



**The Catholic University of America  
Student Government Association 2017-18  
Senate Session 3-6**

Pryzbyla, Great Room B

February 5, 2018

8:00pm-10:00pm

**ROLL CALL**

**Vice President** - Jon Paul Weiss

**Secretary** – Katie Troilo

**Parliamentarian** – Katie Troilo

**School of Business**

Kevin Walsh   X  

Nicholas Spinelli   X  

**Class of 2018**

Alexa Schimp   X  

Matthew Skros   X  

**School of Engineering**

Mina Grace Larraquel   X  

Olivia Giangiordano   A  

**Class of 2019**

Jimmy Harrington   A  

John Connolly   X  

**School of Music**

Aaron Mackisey   X  

Lizzy Andrew   A  

**Class of 2020**

Elise LaFleur   X  

Weston Kirby   X  

**School of Nursing**

Julia Skellie   X  

Leigh Calotta   X  

**Class of 2021**

Ally Kilgore   X  

Sean O'Grady   Late  

**School of Philosophy**

Kevin Blanchard   A  

Jeremy Volz   X  

**School of Architecture**

Kelly Reed   X  

Sara Cangarlu   X  

**School of Social Services**

Matt Finley   X  

VACANT   A  

**School of Arts and Science**

Alexander Santana   X  

Cavan Hagerty   X  

**School of Theology**

Alec McGuire   X  

Antoine Rask   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.

Any legislation 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** **8:00 PM**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** **8:01 PM**

**PRAYER** **8:02 PM**

- **Senator LaFleur gives prayer**

- **VP Weiss:** Senator Halloran switched academic schools, from Social Work to Arts and Sciences, so there is need for a replacement

-**Note:** Senator O'Grady not taken in initial roll but arrives later and recognized at 9:26 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. 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.

- **No public comment**

**2. Adoption of Agenda** **8:06 PM**

- **Senator Kirby-** Motion to amend the agenda

- Move the Treasury Board Nomination to be before Committee Reports so that the seat can be filled for their meeting at 8:00pm

- Seconded by Senator Kilgore

- **Senator Volz** - Motion to vote

-Seconded by Senator Finley

-All in favor – Motion to amend the agenda passes

- **Senator Hagerty** – Motion to adopt the Agenda

- Seconded by Senator Finley

- All in favor – Agenda adopted

**3. Approval of Minutes** **8:07 PM**

• Monday, January 22, 2017 (3-5)

-**Senator Skros** – Motion to approve the minutes

- Seconded by Senator LaFleur

- All in favor – Minutes approved

**4. Treasury Board Nomination** **8:10 PM**

- **VP Weiss:** introduces new Treasury Board Director Appointee Ali Gole

-Reads a memo on Ali Gole's qualification written by Treasurer Sam Galvin

-**Senator Kirby** - Motion to vote on nomination

-Senator LaFleur: Seconds

-All in favor – nomination passes

## 5. Committee Reports

- A. Rules and Administration Committee – Senator Kirby** **8:20 PM**  
- Looking forward to debating Bill 002-constitutional amendments.
- B. Academic Affairs Committee – Senator Mackisey** **8:22 PM**  
- Nothing new to report.
- C. University Services Committee – Senator Harrington** **8:24 PM**  
- Senator Harrington was absent, no committee update given.
- D. Student Resources Committee – Senator Hagerty** **8:25 PM**  
- Nothing new to report.
- E. Campus Life Committee – Senator Connolly** **8:26 PM**  
Nothing new to report, Senator Connolly requests that his committee briefly meet after the Senate adjourns.

## 5. New Business

- A. Senator Kirby, Class of 2020 (Bill 002)** **8:28 PM**
- **SGA Constitution Edits**
    - **Amendments read by VP Weiss and Parliamentarian Katie Troilo**
    - **VP Weiss reads Bill 002**
    - **Senators Kirby, Hagerty and Skros go up to podium to present**
    - **Senator Kirby – Presents Bill 002**
      - 3<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Commission – worked with Senators from the Rules and Admin Committee, VP Weiss and Parliamentarian Katie Troilo, met twice
      - Bill 002 Amendments – will highlight a few things and then answer questions
      - Made more sense to add Treasury as a separate branch
        - Separation of powers – senate has a check on TB
        - Working with Treasury – Sometimes can't meet
        - Separating out of the Treasury – 150-dollar expenditure rule is a rare occurrence
        - Sitting senate hears/approves/amends the budget of the new executive coming in
        - Just need approval from the Treasury instead of the Senate because Treasury has knowledge of the Student Org Funding and activity
        - Better that treasury handles it - But senate can still approve
      - GPA requirement just written into the constitution
        - TB has higher GPA requirement
    - Floor open for debate
    - **Senator LaFleur recognized**
      - Thank you for your work on this
      - Amendment (not proposing now)
      - Discrepancy in Constitution format - Change the repeated Section 2 to Section 3 and Section 3 to Section 4 and so on
    - **Senator LaFleur - Motion to amend**
      - Seconded by Senator Finley
      - Unanimous - vote passes
    - **Voice Vote on amendment – unanimous – Amendment passes**
    - **Senator LaFleur Second question**
      - In Section 3 Election in Clause 5 Article 1- mentions the cumulative GPA – Is there a mechanism for how this is enforced?

- **Senator Kirby:**
  - Must be maintained throughout the year
  - OCA checks and maintains this
- **Senator LaFleur:**
  - Section 2 Article 2 Clause 4 – Is there an example where this is explicitly stated where this happens?
- **Senator Kirby:**
  - For the simplicity the future senate, they wouldn't have to go to each clause
- **Senator LaFleur – yields her time**
- **Senator Connolly - recognized**
  - Section 3, Term
  - Middle of exam week
  - When does our term end?
- **Senator Kirby:**
  - The end of the academic calendar
- **VP Weiss:**
  - After May 1<sup>st</sup>
- **Senator Kirby:**
  - How it always is.
- **VP Weiss:**
  - You would serve until the end of Finals week.
- **Senator Kirby:**
  - Ideally would come to the Senate before it ends but if not, we could just add a special session.
- **Senator Connolly – still recognized**
  - There were no women on the Constitutional Commission
  - It's 2018 and there isn't a woman on the Commission
- **Senator Kirby:**
  - The Commission was comprised of Senators who are members of the Rules and Admin Committee, and Parliamentarian, who is a woman, was a part of the Commission and amendment process.
- **Senator Connolly:**
  - I just think a woman from this Senate should have been on it
  - Yields time
- **Senator Mackisey recognized**
  - **First question: Article Section 6 Clause 4**
    - Putting the GPA at 2.5, OCA requires a 2.25 for any student to run, is that correct?
  - **Senator Kirby: Yes**
  - **Senator Mackisey:**
    - I don't think we should raise the GPA, but it should just follow OCA requirements
  - **Senator Kirby:**
    - Wanted to lessen the discrepancy between senate GPA requirement and Treasury GPA requirement.
    - Have consulted with OCA about raising it.
  - **Senator Mackisey**
    - Motion to amend Article 2 Section 6 Clause 4 – “GPA in line with the rules of the OCA”

- Motion fails
- **Senator Mackisey – still recognized**
  - Article 2 Section 7 Funds – Striking of clause 1
    - Moving it to treasury is wrong
    - Necessary check the senate has on the Executive’s budget
    - I would be rather troubled because the Treasurer while in a different branch is a part of the ticket with the executive while running
    - Not a proper check and balance to move to Treasury
    - Should leave it with the senate
    - In the past the Treasurer has come before to speak to the body and I imagine they would have no problem coming back
- **Senator Kirby: We haven’t**
- **Senator O’Grady enters the chambers. 8:55 PM**
- **Senator Kirby continues: This is when they want to spend more than their operating budget.**
  - Treasurer is a nonvoting member
  - Only in the case of a tie will they vote
  - Doesn’t need to be in the Senate
- **Senator Hagerty**
  - Doesn’t give the executive any more power
- **Senator Mackisey**
  - When we approve the Executive budget for the next semester, we allocate the money on a line-item basis, just asking for clarification, it’s only when the executive is asking for an amount outside of the budget 150 or above, the Executive can’t take the money without the Senate’s consent?
- **VP Weiss:**
  - The only time money has been intermingled was for training day. If task forces come asking for money it’s my budget and I can give them what they ask if they want.
- **Senator Mackisey:**
  - I don’t agree with that interpretation
- **Senator Kirby:**
  - This clause does not apply to what Senator Mackisey is asking.
- **Senator LaFleur: Point of Inquiry**
  - Is your issue about the phrasing of Clause 1?
- **Senator Mackisey:**
  - I find Clause 1 to be a necessary check of the Executive by the Senate. And two that the Senate could delve in to what the Executive could budget about.
- **VP Weiss:**
  - Can we focus on one of those issues?
- **Senator Mackisey:**
  - Focus on the OB. I think it’s a necessary check the Senate needs to keep
  - Motion to amend
- **Senator Kirby:**
  - Would you like to take a few minutes to write down?

- **Senator Mackisey:**
  - Yes, one more question before I yield my time.
  - Article 5 Section 1 - Request above a simple majority? Based on a lack of turnout to voting.
- **Senator Kirby:**
  - Once we vote on this constitution, it goes to a student wide referendum.
- **Senator Mackisey:**
  - We should request more than simple majority of those who are voting? We should have a stronger threshold for the student body.
- **Senator Skros:**
  - Are you saying there should be a higher percentage of voter turnout and those who vote?
- **Senator Mackisey:** Yes
- **Senator Kilgore: Point of inquiry**
  - Of the students who vote you want a majority?
- **Senator Mackisey:** Yes
- **Senator Volz: Point of Order**
  - Has it been more than 10 minutes since Senator Mackisey has spoken?
- **VP Weiss:** No
- **Senator Finley: Point of Inquiry**
  - Wouldn't he need to make a motion first before moving on debate?
- **Senator Mackisey:**
  - Only concerns I have before proposing my amendment so I will yield my time
- **Senator Connolly recognized**
  - I don't agree with everything but I agree with the 150 expenditure I think it should remain with the Senate
  - I don't have an alternative
- **Senator Mackisey recognized**
  - Motion to Amend – Section 7, Funds
  - Remove strike of Clause 1, remove amended Clause 1, remove strike of old Clause 2
  - Second Senator LaFleur
  - Move to vote - clerk will call the roll
  - Motion Fails, 10 yay, 10 Nay, 6 Absent – tie VP Weiss casts a vote nay
- **Senator Mackisey still has the floor**
  - Section 7 on Funds
  - Change in clause 2
  - Concern is that it is vague; whether or not the senate has the right to approve the budget and whether or not the senate has the right to debate the budget
  - Last year Senate could debate this especially because there was a lot of concern that the budget was inflated - which it was
  - The body was not as articulate that is was our right to do that nitpicking
  - The new added version takes away from the right of the senate

**9:09 PM**

- The new added version creates a gray area in where the senate has room to debate the new executives budget
- **Senator Kirby:**
  - It went from specific to vague? The point of this clause is the opposite. What it does mean now is that the senate shall to approve the executive budget, it never actually explicitly had this power. Further, you did have it right to line item go through the new executive's budget but because of President Pinault's urging to vote on the money but not on the initiatives themselves. This actually sets the senate more clearly on its path to approve or deny the budget.
- **Senator Mackisey:** I disagree.
- **VP Weiss:** Do you have a motion?
- **Senator Mackisey:**
  - I do think it makes parts vaguer. It intrinsically implies that the Senate has the power to approve/deny the motion
  - Yields time
- **Senator Kilgore recognized**
  - **Motion for an amendment**
  - Clause 2 Section 7 Funds
  - Include the phrase of the Academic year"
  - Rescinds motion
  - Yields time
- **Senator Spinelli recognized**
  - In favor of senator Mackisey's earlier amendment
  - Reason being that the Executive comes to the senate to ask for funds, the senate is the one who gives them the budget, if they do go over budget they should have the power to re-vote
- **Senator Volz: Point of order**
  - Can Senator Kirby re-state his argument against said motion?
- **Senator Kirby:**
  - It was put to a vote and failed I don't see why we vote again.
- **VP Weiss:**
  - I don't want to discourage from debate or voting just because we already went to a vote and it failed.
- **Senator Mackisey: Point of order**
  - It is a new motion so why can't Senator O'Grady vote?
- **VP Weiss:**
  - It is at the discretion of the Vice President of the Senate to recognize a Senator who is late. Why should I have a Senator vote on a motion of a Bill he can't didn't hear the debate on?
- **Senator Spinelli recognized**
  - Motion to amend the constitution, same amendment that Senator Mackisey proposed
  - Seconded by Senator Connolly
  - Roll call vote
  - Motion fails – 10 Yay, 10 Nay, 6 Absent, tie- VP Weiss votes nay
- **Senator Calotta: Motion to vote on Bill 002**
  - Seconded by Senator Finley
  - Motion passes

- Roll call vote
- Bill 002 Passes
- 20 yay, 0 nay, 6 absent

**B. Senator Skros, Class of 2018 (Res. 009)**

**9:24 PM**

- **Reading of Resolution 009 by VP Weiss**
- **Senator O'Grady recognized as present and voting at 9:26pm**
  - **Senator Skros presents Resolution 009**
    - Social Work student had class canceled day of and didn't find out until was sitting in that class day of
    - Many students have these prestigious internships scheduled around classes that get canceled
    - A stable course schedule is vital to getting opportunities outside of academics
    - Threshold for cancellation depends on many things but just want the academic departments to audit these classes to determine if they are necessary
    - Give students time to react and rebuild their course schedules
    - Talked with Dr. Mayer who said that this would be 90-95% compliant
    - Yields to floor
  - **Senator Volz recognized**
    - Thank you. Very good idea. Some students would sign up during that 10-day period.
    - Would there be a notification on cardinal station, how would that work?
  - **Senator Skros:**
    - Would go out 10 business days and then another update day before.
    - Will bring up to Dr. Mayer upon passing of this Resolution.
  - **Senator Volz yields time**
  - **Senator LaFleur recognized**
    - Echo full support. Had to deal with this. Notified on the second day of class. Purchased eight books for a class that was canceled. Thankfully there were options but for some people it wasn't that simple.
    - Yields
  - **Senator Skros:**
    - Textbooks are expensive
  - **Senator Calotta recognized**
    - Would this apply to the summer session?
    - Yields
  - **Senator Skros:**
    - Yes, I would imagine so, will be discussing with Dr. Mayer
  - **Senator O'Grady recognized**
    - What would the pushback be? Why hasn't this been implemented before?
  - **Senator Skros:**
    - Pushback is when there are extenuating circumstances.
  - **VP Weiss:**



- Dr. Mayer was aware and the pushback was that it is such a short period of time.
- **Senator O’Grady:**
  - I know of a student who had this issue, hindered a senior from graduating, however he was able to graduate on time because of another section making an exception, in a situation like that the school makes up for the mistake, would you find out more about notifying if affects graduation date?
- **Senator Skros:**
  - I would be willing to present another resolution regarding that specific problem, definitely happens to engineers.
- **Senator O’Grady:**
  - Thank you. I yield my time.
- **Senator Connolly recognized**
  - I will be quick. I want to make a quick amendment. Happened with me last year and I had no notification.
  - Motion to amend
  - Strike “Therefore” before the last “Be it enacted that,”
  - Add at the end of last paragraph, “If a class is cancelled, the academic department must submit written notification that said class is cancelled to students enrolled in that class.”
  - Motion to vote on amendment
  - Seconded by Senator LaFleur
  - All in favor – amendment passes
- **Senator Spinelli - Motion to vote on Res. 009**
  - Seconded by Senator Finley
  - Roll call vote – Res. 009 passes
  - 21 Yay, 0 Nay, 5 Absent

**C. Senator Kilgore, Class of 2021 (Res. 010)**

**9:24 PM**

- **Reading of Resolution 010 by VP Weiss**
- **Senator Kilgore**
  - **Presents Resolution 009**
    - Brainchild of my constituent Carly Prescott
    - Water filters one downstairs in the Pryz by the SGA office bathrooms
    - Originally created by SGA
    - I wish it was where I live
    - An amenity that would incentivize students to live on campus
    - “As deemed fit” would not be putting these in Res Halls that have short shelf life’s
    - Pertinent because of the mumps and flu outbreaks
    - Water fountains on campus for drinking out of your mouth rather than filling up a water bottle
    - Yields to floor
  - **Senator Mackisey recognized**
    - I think this is a wonderful idea
    - Hope that in the future this can be spread to academic buildings
    - Yields time
  - **Senator Haggerty recognized**

- “As deemed fit” as a former gentleman of Flather under no circumstance should Flather be included in on this renovation
- Ensure that these places will last because they are expensive
- Yields
- **Senator Kilgore:**
  - Some of this water on campus is of questionable quality
  - We aren’t being poisoned but I am sure it could taste better and look less murky so that is also why we included “as deemed fit”
- **Senator O’Grady recognized**
  - Thanks for reaching out to our constituents, but I haven’t heard of a need for this
  - Would you consider polling on this just to check and see there is a need and purpose for this?
  - I would vote yes but I was wondering if anyone opposes this?
  - Yields
- **Senator Volz recognized**
  - You have just heard many senators in favor of this
  - Yields
- **Senator Mackisey recognized**
  - I get the concern for polling but caution over it because it undermines the job we are sent here to do
- **Senator Volz – Motion to Vote**
  - Seconded by Senator Calotta
  - Roll call Vote
  - Res. 010 Passes
  - 20 Yay, 1 Nay, 4 Absent

## 6. Vice President, SGA Updates

9:43 PM

- Pilot program in the Kane hours opened today at 6:30 AM
  - 20 swipes on a Monday morning
- President Howard has been following up with minimum wage
  - in the next two weeks meeting with Provost Abela and Dr. Allen, if you have questions ask VP Weiss
- Happy with how this is going; great debate
- Finally done with the bylaws and the constitution \*cue applause\*
- Encourage committees to meet more than once a month if possible

## 7. Open Floor

9:53 PM

### - Senator O’Grady recognized

- Apologize for being late, has class that ends at 7:55pm
- Realized how much power one vote has
- Telling circumstance for me a tie resulting in a negative vote is something that has an effect, so sorry to Senator Mackisey about this
- In the future will try to be on time
- Yields

### Senator Mackisey recognized

- Nicest thing that anyone has said to me, thank you
- Yields

### Senator Finley recognized

- Reminder for everyone to be nice
- Use decorum when speaking in the Senate
- We are all here to do good work
- Yields

**Senator Kilgore recognized**

- In light of Senator Finley's comments, I will keep my mouth shut
- Yields

**Senator Hagerty – Motion to Adjourn**

**Seconded by Senator LaFleur**

**All in favor**

**8. Adjournment**

**9:57 PM**