator Drauschak** thinks that it is an unrealistic expectation for students to go to the library for a very short period of time. Some students can spend all day there. It is wrong for there to be no food or drinks in the library if there is a vending machine also there.

**Senator Scott** notes where he stands with this resolution. While he is not familiar with the exact wording of the policy, he knows there are water fountains and vending machines for students to have food and drink. The issue here is a lack of enforcement that is consistent. When we set the

standard to allow more food to be let in, we know it will not be enforced persistently. It would be a better idea to stop all food at the door and let them know that neither food nor drinks are allowed.

**Senator Drauschak** notes that Senator Scott's comments are a point that has previously been brought up. He sees nothing wrong with bringing stuff into the library. This is a very small area to the left that will allow food. This is not opening it up to the rest of the library, not near any books.

**Senator Cunningham** reiterates that it is already allowed to eat in the library. This bill is not discussing whether or not students can eat, but allowing students to eat a different selection of food and not get kicked out. He respects allergies and notes that this resolution is not going to start to allow students to eat and this would not create a slippery slope of the library becoming a cafeteria. This is just an extension to the current policy, to allow meals and coffee.

**Senator Drauschak** notes that food is expensive anywhere you go. When you go to the eatery or food court, you are using real money to get that food. This policy would allow students to choose where they want to eat the food they bought.

**Senator Farrell** supports this resolution but has one question about the "Be and Enacted" clause. It includes that food will be on the first floor away from computers and books. It is not mentioned in the clause if the May Gallery is included in this or not. The exhibits there are not books or computers but other artifacts, such as tablets that are very interesting. He thinks that it would be best to mention that food should not be allowed there either.

**Senator Drauschak** thanks Senator Farrell and answers his question. This resolution is only including that area where you walk into the library and walk to the left. This is the main area that he wants food to be allowed and in advocacy, hopes the executive will make sure it is just in that area.

**Senator Birth** believes that the division on this resolution is that it is allowing any food to go into the library. While it is reasonable to want a coffee or a snack, she will motion for this resolution to go back to committee so it is less of an extravagant policy.

Motion to send Resolution 029 back to committee by Senator Birth and seconded by Senator Besendorfer → Period of debate to send resolution back to committee

**Senator Drauschak** disagrees with Senator Birth. He does not think this resolution will make students begin to actively eat in the library and use it as a cafeteria. He does not see any student bringing in their chipotle, pizza, or a \$75 salmon. This resolution is only allowing students to eat a simple meal in the library.

**Senator Sharpe** says that if we motion to send something back to committee, the comments are supposed to be tailored as to why we should be sending a resolution back to committee. He makes a note that he thinks it is ridiculous that you cannot bring coffee into the library and would like to see coffee mentioned in the resolution. If we send this back to committee, he would love to see coffee put into the resolution. That said, he tends to view this a bit more organic. Students sleep in their dorm, they eat in the cafeteria, and study in the library. He believes that nachos should not be allowed; it also seems like his fellow senators agree with that. This means that the disagreement here is a fundamental issue for this to be sorted out apart from this meeting. If there are reconcilable ways we can discuss this disagreement, then it would be worth sending to committee.

However, he is unsure if we are there yet.

**Senator Besendorfer** says that while she loves the intent of this resolution, she is in favor of sending it back to committee because the policy needs to be adjusted. She agrees that it is absurd to not be able to have coffee. However, she can see why there are issues with chick-fil-a sauce and allergens. What could be allowed and not allowed can be hashed out in committee to make this resolution successfully pass. She urges her fellow senators to send this resolution back to committee.

**Senator Drauschak** thinks that sending this resolution back to committee is a mistake. The library is constantly being sanitized and this policy would allow it to be cleaned more often. He does not understand the argument here, while also noting that the allergy issue is a legitimate concern that can be fixed during advocacy. He urges the senators who are representing the student body to favor this resolution, as many of his own constituents who have been kicked out before have. This is a change for the greater good.

**Senator Schlee** wants to bring attention to the notion of sending a resolution back to committee. Resolutions should only be sent back if the senate thinks that a resolution could improve and more research needs to be done. However, the issue here is that there is a disagreement with the idea of this resolution and are philosophical against it. Taking this resolution back to committee will not change anyone's mind and thinks this is just disrespectful to Senator Drauschak. The most effective solution is to vote on it tonight and strongly trust the executive to advocate for her coffee. She wants to make a note that we must be respectful of the time and dedication sponsors and cosponsors put into their resolutions. If a senator disagrees with the whole idea of a resolution, they should just vote no. It is their right to vote no and to represent their constituents and there is nothing wrong with that.

**Senator Drauschak** thanks Senator Schlee for her support and guidance.

**Senator Lackey** asks for a point of personal privilege.

**Senator Birth** says that she will be voting no on this resolution because her constituents have spoken up about their concern. That being said, if this resolution was sent back to committee, a better solution could be made. It could also be advertised through community communications. This policy should not be allowed to bring in potential allergens. She would even work with Senator Drauschak to create a stronger and safer resolution and be completely in favor of it later.

**Senator Drauschak** understands where Senator Birth's concern is coming from. However, sending his resolution back to committee would not change anything. All her concerns could be addressed during advocacy.

Motion to vote ruled dillatory

**Senator Cunningham** notes that he has the utmost respect for Senator Birth but wants to make it clear that this resolution is only debating what food is and is not okay in the library, as food is already allowed. He thinks there is nothing wrong with chick-fil-a or coffee. If we take this resolution back to committee, nothing will change, as no one can change what food can and cannot create a mess and spill. All food and drinks do that.

Motion to vote if Resolution 029 gets sent back to committee by Senator Crnkovich, seconded by Senator Suarez

Voting on the motion to vote to send Resolution 029 to committee→ Motion Passes

**Senator Schlee** asks for a point of clarification on what they are voting for.

**Vice President Wallace** responds that they are about to vote on whether the resolution will be sent back to committee.

Voting to send Resolution 029 back to committee→ Does not pass

**Senator Fahey** notes that she has wrestled with this resolution a bit, on deciding her vote. She will be voting in favor of it because as someone with an allergy, she has learned that all surfaces are at risk. Starbucks has a pistachio coffee so anyone who drinks one around her, whether in the library or the Pryz, puts her at risk. It is a sad but true reality. She hopes that during advocacy, the executive could ask for more sanitation, especially for students with allergies. This resolution could work well and many students support it. It is also only stating that a single small area in the library would be allowing food. This policy can only encourage sanitation.

Motion to vote on Resolution 029 by Senator Besendorfer, seconded by Senator Moore.

Voting on the motion to vote→ Motion Passes

Voting on Resolution 029 itself→ Vote passes with 16 yays, 8 nays, and 1 abstaining

Motion to extend the meeting until the completion of the agenda by Senator Moore, seconded by Senator Michels.

Motion to extend the meeting→ Motion Passes

Voting on the extension of the meeting itself→ Extension Passes

### **C. Senator Schlee, School of Arts and Sciences (Resolution 030)**

**9:59 PM**

#### **i. A Resolution to Provide Consistency in Grading Scales**

**Senator Schlee** thanks Vice President Wallace and everyone for their patience tonight. She will try to be quick and not speak for more than what is necessary. This resolution came from a focus group from the Dean of Arts and Science that she attended. There were wishes and concerns about how grading works. When she was a freshman, she was very confused about how grading worked. It is not very clear about the difference between an A or A- and every professor is different. It is confusing to both students and professors. Lots of professors are new grad students who have professional lives. There is a lack of guidance coming from administrators for what it should be. An econ major in the school of arts and science told her they wished that they could get credit for the really rigorous standards within that department. They have to have a higher number or percentage to earn an A. You have to get a 96 which is a lot higher than different departments because most you need a 94 to get an A. Is there some way to reflect this on transcripts because

transcripts are what an employer would see. It would be beneficial for students. Our university has higher standards for an A to begin with so we can only benefit the students. This is something that is more creative and not in mainstream conversations. Dean Thomas Smith in the School of Arts and Science was open to this and other Deans have been open as well. She urges everyone to vote in favor.

**Senator Besendorfer** thanks Vice President Wallace and Senator Schlee. In one of her classes there was no grading rubric in the syllabus and she did not know until the day of the final review what an A was. Her only question is when you are looking at courses like econ or business you need a 96 for an A but in theology you don't, so she is trying to find consistency. How will the grading scale be comminuted? Lots of classes are not within the major, but needed to get your degree.

**Senator Schlee** thanks Senator Besendorfer and says she makes a lot of great points. if you need a 96 to get an A, shouldn't you get credit for meeting and exceeding this high standard? All students have to take required classes outside of their major, but it does not affect their major GPA. Providing a grading scale would help clue in employers as to why someone's major looks the way it does. The standard for an A in politics is a 94 while in business it is a 96. This will help when employers review resumes which will result in more interviews from jobs.

**Senator Sharpe** has seen three different thresholds for an a, a 96 and 94 and a 90. The econ department and the theology school you need a 96, but for a lot of curriculum requirements you only need a 90. There's a big difference between a 90 and a 96. He was brainstorming ways to communicate to law schools that he was held at a higher standard we could explain an A- or B+. This is a remedy for a problem that a lot of students face. He doesn't think that there are any problems in the resolution and he supports it.

**Senator Schlee** thanks him for his support.

**Senator Kwiatek** is a chemistry major and over her time has had many different courses in chemistry. General chemistry is more of a review class than organic chemistry and many other chemistry classes. Will this set a standard for the entirety of the chemistry department? It is not fair for the same standard to be applied to introductory classes and more intense analysis classes.

**Senator Farrell** had the same concerns. Senator Schlee's way to remedy this is that it would be a recommendation for the professors to follow. Most understand that the material in a 400 level class requires more leeway in the grady system.

**Senator Pelekasis** thanks Senator Schlee. It is evident that she cares a lot. She wants to know if it is up to the professor's discretion or the department. She also wants to know how being in the honors college will be determined as well as a double major.

**Senator Schlee** thanks her for her questions and currently professors use the scale given to them by the university. This resolution will make department wide standards so both students and professors have expectations and guidance. Honors is a really good point and there is a specific number of GPA points added because of the higher difficulty. The University finds that it makes sense and she doesn't know if it needs to be reflected. If it feels necessary in advocacy it can be worked through. Double majors are just like if you are taking two majors. If you are a politics and philosophy double major, ideally all politics classes would meet requirements for GPA and same

for philosophy. She hopes that this helps.

**Senator Birth** thanks Senator Schlee for bringing this to the floor. She is on the fence. Some students are not nearly into post graduation plans as she is. Are those areas noted in the conversation with the Dean and being looked into? Is the whole transcript going to be looked at or just the major classes? For advocacy sake it might be worth taking into account requesting classes that fall outside of the major. There are professors who deviate from the grading scale.

**Senator Schlee** thinks that in the conversation with the Dean it seems very possible and realistic. Classes outside of majors are very unlikely because you will not be looking that deep into things. No employer will be inquiring about what your theology requirements were, and if so you can always personally explain things to them. This is for classes across your major, which is a majority of classes. How would we keep professors in check who want to go rogue? We cannot control all professors and our university is great at academic freedom. There will always be someone who is unfair to work with and sometimes that is a professor. We can't control every professor, but we can give guidance.

**Senator Pelekasis** wants clarification. She wants to visualize the idea. If she is taking an econ and theology class would those be reflected in the GPA requirements or just her major classes?

**Senator Schlee** says that as stated in the second be it enacted clause, a student's major would be reflected. There is not going to be a grading scale for liberal arts requirements or classes outside students' major. The major is the most important.

Motion to vote by Senator Buckley and seconded by Senator Birth → Motion passes

Vote on Resolution 028 → Vote passes with 25 yay's and 0 nay's

#### **D. Senator Michels, School of Arts and Sciences (Resolution 031)**

**10:27 PM**

##### **i. A Resolution to Require Professors to Share Grades with Students**

**Senator Michels** begins his speech by noting that it is getting late and that he will keep this short. This is a straightforward resolution. He can speak confidently that each student here has taken a course where the professor did not release the grades until final grades came out. Some students have a pleasant grade while others may be disappointed. We have all been there at some point. In previous years, Senators have tried to compel professors to post on Blackboard, which has been ineffective. Lots of professors of an older age do not like Blackboard and struggle to use it. The resolution would be ineffective if it was asking for something smaller. However, Senator Michels thinks that what he is asking for in this resolution is perfectly reasonable. A professor is required to email students twice a semester with their grades and how they did with their assignments. Senator Michels does understand that there are some concerns with this resolution, but would like to hope that it is a stepping stone. In the next few months or next year, someone could create another resolution. This current resolution is a great place to start.

**Senator Holcomb** is thankful that Senator Michels is bringing this resolution to the floor and saw how hard he worked on it. A lot of his classes are in the music and drama department and his

professors have no reason to use BlackBoard. Having this system in place for students to check their grades would be really helpful. This resolution is a foot in the door and improves the future.

**Senator Michels** thanks Senator Holcomb for his comments.

**Senator Suarez** thanks Senator Michels for this resolution. She has one question: how specific would that email be? Would it outline all the assignments or will the email just have a grade?

**Senator Michels** responds to Senator Suarez by saying that the email will contain specific homework assignments and other graded assignments.

**Senator Pelekasis** is all for this resolution to help students. Students are held to a higher standard to turn in assignments on time and professors should be too. She does think a small addition could be added to this resolution. In the syllabus, a professor should clearly state how often they plan on updating their grade and the date they plan to email students, along with any other additional information on updating grades. By writing this information in the syllabus, it can help professors be held accountable.

**Senator Michels** thanks Senator Pelekasis for her great point and thinks this could be something the executive brings up during advocacy.

**Senator Sharpe** brings up that to save the stress of amendment, this could be something done in advocacy, as Senator Michels points out. As others in the past would know, this is a once a year exercise for the student body. He likes this resolution as it is a different approach and he supports it. In the past, he has witnessed that professors do not receive resolutions such as these well. The professors have different goals. This resolution is specifically for the professors who do not like to use BlackBoard. However, it should be noted that a lot of professors are good with updating grades. When a grade is posted, students get an email from BlackBoard. There is a small portion of professors who this resolution is affecting. That is the target population here.

**Senator Michels** thanks Senator Sharpe and notes his experience in advocating for legislation during his time as President last year.

**Senator Fahey** wants to bring up a quick point of support. This resolution will create the standard for professors. Last semester, she never received her final grade.

**Senator Michels** thanks Senator Fahey for her support.

Motion to vote on Resolution 031 by Senator Besendorfer, seconded by Senator Moore.

Motion to vote on Resolution 031 → Motion Passes

Vote on Resolution 031 → Vote passes with 23 Yays and 0 Nays.

## **5. Vice President, SGA Updates**

**10:39 PM**

**Vice President Wallace** reminds the Senators that they are required to attend the SGA Spring Orientation on Sunday, January 30th. Another additional point: the Menstrual Equity survey launched today. There has already been an impressive amount of responses. All women received the survey in their email today. If you did not receive an email with the link to the survey, it is



because you are a man. Please encourage friends and constituents to fill out the survey. Moving on, the SGA Advising report was finished over Christmas break and thirty pages long. If you need to meet with her, please let Vice President Wallace know. This week she will not be holding office hours but next week, she will be back to her regularly scheduled times. Lastly, Catholic U Leadership is hosting an event on February 2nd as one of their events at the Leadership Academy on empowerment. More information about it on the OCA website and their instagram page.

## **6. Open Floor**

**10:45 PM**

**Senator Besendorfer** speaks about an event where she will be a speaker on entrepreneurship. She started a business when taking a business management class. There will be lots of food and drinks and will happen on Thursday, February 3rd from 5:30-7 pm with CUAccel.

**Senator Birth** has a couple things to speak about. First thing, Orientation Advisor applications are open. This is a great leadership opportunity. Second, she is putting a self promotion about her speaking at her Dems office hours. She will be speaking on the topic of women incarceration and how pregnancy is dealt with in prison. It is happening tomorrow night.

**Senator Kwiatek** also brings up the discussion of Orientation Advisor applications. She thinks they are so much more fun than RA's and it is a lot of fun. She also adds that there are still spots open for the spring break service trips. She will be attending the West Virginia trip. For more information, contact Campus Ministry.

**Senator Fahey** talks about an upcoming resolution she is working on about allowing epi-pens in the Eatery. If any senators want to jump on board, please let her know.

## **7. Adjournment**

**10:46 PM**

Motion to Adjourn by Senator Farrell and seconded by Senator Schlee→ Motion Passes.

Voting on Adjournment→ Vote Passes.