



**The Catholic University of America  
Student Government Association  
2016-2017 Senate Session (2-5)**

Pryzbyla, Great Room A

December 5, 2016

8:00pm-10:00pm

**ROLL CALL**

Vice President- Lauren Werling  
Senate Secretary- Elyse Desrochers  
Parliamentarian- Zanas Talley

**SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**

Krishia Anne Examen \_X\_  
Cornelius Deep \_X\_

**Class of 2017**

Julia Lattarulo \_X\_  
Marjan Koffa \_X\_

**School of Engineering**

Joe Longo \_X\_  
Cameron Konyak \_X\_

**Class of 2018**

Grace Gosnear \_P\_  
Brianna Howard \_X\_

**School of Music**

Aaron Mackisey \_X\_  
Marika Countouris \_A\_

**Class of 2019**

John Connolly \_X\_  
Jimmy Harrington \_X\_

**School of Nursing**

Sophie Lazicki \_X\_  
Patrycja Chmielewska \_P\_

**Class of 2020**

Elise LaFleur \_X\_  
Weston Kirby \_X\_

**School of Philosophy**

Gregory Guilfoyle \_X\_  
Ron Howard \_X\_

**School of Architecture & Planning**

Nicholas Procino \_X\_  
Robert Sabbagh \_X\_

**School of School of Social Services**

Frank Gaetani \_X\_  
Patricia Halloran \_X\_

**School of Art and Science**

Andrew Elder \_X\_  
Kately Javier \_P\_

**School of Theology and Religious Studies**

Marykate McCracken \_X\_  
Rory Kacy Martinez \_X\_

NOTE: Below is an agenda of all items scheduled to be considered for the present meeting. Notification is hereby provided 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.

Any legislative business being presented has been provided to the Vice President at least 24 prior to tonight's meeting and to all other members of the Senate at least 12 hours in advance of 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**

**8:01PM**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**8:02PM**

**PRAYER**

**8:03PM**

### **1. Public Comment**

**8:05 PM**

A. Public comment will be taken at the start of the session. Comments will be limited to one minute per person. Persons making comment will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record, and if applicable naming the college or organization they represent. The Senate may elect to allow additional public comment on a specific agenda item at the end of the session. 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.

#### **Public Comment- 8:04PM**

Sean Calabria

- Student Panel is being introduced by Senator Elder tonight, it is good legislation, but there is already infrastructure for this, committee hearings. Committee hearings are outline in the bylaws and have not yet happen.
- CUA Homefront is a new on campus organization, invites all to be involved, aims to support veterans.

James Benedek

- A few senators approached him about transparency of budget as a whole. Would like to know more about the SGA budget?
  - Specifics can be addressed to the Treasurer, all of our accounts are updated on the Nest.
- What is the status of the pieces of legislation that have passed?
  - VP reply: Resolution 001 was brought to the provost; they were unable to implement it in this year but are looking at it for future presidential elections

- Resolution 002, The administration has been looking into placing street signs on campus, they are hiring a consulting firm to look at signage on campus.
- Resolution 003, SGA t-shirts have been ordered and delivered.
- Resolution 004 regarding tuition guarantee is still being worked on in committee.
- Resolution 005 requesting modification for hours on Mullen, will be presented on the floor tonight.
- All resolutions are noted on the website.
- President reply: When legislation is passed, it gets sent to whoever has respective jurisdiction over it. Reporting will be done as things are finalized and become concrete.
- Senator Mackisey reply: Senators typically inform their constituents of the status of
- Asked about the status of canceled meetings in November.
  - VP Response: Bylaws requires us to have a meeting once a month. Two were scheduled for November, the second was cancelled because of no new business and because Senators would be unable to make it.
- Asks that Senators continue to ask question similar to his to the executive branch.

Dr. Weitz, History Department

- Senator Elder brought to his attention a proposal for a meditation/chapel room. He fully supports this proposal because it includes all groups and serves our mission as the Catholic University of America.

Father Jude

- Senator Elder came to him concerning the meditation room. Does not believe an ecumenical mediation room is the way to go, but believes a Catholic chapel can be designed in a way that allows for members of other faiths to participate in

## **2. Adoption of Agenda**

**8:15 PM**

### **Adoption of Agenda- 8:17PM**

Agenda is approved

Motion to extend session by an hour by Elder seconded by Mackisey  
Motion fails

Point of order by Mackisey: How much did the motion fail by?  
21 needed, only 15 voted yay

## **3. Approval of Minutes**

**8:20 PM**

Monday, November 7, 2016 (2-4)

### **Approval of minutes- 8:19PM**

Minutes are approved

## **4. Reports**

**8:25PM**

### **Reports- 8:19 p.m.**

#### **A. Career Services- Anthony Chiappetta**

- Reintroduce career services: Career Services is now located in 102 McMahon
- Seeking to reach out to first and second year students with advising services, make better decisions concerning their areas of interest.
- Services provided are for all students for future education and career goals.

- Employers have been reaching out to Career Services more.
- Created new programs- has expanded for credit internship programs with honors program and CAS, expanded externships and piloting programs, created online tutorials, using peer advisors, update Hire a Cardinal, collecting better data on what is going on for students.
- Seeking to expand the quality of services available and develop better on-campus relationships.
- Make professional exploration occur earlier for students.
- Looking for student organizations to cooperate for organized activities and programs together.

Senator Howard- Point of Inquiry

- Can you elaborate on Peer Advisory Committee?
- Reply: Student Peer Advisors are volunteers who market and provide services to students on campus. Career Services is seeking to expand this program and work better with students who have different interests.

#### **B. Rules and Administration Committee- Senator Harrington**

##### **Rules and Administration Committee-Senator Harrington**

- Please follow Robert's rule of order and do not use technology during meetings.

#### **C. Academic Affairs Committee- Senator Mackisey**

##### **Academic Affairs Committee- Senator Mackisey**

- Senator Lattarulo resigned from Committee effective our last meeting.
- Resolution 005 was revised and revisions are reflected in the e-mail copy you received last night.
- Senator Connolly continues sponsorship of 005 and will be presenting it later.

#### **D. Student Services Committee- Senator Elder**

##### **Student Services Committee- Senator Elder**

- Tuition plan and legislation will be tabled until next semester

#### **E. Student Life Committee- Senator Longo**

##### **Student Life Committee- Senator Longo**

- No new updates

Senator Mackisey- Point of inquiry

- Attendance in committee meetings have been low
- Please go to committee meetings because generally it is when most of the work gets done.

#### **F. Dining and Pryzbyla Center Committee- Senator B. Howard**

##### **Senator B. Howard- Dining and Pryzbyla Center Committee**

- Senator Konyak resigned from committee as of our last meeting.
- Next committee event will be the meeting with Dining and Pryz Services to discuss food options on campus.

## **5. Unfinished Business**

**A. Senator John Connolly, Class of 2019 (Reserved Time)**

**8:40 PM**

**\*\*Unfinished business is any agenda item that was under discussion at the time that the previous meeting adjourned or postponed to the current meeting. \*\***

**Unfinished Business- 8:34 p.m.**

Senator Connolly

- Plans to bring forth legislation that aims to improve wellbeing and safety at the university
- Individuals have been motorized scooters around campus
- There is a risk for those who ride them and students walking in the campus.
- They have disobeyed stop signs, drive wrong way, etc.
- Urge Dept. of Public Safety to enforce rules for motorized bikes as they would cars.
- Possible adding a crosswalk from architecture building to Father O'Connell lot.

Senator Elder- Point of inquiry

- Supports this proposal, near Gibbons is one way street, a lot of times people go the wrong way and he has personally seen some cars go the wrong way.

Senator LaFleur- Point of inquiry

- Would like express support for this proposal

**6. New Business**

**A. Senator John Connolly, Class of 2019 (Resolution 005)**

**8:50 PM**

**Resolution 005- Senator Connolly- 8:40 p.m.**

- Concerning hours of Mullen Library
- Main point of the legislation is to provide students with study space from Sunday evening to Monday morning.

Senator Mackisey- Point of inquiry

- Supports this resolution
- Was amended in committee so that there would be no additional cost to the library because it does not add hours, but changes hours

Senator Howard- point of clarification

- Will it be no additional cost is because it is changing one night to be 24/7?
- Reply: It would change the 24 hours on Saturday evening- Sunday morning to Sunday evening to Monday morning

Motion to vote by Senator Lattarulo, seconded by Senator Elder  
Resolution 005 passes unanimously

**B. Senator Andrew Elder, School of Arts & Sciences (Resolution 006) 9:00 PM**

**Resolution 006- Senator Elder 8:45 p.m.**

- Concerning a prayer/meditation room
- Idea is to create a meditation/prayer room for people of all faiths

Senator Mackisey- Point of Inquiry

- Likes the idea of a meditation room, his parents work on a non-religious university that has great meditation rooms. Will a meditation/chapel happen if campus ministry is against?
- Reply: Everyone must work together.
- Even so, what happens if campus ministry says no?
- Reply: If they say no, and they may not because Elder has been working closely with this issue, that Elder will attempt to compromise.
- Does Father Jude support the meditation room?

Motion to suspend rules to allow Fr. Jude to speak by Senator Connolly, seconded by Senator Procino

This motion passes unanimously

Elise LaFleur and John Connolly left at 8:50, returned at 8:53

Father Jude has the floor

- A decision like this would go to the President and the Board of Trustees
- Says he disagrees on certain points with Senator Elder
- For a number of years, Muslim students have remarked that they would like a place to pray. CUA has tried to accommodate them by making empty rooms available.
- Attempted to create a St. Francis chapel that would allow for those of all faiths to pray. St. Francis is significant because he met and has a dialogue with a well-known Muslim leader.
- Does not believe that an ecumenical chapel would take place, but a chapel that is Catholic could be possible.
- CUA leaders have encouraged Muslim students to pray in chapels and there are prayer rugs.

Senator Longo- Point of Inquiry

- How does this chapel differ from Caldwell Chapel when Mass is not occurring?
- Reply: It would be different in its dedication (to St. Francis), would not house the blessed sacrament, and would not hold any services.

Senator Connolly- Point of Inquiry

- Would dedicating it to a saint would it prevent someone from practicing their religion.
- Reply: Does not believe this would be an issue.

Senator Mackisey- Point of Inquiry

- Would there be a crucifix in the room?
- Reply: He does not believe a crucifix in the room. There would be Judeo-Christian scripture, no other scripture that is held by other religions.
- Is there a space in mind?
- Reply: No, and space is the greatest issue.

Senator LaFleur- Point of Inquiry

- Would there be an issue with funding?
- Reply: No, he does not think so because the goal of the room would be simplicity.

Senator Konyak- Point of Inquiry

- Would it be similar to the chapel in Opus Hall?
- Reply: No, because the Chapel in Opus holds the blessed sacrament.

#### Senator Howard- Point of Inquiry

- How do you maintain a catholic atmosphere without making people feel uncomfortable?
- Reply: We are not putting the chapel for people of different faiths, it would be a chapel dedicated to a Saint. The decor will play an important role, there would not be a lot of statues. Simplicity is key. Father Jude cannot guarantee how another person would interpret a room. When dealing with the CUA, we can bend but not break Catholic policy.
- In the simplicity of the design, could it be interpreted as a room for a certain faith?
- Reply: The chapel name will remain dedicated to St. Francis, but CUA cannot control how people discuss it colloquially. Does not believe it should be referred to as a meditation room, must be a Catholic chapel.

Motion to reinstate the rules by Senator Mackisey, seconded by Senator Harrington  
This motion passes, rules are reinstated

#### Senator Martinez- Point of Inquiry

- There is a catholic approach that can make all comfortable. There are a number of professors who are uncomfortable with this idea within the Theology department. Believes there is a better way to establish a room of this nature.

#### Senator Lazicki- Point of Inquiry

- Did you have any design and location ideas in mind?
- Reply: That is up to the administration.
- Should we propose certain areas?
- Reply: A lot of spaces on campus are prestigious, so it is difficult to request certain services.

#### Senator Connolly- Point of Inquiry

- Believes this is a great idea
- We might be CUA, but as Senators were represent students of all faiths, all creeds, and all beliefs.

#### Senator Elder- Point of Inquiry

- Have been doing a lot of compromising, is not against compromising and is willing to discuss issues.

#### Senator Mackisey- Point of Inquiry

- Agrees with Senator Connolly
- It appears that there is a lot more compromise to be made

Motion to move this resolution to the Student Life committee so that compromises can happen under their jurisdiction by Senator Mackisey seconded by Senator Lattarulo  
This motion passes, Senator Ron Howard abstains

This resolution will be moved to Student Life

**Resolution 007- 9:11 p.m.**

- Concerning extending hours of the Pryz until 2 a.m. on academic weeknights
- VP: Goal was to give the administration two options for studying spaces- either the library or the pryz

Senator Connolly- Point of Inquiry

- Supports giving the administration two potential options

Senator Procino- Point of Inquiry

- There is a security issue. If they do extends the hours, how would they go about making security.

Senator Longo- Point of Inquiry

- DPS would be required to go and lock the Pryz at the agreed time.

VP: Murphy's cannot be opened up solely, all of the Pryz must be opened up (for bathrooms and exits).

Senator LaFleur- Point of Inquiry

- Supports this resolution over the Library.

Senator Howard- Point of Inquiry

- I think it's possible to implement both.

Senator Mackisey- Point of Inquiry

- Resolution 005 was amended so that it could work in tandem with this bill. It is not mutually exclusive.

Senator Harrington- Point of Inquiry

- What would be the cost?
- Reply: No, we do not have an exact number.
- Contracts are already set; it may be difficult to change. Does not see the feasibility of this proposal.
- Reply: Cleaning of the space should not affect people studying. She cannot see cost being an issue.

Senator Elder- Point of Inquiry

- Will the entire Pryz center be open?
- Reply: DPS would evaluate that.
- Will the front desk workers be working until 2 a.m.?
- Reply: That will be at the discretion of Pryz. management.

Senator Lattarulo- Point of Inquiry

- Would the food court be open?

Reply: The food gates will be locked, only the table will be available for students to study.

Call to question of Resolution 007, no objection

Motion to vote by Senator Elder, seconded by Senator Connolly  
This vote passes 25 yays, 1 nay by Senator Harrington, 0 abstain.

**Motion to re-vote properly on Resolution 005- 9:25 p.m.**

Call to question of Resolution 005, no objection

Motion to re-vote by Senator Mackisey, second by Senator Connolly  
Resolution 005 passes unanimously

**D. Senator John Connolly, Class of 2019 (Resolution 008)**

**9:20 PM**

**Senator Connolly, Resolution 008- 9:28PM**

- Resolution to restrict dates of midterm
- Purpose to relieve stress of midterms for students and faculty
- Restrict midterm period to two weeks.
- Reinforce the way the academic calendar is set because students face stress because midterms are scattered.

Motion to send resolution 008 to Academic Affairs Committee by Senator Mackisey seconded by Senator Lattarulo.

Senator Connolly- Point of clarification

- Could we allow for questions prior to motion?
- Senator Mackisey rescinds his motion to allow for debate.

VP: This has been suggested to the President and Provost in previous meetings and they are willing to work with SGA on something similar to our legislation.

Senator Harrington- Point of Inquiry

- The only issue he perceives is when professors seek to do both an early midterm and late midterm.
- Reply: If there is a designated midterm period, it would keep midterms contained within a two-week period rather than spread out.
- Would this option stressed out students more?
- Reply: The goal would be to limit work outside of the midterms. We would leave this up to the administration.

Senator LaFleur: - Point of Inquiry

- As a cosponsor of this bill, she strongly supports it. Believes the resolution deserves the due time and attention. By moving this to committee, she believes this is a positive step in the right direction.

Senator Howard- Point of Inquiry

- Should midterm exams be set at a certain time like finals? Would this cost more to technologically services?
- Reply: We wouldn't necessarily have to structure it like final exams. It would be up to the provost.
- Do you know of any other universities who set their midterm periods?

- VP reply: Yes, a number of other universities set their midterms like finals.
- Would this cause professors who did not assign midterms start to assign midterms?
- Reply: He is not a professor; he cannot say for sure.

Motion to move this resolution 008 to Academic Affairs Committee by Senator Mackisey, seconded by Senator Lazicki.

Motion passes, Resolution 008 moves to committee.

**E. Senator Andrew Elder, School of Arts & Sciences (Resolution 009) 9:30 PM**

**Senator Elder- Resolution 009- 9:43PM**

- Concerning the student panel.
- Goal of the student panel is to get students more involved in SGA activities.

Senator Mackisey- Point of Inquiry

- We should not pass this. It's our job to talk to our constituents, we don't need a piece of legislation for Senators to be our job. We need to encourage The Tower to report on the issues.

Senator Lafleur- Point of Inquiry

- There was someone here tonight from The Tower who has been informed of what is occurring.
- Reply (S. Mackisey): The Tower should not be getting information from Senators, they should be coming.

Senator Harrington - Point of Inquiry

- Does not understand what the purpose of the panel is for.
- Reply: This is to take it a step further.
- What do you envision it to be?
- Reply: A panel that encourages involvement.

Motion to table resolution 009 to be sent to committee by Senator Harrington, seconded by Senator Konyak

This motion passes, one nay by Senator Procino, 0 abstain.

**F. Senator Nicholas Procino, School of Architecture (Reserved Time) 9:40 PM**

**Senator Procino Reserved Time- 9:51 p.m.**

Senator Procino motions to extend meeting by an hour to finish only scheduled agenda items, seconded by Senator Mackisey

Motion fails with only 14 yays

Senator Procino

- Covered bike racks are needed to prevent bikes from becoming rusted.

Senator Howard- Point of Inquiry

- One of the task forces had fundraising to do water stations. What if we did that for covered bike racks?

- Reply: fundraising is going to be key, we can work on that with the Executive.

**G. Senator Aaron Mackisey, School of Music (Reserved Time)**

**9:50 PM**

Senator Mackisey

- Seeks to censure Senator Elder for the following reasons- misled body about his resolution about meditation/chapel room, usurp duty of VP, unduly falsified support by Senators, put his own self-interest and interests of outside voices.

Senator Konyak- Point of Inquiry

- What is a censure?
- Reply: Subsection 6 of the bylaws, a censure is a “slap on the wrist”, only when a Senator receives two censures are Senators suspended.

Senator Howard- Point of Inquiry

- Please clarify your third point and she believes the accusations of personal bias is too strong.

Senator Mackisey- Response

- Usurp of duty- Senator Elder had gone over the head of the executive. One specific incident is attempting to use graphic designers after being told not to.
- Stands by his accusation of personal bias.

Senator Elder- Response

- Did not know he was not allowed to contact the graphic designers, was later notified to go through Pat Fandel, and he stopped reaching out to the graphic designer.

Senator Howard- Point of Inquiry

- I think we should also evaluate Andrew as a human being. He is dedicated to the work he is doing.

Senator Mackisey- Response

- He says he is not attacking Elder’s dedication. His dedication in presenting legislation is quite clear, but he questions the intent behind it.

Senator Longo- Point of Inquiry

- He supports this censure because it brings this issues several people are having to our attention.

Senator Elder- Response

- The two pieces of legislation he circulated, here was a disclaimer at the bottom that the names supporting the legislation needed to be checked.

Senator Mackisey- Response

- The reason he brought this up is because another Senator was concerned her name was on the legislation.

Senator Elder- Point of Inquiry

- Censure should not have been the first route taken, communication should have been brought up.

VP: Is this a vote of no confidence? If not, censure must go through the Rules and Administration Committee before being presented to the Senate, according to our bylaws. Therefore, Senator Mackisey will need to work with Senator Harrington's committee.

Senator Mackisey- Response

- This was not an attempt to blindside Senator Elder.

Senator Elder- Response

- Your censure sets a precedent that the first option is to "attack" a Senator rather than communicate.

VP: since we will not be moving forward in this session with the censure, all debate will end. Senator Mackisey, or any other senator, if you wish to move forward please present your resolution to Senator Harrington who will take up the matter with his committee.

## **7. Open Floor**

**9:55 PM**

Senator Konyak- Point

- Is resigning and would like to extend her best wishes for SGA.

## **8. Adjournment**

**10:00 PM**

Motion to adjourn by Senator Connolly seconded by Senator Longo  
Passes unanimously

**Session adjourned- 10:12 p.m.**

\*\*Resolution Reference: 005- Library Hours, 006-Chapel Meditation Room, 007-Pryz Hours, 008- Midterm Reform, 009- Student Panel\*\*