



# The Catholic University of America Student Government Association 2016-2017 Senate Session (2-7)

Pryzbyla, Great Room A

January 23, 2017

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

Devon O'Toole \_X\_  
Marjan Koffa \_A\_

### School of Engineering

Joe Longo \_X\_  
Olivia Giangiordano \_X\_

### Class of 2018

Andrew Nagode \_X\_  
Brianna Howard \_X\_

### School of Music

Aaron Mackisey \_X\_  
Elizabeth Andrews \_X\_

### Class of 2019

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

### School of Nursing

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

### Class of 2020

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

### School of Philosophy

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

### School of Architecture & Planning

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

### School of School of Social Services

Matt Finely \_X\_  
Patricia Halloran \_X\_

### School of Art and Science

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

### 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**

**8:01 PM**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**8:02 PM**

**PRAYER**

**8: 03 PM**

## **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- 8:04 PM**

Sean Calabria, Junior-School of Arts and Sciences

- Discussing CUA Homefront
- First general meeting is next week

## **2. Adoption of Agenda**

**8:15 PM**

### **Adoption of Agenda- 8:05 PM**

Motion to amend Agenda by Senator Harrington, seconded by Senator Connolly

- To add in swearing in of new Senate confirmations
- All in favor, motion passes unanimously

Motion to adopt agenda by Senator Connolly, second by Senator Harrington

- All in favor, motion passes unanimously

### **3. Approval of Minutes**

**8:20 PM**

Wednesday, January 11, 2017 (2-6)

#### **Approval of Minutes- 8:06 PM**

Motion to approve minutes by Senator Connolly, second by Senator Longo

- All in favor, motion passes unanimously

### **4. Confirmation of Senate Appointments**

**8:25 PM**

#### **Confirmation of Senators - 8:07 p.m.**

Olivia Giangiordano, School of Engineering

- Sophomore, engineering major, has leadership roles in the society for women engineers, engineers without borders and biomedical engineering club
- Motion to confirm by Senator Lafleur, second by Senator Procino
- All in favor, motion passes unanimously

Point of order- Senator Harrington

- Do we need to roll call vote?
- Answer: Discretion of VP

Point of order- Senator Elder

- What about other new senators?
- They were confirmed at the last meeting, just need to be sworn in.

### **5. Swearing in of Senators**

Swearing in of Senators- 8:08 PM

### **6. Reports**

**8:35 PM**

#### **Reports- 8:08 PM**

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

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

- In process of revamping bylaws
- If you have a question whether a proposed bill is constitutional, Rules and Admin are happy to meet.

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

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

- Set standards for attendance within his committee
- Members will be meeting with their respective dean in upcoming weeks to establish relations, begin working on Town Halls
- Resolution 008 was discussed in committee; no vote has been taken yet.
- Resolution 009 was voted down in committee.

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

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

- Will be allowing committee members to speak on their issues at Senate Sessions
- Postal services shadow program will be initiated; the mail room is working on updating student housing list
- Speaking with OAs so that postal services is involved during orientations
- Trying to find more space for storage for mail
- Counseling center hired a new person, is starting a sexual assault survivor support group, drop-in discussions for WOC at CUA, outreach to students, especially concerning sexual violence, increasing online resources, asks senators to provide more feedback.

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

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

- Will be reworking on the chapel room resolution with Theology departments
- Set up meeting with DPS to discuss possibility of cameras in elevators
- Meeting was held to discuss motor bikes on campus, more updates to come
- Meeting with DPS and Housing is upcoming

## **E. Dining and Pryzbyla Services Committee- Senator B. Howard**

### **Dining and Pryz Services Committee- Senator B. Howard**

- First spring DSAB dinner is February 2 @ 5p.m.in quiet room there will be a Q&A with dining services. Free food!
- VP says Dining Services is highly receptive to questions and concerns so please come ask.

## **7. Unfinished Business**

### **A. Senator Aaron Mackisey, School of Music (Resolution 010)**

**9:00 PM**

#### **Resolution 010 presentation- 8:19 PM**

Resolution concerning the motion of censure regarding Chairmen Elder

Statement from Senator Harrington

- In a closed hearing before the senate committee on rules and administration it was found in a vote of 4 yays 1 nay and 1 abstention that Senator Andrew Elder's censure proceedings should go forward.

- In regards made to the separate points of the resolution, it was found that Chairman Elder had shown some disregard for Senate rules, procedures, and its committee structure.
- It was also found that Chairman Elder had circumvented the authority and duty of the Office of the Vice President in at least one instance.
- It was determined that Chairman Elder purposely misled the body at the November 7th meeting regarding the Chapel Meditation Room.
- In regards the final charge, which read “*Chairman Elder has willfully put his own self-interest and personal bias (as well as those of outside voices) ahead of his Constitutional duty. That he has used his position in an attempt to enact the personally vindictive, and disruptive agenda of those who seek to dismantle and under the Student Government Association of the Catholic University of America.*” the committee unanimously decided to strike this point. Although this proved to be true and did have an effect on Senator Elder’s role and performance in the Senate, the committee removed the point in hopes of the Senate focusing on the other points and Senator Elder moving on from these old ways.
- Senator Harrington encourages the senate to consider the decision of the committee in its deliberations, while also noting that Senator Elder is amongst the hardest working members of this body and one who has worked hard for his constituents.

Point of inquiry- Senator McCracken

- What’s a censure?
- VP: Censures are presented to Rules and Admin, both parties were allowed to speak, the committee deliberated. It passed in committee, so it goes to the floor. Censures are a reprimanding but there are no formal consequences

Point of order- Senator Mackisey

- Which whereas was amended in the censure, am I correct?
- Senator Lafleur- the second point was amended and the final whereas was removed

Point of inquiry- Senator B Howard

- Why was meeting closed?
- VP: Senator Harrington decided it would be closed, in part because the back and forth on the senate floor wasn’t conducive to our work

Motion to have a vote by Senator Harrington, seconded by Senator Longo

- Senators Elder, Javier, and B. Howard all vote NAY on the motion. Senator R. Howard abstains.

Point of order- Senator Elder

- Can we have the new Senators not vote on the issue as they are unaware of certain things that happened last semester?

Point of Order-Senator Mackisey

- New members do have the option to abstain.
- VP: all senators will vote, regardless of when they were sworn in.

Motion to vote by Senator Harrington, seconded by Senator Longo  
1 yay-14 nay- 9 abstentions  
This resolution fails

## 8. New Business

### A. Senator Aaron Mackisey, School of Music (Resolution 011)

9:10 PM

#### Resolution 011- 8:31 PM

Resolution to increase usability of the counseling center

Point of inquiry- Senator Connolly

- Supports this bill as someone who has benefitted from the counseling center
- With this election, some students have experienced increased anxiety and fear, so this would be a good thing

Point of Inquiry-Senator Harrington

- Does not support a kangaroo economy that this would create.
- Response (Mackisey): Understands concern, like with any good bank, the counseling center would be able to manage the program efficiently and in a cost-effective manner.
- Response (Harrington): How many people use the counseling center?
- Response (Elder): 680 appointments per month.
- Response (Harrington): Concerned that the number of hours available for use will sky rocket.
- Response (Mackisey): Asking the university to continue to allow people to use their hours, not keep the counseling center open.
- Response (Longo): The question isn't hours it's sessions

Point of inquiry- Senator Kirby

- There's a typo in the resolution.
- Motion to amend the typo by Senator Kirby, second by Senator Javier
- This motion passes unanimously

Point of inquiry- Senator Lafleur

- We need to take another look at the feasibility of this in the long term.
- Recommends sending it to Elder's committee for review
- Advises senators speak with Senator Halloran as she works with the counseling center

Point of Inquiry- Senator Halloran

- Would recommend speaking with the person who runs the counseling center
- They are currently hiring another post-doc, so this would need to be included
- Master list already exists of student appointments
- Motion to send this to student services, motion is rescinded to allow other members to speak

Point of inquiry- Senator Chmielewska

- Eventually the bank will grow too large, but this could be controlled by limiting transfer of sessions by semester.

Point of inquiry- Senator Connolly

- Supports underlying intent, but this isn't feasible
- No student should get to max of their sessions and not be able to reach counseling.

Point of inquiry- Senator Elder

- Recommends talking to the director of the counseling center and the academic affairs
- 45 sessions are a lot; the national average is 15 sessions or less.

Point of Inquiry- Senator Javier

- How is this feasible? The issue with having more sessions is that we don't have enough counselors or hours.

Point of order- Senator Howard

- How many could a person get per semester?
- Answer (Mackisey): A person could add 10 extra counseling sessions per semester.

Point of order- Senator Elder

- Staffing is an issue
- Reads an e-mail from a non-disclosed source about the limited staff.

Point of order- Senator Procino

- Tuition is an issue.
- How much do we spend per student on counseling?
- Answer: We don't have the answers

Point of order- Senator Chmielewska

- Do we have enough counselors to have all students use all 45 sessions?

Motion to send to committee by Senator Elder and seconded by Senator Procino

- All in favor, motion passes unanimously

## **9. Open Floor**

**9:20 PM**

### **Open Floor- 9:00 PM**

Senator Connolly

- On CUAllies, Allies is going to seek recognition and will be seeking a resolution so that SGA would support the resolution. Please let him know if you'd like to co-sponsor

Point of inquiry- Senator Javier

- As senators, are we allowed to present legislation that is not in our committee?

- VP: You can work on things outside of committee. The reasons committee exist is to provide support in the process of writing legislation.
- Could Mackisey contact Counseling center?
- VP: Communication should go between Elder, Halloran, and Mackisey concerning the counseling center resolution, which is did. Proper protocol was followed.

Point of inquiry- Senator Kirby

- Advocates clarification between what ministry is doing and what allies as an official group with be.
- Response (Connolly): There are differences between the aims of ministry and CUAllies. Ministry is more faith based while CUAllies is about general support for people who have experience homophobia/transphobia

Point of inquiry- Senator Lafleur

- Encourages those who represent their class should think of ways to outreach to their class.

VP announcements

- Cultural Leadership Retreat deadline has been extended, consider going
- Next meeting February 6th
- Respond to your e-mails

Motion to send resolution 011 to committee

- Clarification- motion as tabled in last vote which just moves it to the end of the agenda to then be reconsidered. Legislation is now being motioned to be sent to committee.
- Motion by Senator Mackisey, second by Senator Chmielewska
- All in favor, motion passes unanimously

**10. Adjournment**

Adjournment- 9:11 p.m.

**10:00 PM**