



**The Catholic University of America
Student Government Association
2016-2017 Senate Session (2-9)**

Pryzbyla, Great Room A

February 20, 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 __X__

School of Engineering

Joe Longo __X__
Olivia Giangiordano __X__

Class of 2018

Andrew Nagode __X__
Brianna Howard __X__

School of Music

Aaron Mackisey __X__
Lizzy Andrew __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 __X__
Ron Howard __X__

School of Architecture & Planning

Nicholas Procino __X__
Robert Sabbagh
__X__

School of Social Services

Matt Finely __X__
Patricia Halloran __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

8:02 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 - 8:03 PM

Carly Tomaine- School of Arts and Science- Senior

- President of CUAllies, unrecognized group
- Is seeking support for Resolution 015 to officially recognize CUAllies on campus.
- Encourages Senators to support Resolution 015

Sean-School of Arts and Science

- Resolution which would create e-mails for the executive; believes it is a waste of time
- Question about a resolution about Zanus' position.
- Answer VP: He serves at discretion of Executive.

2. Adoption of Agenda

8:15 PM

Adoption of Agenda- 8:07 PM

Motion to adopt agenda

- Motion by Senator Elder second by Senator O'Toole
- All in favor, this motion of passes

3. Approval of Minutes

8:20 PM

Monday, February 6, 2017 (2-8)

Approval of minutes- 8:07 p.m.

Motion to approve minutes

- Motion by Senator Longo second by Senator Connolly
- All in favor, this motion passes
- Minutes are approved, Senator Mackisey abstains from approval of minutes

4. Reports

8:35 PM

Reports - 8:08 PM

A. Rules and Administration Committee- Senator Harrington

Rules & Admin- Senator Harrington

- Resolution 013 died in committee because role of parliamentarian will be put into bylaws
- Senators cannot let other Senators borrow speaking time.

B. Academic Affairs Committee- Senator Mackisey

Academic Affairs- Senator Mackisey

- Senator Finely and Senator Hagerty will be working with FYE to develop new initiatives
- Discussed resolution regarding midterms today, anticipates it will come back to body with a couple of amendments; will be presented to body at a later time
- Library update: will be meeting with the administration to discuss expanding library hours.

C. Student Services Committee- Senator Elder

Student Services- Elder

- Yields time to Senator Ron Howard
- Senator R. Howard: DSS is available for counseling related to suicide prevention; Ensure all holds are off your account in order to receive good housing lottery number
- Senator Elder: More updates about counseling center should be coming after spring break; Had a productive time shadowing Lazicki in Post Office on campus; Will allow for committee members to give members leadership experience in committee leadership.

D. Student Life Committee- Senator Longo

Student Life- Senator Longo

- Reached out to Amy Kerr; Resolution on HSA programs should be expected; Talks are underway to begin resolution extending Kane Center hours; Tech Services is anticipating improvements in Leahy.

E. Dining and Pryzbyla Center Committee- Senator B. Howard

Pryz Service- Howard

- Met last Monday and discussed resolution about the freestyle Coca Cola machines, which died in committee; Working on getting new products in Starbucks in the Pryz

5. New Business

New Business- 8:15 PM

A. Senator Marjan Koffa, Class of 2017 (Resolution 015)

9:00 PM

Resolution 015- Senator Koffa and Senator Finley

Senator Connolly

- Strongly supports resolution 015
- Catholic motto is to recognize support every individual regardless of their social identity
- Acknowledges and provides statistics of the specific challenges LGBT+ students face

Senator Nagode

- Question: Any statistics on how many students feel oppressed due to their gender or identity? How is this resolution different than ones in the past?
- Answer (Finley): We don't have statistics, but he knows of at least three students who have left as a result of their gender identity.
- Answer (VP): The resolution passed last year in the Senate. The resolution would show support by SGA for the recognition of this group on the camp. However, the ultimate decision lies with the administration

Senator Martinez

- Strongly supports all individuals on campus
- Says she is not sure of the goals of this organization: what is definition of support? Is this something we should be doing as a community to all individuals and not to any specific groups? Can we have a specific pastoral plan that outlines these issues?
- Answer (Finley): In regards to question about the specific support directed towards LGBT+ students. When there is a specific group that feel oppressed, it is important to reach out to those groups. Catholics do it in many student ways. On campus, we do this with groups such as BSA and Sol. There are specific instances in which someone with normative gender identity cannot have the same sort of understanding.
- Answer (Koffa): These types of groups helps emotionally those who face discrimination in specific ways

Senator O'Toole

- By passing this bill, you are supporting inclusion on campus and will make future generations more willing to come on this university

Senator Howard

- Cites theology professor on CUA campus about the topic of recognition.
- Is this specific piece of legislation regarding CUAllies
- Answer (Finley): No it's not, it's endorsement of a group on campus that falls in line with Catholic Social Teaching.

Senator Lafleur

- Under the last clause, is this an organization that already exists or is it endorsement of a general group?
- There has been talk of a campus ministry organization dedicated to LGBT+ support. Would you be supportive of this group in this legislation?
- Answer (Finley): This resolution would not attempt to endorse a group in competition in with Campus Ministry's group.
- Have you received input from Father Jude
- Answer (Finley): In regards to issues relating to LGBT+, yes. However, the actual text of the resolution was not discussed with Father Jude
- What are the next steps?
- Answer (Koffa): The next step would be for the group to apply on the nest. The senate would not be setting out to create a group, but rather endorse a group.

Senator Hagerty

- Stands firmly with LGBT+ community
- As an official student organization, the group would be able to do events in the name of the university off campus. Are there safeguards in place that would ensure the off campus voice of the group stays in line with catholic social teaching?
- Answer (VP): CUA groups can go off campus in an affiliated or nonaffiliated way. In terms of monitoring that, it would fall under the realm of OCA. The specific bill is for support of the creation of group.
- Urges that this group is held accountable to the mission statement of the Catholic University.

Senator Mackisey

- Two student organizations of a political nature exist on nature. These organizations promote platforms that are strictly against Catholic Social Teaching. We give our money already to organizations that are entirely off Catholic Social Teaching in their platforms.
- Finds it inappropriate that we finance organizations that promote platforms clearly against Catholic Social Teachings.

Senator Andrews

- No other student organization needs support from the Senate to become an official group. This is a clear sign of ostracism

Senator Harrington

- In response to Hagerty: Would hate to see that this organization is held to a higher standard than other student organizations

Senator Elder

- Urges people to look at list of catholic universities who have LGBT+ groups.
- Points to Notre Dame
- Believes this group must be acknowledged

Senator Kirby

- Conceptually, this resolution is good and there is student backing.
- There are a few hesitations: this mission statement in the resolution is broad
- The quote is missing three words. Believes the quote must be taken fully so that they are not taken out of context.
- Some typos: 3rd whereas is a double quotation
- Move to strike second quotation, add period, striking the article a in 7th clause seconded by Harrington

All in favor, this motion passes unanimously

All in favor of the amendments, this motion passes unanimously

Senator Procino

- What was Father Jude's stance on this group?
- Answer (Finely): Doesn't want these groups to conflict, his group will be focuses on spirituality.
- Motion to strike Harrington's statement on the grounds of partisan politics
- Clarification: Are you calling to order the comments of Harrington regarding the disparaging remarks?
- Answer (Procino): Making a motion to strike his comments

Motion to strike Harrington comments by Senator Procino, seconded by Senator Elder

5 yays, 15 nays, 1 abstain

This motion fails

Senator Howard

- Response to Mackisey: In regards to political organizations, they are actually held to higher standard. Forbids political organizations from advocating for candidates

Motion to send resolution to committee seconded by Senator Kirby, second by Senator Martinez

Motion to table motion to send resolution to committee by Senator Elder seconded by Senator Connolly

Senator Elder

- Motion to table a motion is allowed in this circumstance

Senator Kirby

- Can you call the question
- VP: Yes

Senator Hagerty:

- Once a motion has been seconded, it must be voted on. So shouldn't have the first one be voted on?
- Response: The second motion supersedes the first motion

Senator Elder

- We are voting on my motion?
- VP: Yes

Senator Andrews

- If we vote to table this motion, are we waiting to debate until the end
- VP: If this motion passes, it will resume debate at the end

Voting on Elder motion to table sending the resolution to committee

12 yays, 12 nays, 2 abstentions

This motion fails

Voting on Senator Kirby's motion to commit this resolution to Student Life committee

- Motion by Senator Kirby, second by Senator Deep

14 nays, 12 yays, 0 abstentions

This motion fails

Motion to end debate and call to question by Senator Mackisey, second by Senator Harrington

20 yays, 1 nay, 5 abstentions

This motion passes

Vote on Resolution 015 with amendments

13 yays, 6 nays, 7 abstentions

Resolution 015 ties

Senator Elder

- Is this majority?
- Yes

Harrington

- Isn't this a tie vote? Wouldn't the VP break the tie?
- VP: Yes, I would break the tie, however we need to double check if this is considered a tie.

Senator Andrews

Because you can break the tie, will we do that now?

VP: We're looking into it now

Senator Deep

Are you allowed to revote?

VP: No

Senator Elder

Motion to suspend rules

Motion rescinded

Senator Mackisey

- As the person who wrote this section of the constitution, the VP does have the obligation to break the tie.

Senator Lafleur

- Could you vote as an abstention?
- VP: No

VP: Abstentions do not count as a nay vote, the 13 yays, 6 nays, 7 nays does not count as a tie, therefore the resolution fails

Senator Howard

- Isn't that not a majority?
- VP: The bill fails

B. Senator Aaron Mackisey, School of Music (Resolution 016)

9:10 PM

Resolution 016- Senator Mackisey 9:13 PM

Senator Elder

- Shouldn't we be on Resolution 016?
- Answer: Yes, sorry had them in the wrong order

Senator Mackisey

- Regarding the student code of conduct and sexual relationships
- Argues that the code of conduct goes against the right of students and goes against the goal of the code of conduct.
- Highlights the section about complicity, which encourages students to report students who have sexual relations on campus to the administration
- On average, two students a year are affected by this part of the code of conduct. Most often these students are reported for excessive noise and are required to write a reflective paper. These students should be written up for noise, not for sexual relations

- He is not saying the university is targeting people on campus nor is he trying to change the Catholic policy on sexual relations.
- The university can encourage students not to engage in sexual relations but should not dictate student actions

Senator Procino

- As much as he respects Mackisey's opinion, we are the Catholic University of American and we follow the guidelines of the church and we must respect the guidelines of the church. As such, we must not encourage premarital sex, we should not conform to other people's beliefs
- Answer (Mackisey): He is not asking you to change your beliefs. Contraception is also against Catholic teaching but we do not punish people on campus on

Senator Martinez

- Mackisey met with us to discuss issue and he is not trying to change church doctrine, he is trying to change response of the Catholic University

Senator Howard

- Did you meet with any RAs because they are usually the ones enforcing the rules regarding sexual conduct.
- Answer: Yes
- Contraception is prohibited
- Answer: It is not

Senator Hagerty

- He discusses how victims of sexual assault are less willing to report sexual assault because of the prohibition on sex.
- Mackisey: Thank you for your comment

Senator Ron Howard

- As part of Catholic University, we should be able to say we don't want sex on campus and if they want to have sexual relations they can leave campus.
- Response: In the student code of conduct, your actions can follow you off campus. Under the letter of the law, the rule against sexual activities would still apply. We are the Catholic University of America. The two main words are Catholic and America. We start our meeting with the pledge of allegiance. There's a reason the American flag flies higher than that of the Vatican.
- Senator Howard: The issue for Mackisey is the potential punishments are excessive. The punishment didn't fit the crime. In doing that, the resolution he proposed tonight is not effective in separating the sanctions imposed than the ones concerning drugs and alcohol.
- Response: That was a concern of Howards. The resolution is updated, it is not the original text. He is hoping its a medium ground, although he would like to clarify that it does discuss sanctions regarding sexual activity rather than drugs and alcohol. The possible sanctions will not be applied to this act.

Senator Andrews

- The irony of this resolution following the resolution 015. This resolution is heteronormative and so if its passes, it would be ironic that the resolution focused on just creating a support group for non-hetero people.
- Response: While he is also disappointed that resolution 015 did not pass, he believes these are different issues. He is not trying to change church doctrine

Senator Procino

- He apologizes if his earlier words were rude.
- Actions off campus apply according to the student code of conduct
- Isn't the lessening of sanctions lessening the severity of the crimes. The Catholic University must stick to their guns and not change the governing doctrine. We all signed the handbook and we all must follow the rules
- Response: Appreciates input. He believes if the goal is to lessen premarital sex, it is better to be an example

Motion to vote by Senator Procino, second by Senator Kirby

13 yays, 7 nays, 6 abstentions

This motion fails

****Confusion over whether the vote was for the motion or for the bill****

Motion to vote by Senator Harrington, second by Senator Halloran

Re-vote on this motion, passes, Procino votes nay

Vote Resolution 016

13 yays , 6 nays, 7 abstentions

Resolution 016 fails

Martinez left 9:43 p.m.

**C. Senator Nicholas Procino, School of Architecture & Planning
(Resolution 017)**

9:20 PM

Resolution 017- Procino 9:42 PM

Senator Procino

- Resolution requesting the creation of a website for required films
- One of constituents had to rent a movie for a foreign language classes. Does not believe it is fair for professors to require a movie that a student must purchase to obtain

Senator Mackisey

- While he agrees this is an issue, it has the ability to ask them to violate copyright laws. They do have some sort of service.

Motion to table this bill to Academic Affairs Committee by Senator Mackisey, seconded by Senator Longo

This motion passes, Procino abstains

Vote to send to committee

This vote passes, Koffa abstains

This resolution will be sent to Academic Affairs

O'Toole left 9:46 p.m.

D. Senator Aaron Mackisey, School of Music (Resolution 018) 9:30 PM
Resolution 018- Mackisey 9:46 PM

Senator Mackisey

- Resolution to create an official e-mail for executive branch of CUA
- Adds a level of professionalism

Motion to vote by Senator Longo, second by Senator Lazicki
All in favor, this motion passes (Koffa not present, not voting)

Vote on Resolution 018

All in favor, resolution 018 passes unanimously

E. Senator John Connolly, Class of 2018 (Reserved Time) 9:40 PM
Senator Connolly waives reserved time

6. Open Floor 9:50 PM

Senator Mackisey

- On abstentions, in his opinion, abstentions should be used if he believes they should go to committee to be reworked before being voted on.
- Will be reaching out to those who voted no or abstained so he can hear your concerns

Senator Procino

- Responding to Mackisey, he believes he has the right to keep his vote confidential.
- Have heard good things about Architecture Mentoring Program

Senator Halloran

- I want to assure that all is voting not only for the conscience but also for their constituents. Please keep that in mind.

Senator Longo

- Along those lines, after resolution 015 was voted off, there were public comments unofficially recognized. Please do not take those to heart.

Senator O'Toole

- On Resolution 015 and 016, we let our student body down. Think about how you are going to impact future generations at our school and how you affect student body as a whole are how they are accepted

Senator LaFleur

- Will be working on resolution about ice machines in the dorms. Please reach out if you are interested in supporting this resolution and has comments

Senator Elder

- In regards to 015 failing, we should remember that we must represent the rights of everybody, even if it's against your personal beliefs. What happened today was upsetting but he hopes we look into the issues and present it back again.

VP Werling

- We will keep you posted on the resolutions that are passed
- Please refrain from leaving during meetings if possible.

7. Adjournment

10:00 PM

Motion to adjourn by Senator Hagerty, second by Senator Harrington
This motion passes

This session is adjourned- 9:56 p.m.