Yale College Council  
Council of Representatives Meeting  
Saturday, March 1, 2014; 4:00 PM  
Meeting Six

**Action Items**

1. Decision on new funding guidelines for UOC tabled to next meeting.  
   **Yonghyun, Connor**
2. Watch email for information on Trello pre-votes for Yonghyun’s UOC guidelines.  
   **All**
3. Have a great spring break!  
   **All!**

**Attendance**

Present  
1. Danny Avraham  
2. Andrew Grass  
3. Eli Rivkin  
4. Ben Ackerman  
5. Maia Eliscovich-Sigal  
6. Sara Samuel  
7. Leah Motzkin  
8. Grant Bronsdon  
9. Michael Marcel  
10. Khalid Attalla  
11. Michael Leopold  
12. Sara Miller  
13. Yaphet Getachew  
14. Jamie Halberstam  
15. Allison Kolberg  
16. Connor Feeley  
17. Andi Peng  
18. Madeline Bauer  
19. Joseph English  
20. Ewurama Okai  
21. Yonghyun Kwon  
22. Kristoffer Acuña  
23. Bechir-Auguste Pierre  
24. Azan Virji  
25. JR Reed  
26. Anna Lu  
27. Zach Murn  
28. Ben Martin
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29. Joseph Vinson
30. Michael Herbert (guest)

Excused Absence
1. Vicky Chou
2. Saifullah Khan

Unexcused Absence
1. Grant Fergusson
2. Kevin Kory

Minutes

Please note that the minutes reflect the conversation held during the Council of Representatives meeting, but may not contain every comment and are not intended to reflect exact quotations. Comments in italics are notes to give context to the minutes. The layout of the minutes is the Presentation of the Issue, Presentation of the Discussion, and Recording of the Vote. Unless otherwise noted, the Presentation of the Issue is done by the person whose name is next to the heading for that issue. Comments by representatives or other attendees are preceded by their name (e.g. Jane – comment).

- **Meeting Start:** 4:05 pm
- **Announcements** – Danny Avraham
  - **Senior Class Council**
    - Might be incorporated into YCC, like FCC, SoCo, and JCC.
  - **Dean’s Search Process** – Danny Avraham
    - Committee scheduled to meet for first time on Thursday, met with committee chair on Friday
    - Some ideas for getting student feedback: town hall, office hours, survey, reaching out to specific student groups
    - Focus group and task force of students to create a public report of recommendations that will be made public and presented to the faculty committee.
    - After Spring Break, the Committee will meet for 1-2 weeks to select a pool of names that President Salovey will choose from.
- **New Alcohol Initiatives** – Danny Avraham
  - Five Initiatives
    - **Unifying the University’s approach** – Creation of a centralized implementation committee.
    - **Clarifying and communicating policies and procedures**
    - **Enhancing training and education** – increase alcohol educational opportunities across the community.
    - **Supporting low- and no-alcohol events**
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- Engaging the entire community - including students as well as senior leaders to clarify and promote community values and address high-risk drinking.
- Two Committees
  - Implementation committee which will decide what policies should be implemented – most students were already on advisory committee last year, but there will be a few open slots for students
  - Advisory committee of just students – not power to make decisions but additional advising
- Applications will close Monday at midnight

Discussion
- Sara – Hannah Peck said that they would be willing to have an alcohol forum
- Danny – They are specifically looking at an internal amnesty policy.

- UOC Grant Cycle S6 – Ben Ackerman
  - No objections or questions about Grant Cycle S6
  - Approved by unanimous consent.

Discussion
- Michael M – I heard UOC does not fund service groups as much as other groups because money doesn’t go to students. Is this true?
  - Ben – UOC has accepted all but 3 Dwight Hall applications (1 was repeat, 1 was request for clarification, and 1 rejected). Dwight Hall has actually received proportionately more money.
- Sara – What did you mean by Excellent current financial status?
  - Ben – We had overdrafted our account, but didn’t distribute more than that because groups didn’t pick up their checks.
- Michael Herbert – Sterling and other guests did not come back, too bad since they seemed so fired up. From my understanding, their concern is more with registration.
  - Ben – I met with Sterling yesterday, and registration issue is with Dean’s Office not with the UOC. Policy changed at the start of the year due to Title IX settlement. YCDO did not know they would have to update technology, so I had to follow up with them during the semester to push back deadline to register student organizations. This semester has been better.
- Yonghyun – Why did you not recommend College Republicans apply for administrative grant?
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- Ben – We did, but was unclear based on two Funding Managers using different language.

- **UOC Funding Guidelines (continued from last week)** – Yonghyun Kwon
  - Discussion
    - Leah – I was confused about how proposals were presented.
    - Yonghyun – we Choose either 1A or 1B.
    - Allison – When we come back, should we have decided which of these ideas?
      - Yonghyun – You should review the guidelines and come up with your own personal stance on each of them.

- **Student Activities Fee** – Danny Avraham
  - Allocations of Student Activities Fee
    - Total Revenue: $372,450.00
    - Number of students in Yale College: 5,389
    - Number of students who opt out: 423 (7.85%)
  - Peer Institutions
    - Ivy League Average: $159.57
    - Brown: $214 per annum
    - Columbia: General Student Life Fee: $1,396 per annum, ($216 allocated to student activities)
    - Cornell: $114.50 per semester, $229 per annum
    - Dartmouth: $81 per trimester, $243 per annum
    - Harvard: $75 per annum (Opt-Out policy via letter)
    - Penn: “General Fee”: $3,510 (student activities allocation unknown)
    - Princeton: $32.50 per semester, $65 per annum
    - Yale: $75 per annum (Opt-Out policy via SIS)
  - Danny’s Presentation
    - Artist costs have increased over 300%.
    - $75 does not cover the same qualities of activities as it did in 2009.
    - Fee has not gone up because of negligence of administration.
    - In 2005, they held a referendum on whether to have the fee. It passed something like 80%, but in Fall there was a 37% opt-out rate.
      - Seems that once there was high awareness, people started opting-out.
    - If we increase the SAF, then there may be less revenue than there was previously.
    - First, we wanted to make sure the fee was part of financial aid. We made sure it was in November after I discussed this with Salovey. So the necessity to opt out might be reduced.
    - From our research only two institutions let you opt-out: Yale and Harvard At Harvard you have to send a physical letter to opt-out. At Yale you just click a button online.
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- Seems clear there needs to be an increase with the increased demand for student organizations funding and the increase in SF costs.
- How to create proper public discourse about SAF before any change is the main question. Many people are unaware of the fee or the actual costs of various activities.
- Board recommendation is to bring up this issue during YCC elections. More momentum for students to discuss this and would give mandate to make a decision to change the fee.

Discussion
- Maddie – Do candidates have to run on this?
  - Danny – no, but we will be releasing information right before then, so might be an issue they will want to address.
- Ben – would this delay it by a year?
  - Danny – Not necessarily, Recommendation to admin to raise can probably be made until the end of May.
- Danny – Admin proposed that opt-out will be cancelled now that it will be part of financial aid.
- Michael M – Students could make an argument about having an opt-out option for not wanting to pay since they aren’t in groups.
  - Ben/Sara – Would benefit campus life and culture as a whole.
- Yaphet – people may be uncomfortable with raising fee if student groups are using money for illicit reasons. I’d stress that we have solved it, or solve it if it hasn’t been solved.
  - Ben – Not all the money goes to UOC anyway. Percentages could get changed as well.
- Joe V – I’d be very careful with the opt-out. I think we should keep the opt-out.
  - Ben – Yale forces people to pay tuition.
- Jaime – Do we know what the exact increase would be?
- Yonghyun – Could be poor PR to have during election. Would be safer to bring it up before.
  - Danny – hard to ensure that everyone will be aware of it, during elections there’s an additional momentum to increase awareness.
  - Yonghyun – we need to start bringing it up before.
  - Danny – yes, we will during or after spring break.
- Leah – Is there anyway we could get this done before next year?
  - Danny – we could if there is a clear narrative. We also need to decide how much to raise it and that amount would be partially based on the public discourse.
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- JR – If the activities fee were to increase, then how much money would go to Spring Fling?
  - Danny – Up to future YCCs to figure this out.
- Ben Martin – Will it be indexed to inflation?
  - Danny – Yes, it should be indexed to inflation regardless of any increase decision.
- Sara – would our recommendation be to raise it or how much to raise it?
  - Danny – we would have to propose by how much to raise it.
- Grant B – when we bring this up to the student body, it will be easier to sell if we have details about how it will be used.

- Meeting End 5:05 pm