



# The Catholic University of America Student Government Association 2021-2022 Senate Session 7-9

February 21st, 2022  
8:15 p.m. – 10:15 p.m. EST

## ROLL CALL

**Vice President** - Monica Wallace

**Secretary** – Jordan Gehrig

**Parliamentarian** - Mike McCabe

### **Class of 2022**

Gerald Sharpe \_\_\_\_\_

Alan Cunningham \_\_\_\_\_

### **Class of 2023**

Matthew Drauschak \_\_\_\_\_

Patricia Kwiatek   A  

### **Class of 2024**

Jamie Besendorfer \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew Michels \_\_\_\_\_

### **Class of 2025**

Maevis Fahey \_\_\_\_\_

Ashley Martin \_\_\_\_\_

### **School of Architecture**

Melissa Kazanci \_\_\_\_\_

Vacant \_\_\_\_\_

### **School of Arts and Sciences**

Maura Schlee \_\_\_\_\_

Garrett Farrell   A  

### **Busch School of Business**

Isabel Buckley \_\_\_\_\_

Raegan Lehman \_\_\_\_\_

### **School of Engineering**

Emily Bowman \_\_\_\_\_

Margaret Bubel   A  

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

Kyle Holcomb \_\_\_\_\_

Sophia Pelekasis \_\_\_\_\_

### **School of Nursing**

Brooke Lackey   A  

Christina Hermann   A  

### **School of Philosophy**

Michael Moore \_\_\_\_\_

Tony Crnkovich \_\_\_\_\_

### **School of Social Service**

Grace Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Vacant \_\_\_\_\_

### **School of Theology**

John Scott \_\_\_\_\_

Andrea Suarez \_\_\_\_\_

X- Here, A- Absent

**Key:**

**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

**Vice President Wallace tells Senate that Senator Jagiello resigned earlier today.**

**CALL TO ORDER -- ROLL CALL 8:15 PM**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE 8:16 PM**

**PRAYER 8:17 PM**

**Senator Crnkovich opens up the meeting in prayer.**

**1. Public Comment 8:20 PM**

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

**Emily is a freshman theology major here in support of Senator Suarez's resolution. While she is not personally affected by the lighting on campus, many of her friends are.**

**2. Adoption of Agenda 8:19 PM**

**Motion to adopt the agenda by Senator Moore and seconded by Senator Birth**

**Motion to adopt the agenda→ Passes**

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

**3. Approval of Minutes 8:20 PM A. Session 7-8 (February 7, 2022)**

Motion to approve by Senator Fahey and seconded by Senator Michels

Motion to approve the meeting minutes→ Motion Passes

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

#### **4. Committee Reports 8:21 PM**

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

**Senator Sharpe** mentions that Rules and Administration has met twice since the last Senate meeting and one time they were joined by Vice President Wallace. They are looking into codifying the long-standing practices for academic seats to be majors, not minors and class seats being in the class you represent for the entire year. They are also in the beginning stage of amending the bylaws to shorten the meeting or cut out fat to make meetings shorter or faster.

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

**Senator Schlee** thanks Vice President Wallace and the committee had a wonderful meeting on Valentine's Day. Two resolutions are being brought to the floor tonight. Her own resolution and Senator Crnkovich's resolution about raising writing center wages. There are three resolutions that are close to being ready.

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

**Senator Besendorfer** thanks Vice President Wallace. They met last Tuesday and put in a lot of hard work. She is working on putting printers in Opus as well as increasing communication for senior events. Today, Senator Suarez has her first resolution on the floor and she urges everyone to vote in favor.

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

**Senator Birth** mentions that Campus Life had another wonderful meeting last Tuesday. Senator Fahey met with administration for her Epi-Pen resolution and Senator Kwiatek is looking into getting a sports psychologist. She is still working on her resolution for students in a time of crisis and is hoping to bring that to the floor next meeting.

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

##### **A. Reserved Time - Senator Besendorfer, Class of 2024 8:26 PM** i. Discussion on the Tour of the Przybyla Center Dining Facilities

**Senator Besendorfer** helps oversee the Dining Service Advisory Board and is in constant contact with them. There has been a lot of attention with the DC Health Reports and student accounts. She did take a tour of the dining facilities with Senators Michels and Fahey joining her. They had great conversations with Mr. Bill Jonas. She was glad she took a tour because the inside perspective

was great and she got to see how staff worked and how resourceful they are. To clarify or explain things posted, there were no rats but there was a mice issue. Pest control and elimination companies were switched and this is only Chartwells second year so they did not know. Traps were not set during Thanksgiving or Christmas break. In January there was a mice issue and facilities came in two or three times a week. Now they only find one or two mice a week. The droppings could be from weeks ago. There will be measures put in place to make sure this does not happen during spring break. The droppings were on a shelf that was four feet high with nothing on it, but the actual droppings were on a shelf that was half an inch from the floor. She was very surprised about the cleanliness and organization of the dining facilities. It is a small place and proportionally the food to kitchen size does not match. The new chef Mr. Scott is very dedicated and they are really trying. To address the temperature issues, one person was fabricating the temperatures and retraining has happened. The protocol has changed to associates taking the temperature and managers checking it. The ice bed temperatures were not correct because the water was not filled up all the way so the water was not touching the containers to keep the food cold. The kitchen is on the bottom floor so food now has to be transported in a secure container. There is a lot of retraining going on and she does see a level of care and accountability with them. She is happy to share the new health inspection and encourages everyone to use all feedback sources.

**B. Senator Crnkovich, School of Philosophy (Resolution 035) 8:32 PM** i. A Resolution to Increase the Wage of Writing Center Tutors

**Senator Crnkovich** thanks Vice President Wallace. This resolution is asking to compensate the writing center for all of the hard work they do. They are fostering academic excellence in students and the writing center does so much for so many people. This rewards them for their work. In preparation, he met with the director of the writing center as well as other members of administration. The writing center was founded in 2013 and at \$12 an hour was the highest paying job on campus. This job has demanding labor and is an emotionally taxing job. There are real efforts and total concentration needed to help students and few people on campus can do what they do. You have to take a full three-credit class and there is a high entry threshold. He has benefited from their hard work himself. \$15 an hour will reflect the nature of their work. American University's writing center pays \$15.20 an hour and George Washington University pays \$16.50. This is about 37.5% more per hour. We need to stay competitive with other schools. Writing center tutors have a willingness to help their peers and help push academic excellence and make it a reality. He urges everyone to vote in favor.

**Senator Besendorfer** spoke about how before coming to college she used a lot of tutors and writing support resources. She remembers on her tour being told about the writing center and she now uses it. She has never felt a lack of support from the writing center and in fact, she knows she can be a pain to work with.

**Senator Fahey** thanks Senator Crnkovich for bringing this to the floor. She looks forward to supporting it. She does have a question about how many students the writing center employs and if this number has been static over Covid and if there are any budgeting concerns.

**Senator Crnkovich** responds that there are nine undergraduates and that number remains

constant and reflects the number of undergraduates at Catholic.

**Senator Besendorfer** adds that the number stays consistent and all of the information is on their website.

**Senator Schlee** thanks Vice President Wallace and Senator Crnkovich for bringing this forward tonight. This resolution is thoroughly researched and she is very proud of the work and is proud to co-sponsor it. Ensuring that no one would lose their job is always a concern. She loves the writing center and thinks they serve the community well.

**Senator Crnkovich** says that the possibility of decreasing workers was never mentioned in his meetings. On the contrary, this would encourage more students to apply. There is a \$3 raise per hour and with nine tutors at seven hours that is about \$189 per week. With 30 weeks, it is a little under \$6,000.

**Senator Besendorfer** mentions that her friend took a job at Orange Theory and gets paid \$17 an hour to sit behind a desk and also take a class. The writing center is a highly used service and the best of the best should be taking this job.

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

Vote on Resolution 035 → Vote passes with 19 yays and 0 nays

**C. Senator Sharpe, Class of 2022 (Resolution 036) 8:47 PM** i. A Resolution to Publicize the SGA Co-Op Library

**Senator Sharpe** thanks Vice President Wallace for letting this hit the floor. This is pretty straightforward. This is DNI and Gemma's project as well as the executive. He is not looking to take credit but to publicize this. Angie, Gemma, and the executive have worked very hard on this. The Co-Op was designed in a way of people donating and renting. If that is not happening the system fails. What better way to publicize it than a course syllabus? Professors cannot advertise other ways of buying books other than the bookstore, such as Amazon, due to our contract with the bookstore. While some professors may violate this they are legally not allowed to. The Co-Op does not sell anything, so there is no monetary transaction therefore it is clear of the contract. Professors will be eager to tell their students a more cost-effective way of acquiring textbooks.

**Senator Drauschak** thanks Vice President Wallace and believes that this is a great resolution. He wants to know the current size of the Co-Op in terms of the school's percentage of books. How many textbooks are from the Nursing School or the School of Arts and Science?

**Senator Sharpe** does not have school breakdown because textbooks are used across the board, for example, Aristotle's Ethics. The library got off late last semester and is doing very well.

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

Vote on Resolution 036 → Vote passes with 19 yay's and 0 nay's

**D. Senator Schlee, School of Arts & Sciences (Resolution 037) 8:55 PM** i. A Resolution to Ensure Safer Pedestrian Crossing

**Senator Schlee** thanks Vice President Wallace and the senators. She is really excited to bring this resolution to the floor. Every morning she walks this path and almost gets run over and sees others almost being run over as well. To save everyone the energy and confusion, look at the map labeled exhibit one. The blue line from Shahan to what she'll call the plaza grass area is where the crosswalk will be. The corner of the sidewalk is where Shahan will connect to the crosswalk so people can safely walk the route they already walk. To fill in the gaps if you do not walk this way, there are already crosswalks. One connects the library corner to the sidewalk there and the other is on the adjacent corner of Shahan and connects the sidewalk in the middle. Why do we need another one if there are already 2? Really really reckless drivers drive really fast rushing to get to class or sports. People are driving way too fast and pedestrians almost get hit by cars. This will make the area safer to walk around and more accessible.

**Senator Besendorfer** says that Senator Schlee said it all. She wants to add that Cardinal Preview Day was last weekend, and she was walking around two families on this path and they were jaywalking. A dad made a joke about it and coincidentally a car almost hit them. He said the blue light system can't save us now. It was really funny but concerning. It would not go well that a prospective student was almost hit and this was supposed to be the best day to show campus off.

**Senator Michels** mentions the stop sign being there and people still speeding.

**Senator Martin** thanks Senator Schlee. She wants to know if Senator Schlee had a meeting with anyone for feasibility.

**Senator Schlee** thanks Senator Martin for her question. She did not feel that she needed to meet with anyone specifically because it is easy to add and fairly cheap. It has been a few years since crosswalks have been painted. In the last in-person Senate meeting before Covid, they were talking about how it was not very difficult or out of the way to add on. She does not see it being a big issue.

**Senator Scott** wants to thank Vice President Wallace and Senator Schlee for bringing this resolution forward. It is annoying to no end that there is a paved path straight to that point and feels natural to cross at that point. He supports this resolution.

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

Vote on Resolution 037 → Vote passes with 19 yays and 0 nays

**E. Senator Suarez, School of Theology and Religious Studies (Resolution 038) 9:05 PM i.**  
A Resolution to Increase the Locations of Lighting on Campus

**Senator Suarez** thanks Vice President Wallace and her co-sponsors. She is happy to be up here presenting. Her first time on campus she noted the different safety measures like the Blue Light system and DPS. Campus was a safe space for her until the lighting issue caused her to be paranoid in the place she is supposed to call home. There is a fear of being injured or assaulted when she walks on campus at night. She has heard many stories for her constituents about lighting concerns. It can be intimidating getting those constant crime alert emails from DPS and then expected to walk around campus in poorly light conditions past dusk. The University has made it clear that the wellbeing and safety of its students and staff is the number one priority. She too would like to stress the importance of the necessity for one to feel safe on their own campus, especially when trying to make that initial transition to college. It is important and the administration's responsibility for students to feel safe on campus.

**Senator Martin** motions to amend.

**Senator Besendorfer** clarifies that the wording of John McCormack Road is John McCormack Street in the first be it enacted clause. It should read "... the sidewalk on John McCormack Road leading..."

Motion to amend the resolution by Senator Martin and seconded by Senator Besendorfer → motion passes

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

Motion to vote → Passes

Vote on the amendment itself → Passes

**Senator Birth** loves all the campus safety resolutions. This is Senator Suarez's first resolution and she has seen it through since the start. As an HSA doing walks at night, she can attest to this as well as working and returning late at night. She is scared of walking on John McCormack and would make her on foot commute to work much easier. Professors are dealing with the lighting issue as well. There are a lot of adjunct professors in the School of Social Service and a few of them are scared of walking to their car at night. Everyone has the right to feel safe. They should not have to dread coming to teach us. We like to think we have a relatively safe campus and people are entitled to feel safe and lighting is the way. She is proud of this resolution and burgers everyone to vote in favor.

**Senator Michels** echoes Senator Birth's remarks. This is a resolution for good safety measures and

there is no reason to vote no.

**Senator Pelekasis** thanks Vice President Wallace and thanks Senator Suarez for her hard work and passion. In the whereas clause, it lists a lot of different places such as Leahey and Caldwell but then not in the be it enacted clause. She had a frightening experience in front of Leahey and had someone actually chase her around campus. She wants to know why these places are not mentioned in the be it enacted clause and possibly making an amendment.

**Senator Suarez** thanks her and says she did not list it in the be it enacted because she thought only listing a few spots would be more accessible. Leahey is a re frequented and high traffic area and she wanted to take baby steps first and fix the areas that really needed it. She sees the concern and future resolutions can ask for more, but she wanted to start small.

**Senator Besendorfer** is sorry that she experienced that and it is traumatizing. It is a concern. Specific areas can be talked about and advocated for in meetings. Her idea was a broader picture and indicating targeted areas,

**Senator Fahey** thanks Senator Suarez for bringing this to the floor. When she walks to the DuFour Center early in the morning or late at night, she can very clearly see the places where it is light or dark. Some of her teammate's choice of living on campus was based around the lighting so they do not have to walk to the DuFour in the dark. This resolution is comprehensive and she looks forward to supporting it.

**Senator Schlee** thanks Vice President Wallace and Senator Suarez. She really does appreciate the hard work and knows it takes a lot. She did take a late night walk last week and her experience is that the Law School lawn is fairly light as well as Aquinas, Pangborn, and the CUA Metro stop. Some of these areas are in the long whereas clause and it might not be taken as seriously in the advocacy process. Senator Birth had the great point of professors leaving at night and parking lots behind O'Boyle needing to be well lit.

**Senator Besendorfer** totally gets how it looks intimidating. Senator Suarez narrowed down target spots in the second be it enacted clause. When she walks back after dinner she genuinely does now feel like the Law School lawn is light well.

**Senator Michels** agrees and hears the concern. This can all be cleared up in advocacy and presented in a way it will be received well.

**Senator Scott** wants to keep it brief. He thanks Senator Suarez. We do have deer that come onto campus but remembers his sophomore year walking back to Centennial Village around three in the morning and not being able to see in front of him. He looked up and about how far Senator Morre is sitting from him, there was a stag with his antlers pointing at him. Clearly nothing happened thankfully, but it is a real issue and there was a chance that encounter could've gone the other way. This is something that could be brought up in advocacy.



**Senator Suarez** thanks Senator Scott and agrees she has seen a deer around one in the morning and knows how it feels. You should not be concerned that a deer would attack you.

**Senator Crnkovich** thanks Vice President Wallace and Senator Suarez. For advocacy sake areas of Harewood Road are very dark and the sidewalk is narrow and cars go very fast.

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

Vote on Resolution 038 → Vote passes with 19 yay's and 0 nay's

## **5. Vice President, SGA Updates 9:26 PM**

**Vice President Wallace** is wowed at how quick this meeting was. It was a midterm blessing from God. It was a wild time and thank you because everyone appreciates this. The resolutions were well put together and researched. If you have a recommendation to fill Senator Jag's seat, send Abby an email. There are so few senate meetings left and it can be trickier to get someone in the position fast. The next meeting will be Match 14 because of spring break. She encourages anyone who wants their resolution to be on that day to tell her as soon as possible. It is first come first serve and if you give it to her a week before it will more than likely not be on the agenda. If you passed a resolution see Phil to film. Vice President Wallace wishes everyone good luck in their midterms.

## **6. Open Floor 9:28 PM**

**Senator Schlee** mentions that this weekend the Mock Trial team moved on from regionals to the next competition for the first time. She thanks the Treasury Board for funding them all the times they have come for funding and the Busch School for letting them take the top floor the entire weekend. This is a huge deal as the club is only four years old and she might come back as a coach after graduation.

**Senator Moore** will be away in Poland over spring break and if anyone has any specific prayer intentions let him know.

**Senator Suarez** thanks Vice President Wallace and thanks everyone for both a short meeting and helping her with her first resolution and passing it.

**Senator Sharpe** jokes about filibustering for an hour. There are a lot of talks about safety and the resolutions tonight reflect that. Some people might not know that DPS is available to drive anyone from one place to another and the RA on call as well as the Community Directors are available. He

wants everyone to be safe.

**Senator Besendorfer** echoes what Senator Sharpe said. DPS is always there to help and has even sat with her when she went to the hospital.

**Senator Drauschak** on a completely unrelated note is looking into extending the intramural basketball program by five weeks, so if anyone is interested in that, let him know.

## **7. Adjournment 9:32 PM**

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

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