Yale College Council

Council of Representatives Meeting
Saturday, March 29, 2014; 4:00 PM
Meeting Seven

**Action Items**

1. Final decision on financial aid recommendations tabled to future meeting.  
   **Sara, Connor**

2. All reps encouraged to attend New Deans Search Task Force Meeting.  
   **All, Connor, 4/2**

3. Look out for Andrew’s email on office hours for New Deans Search.  
   **All, Andrew**

4. Facilities Appreciation Day  
   **All, 4/3**

**Attendance**

Present
1. Danny Avraham
2. Andrew Grass
3. Ben Ackerman
4. Eli Rivkin
5. Sara Samuel
6. Maia Eliscovich
7. Connor Feeley
8. Leah Motzkin
9. Layla Khuri
10. Sara Miller
11. Yaphet Getachew
12. Michael Marcel
13. Jamie Halberstam
14. Bechir Pierre
15. Saifullah Khan
16. Matt Rajcok
17. Khalid Attalla
18. Allison Attalla
19. Michael Leopold
20. Vicky Chou
21. Grant Fergusson
22. Ben Martin
23. Joe Vinson
24. Grant Bronsdon
25. Kris Acuña
26. Joe English
27. Andi Peng
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28. Ewurama Okai
29. Anna Lu
30. Richard Harris
31. Michael Herbet (guest)
32. Haley Adams (guest)
33. Diana Rosen (guest)
34. SoCo representative (guest)

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).

- New Deans Search Task Force
  - The New Deans Search Task Force will be meeting this **Wednesday, April 2nd at 8 PM in LC 104**.
  - Will be synthesizing and preparing student opinion for presentation to the Advisory Committee to President Salovery.
  - All reps are welcome and encouraged to attend.

- Facilities Appreciation Day
  - Logistics
    - Poster board with “Thank You”
      - $8 per board
      - $96 total
    - Representatives must solicit signatures during dinner in their respective colleges
  - **Recommendation**
    - Thursday, April 3rd is Facilities Appreciation Day
    - Reps collect signatures on Wednesday, April 2nd during dinner in respective dining halls
    - Give poster boards to respective facilities managers on Thursday, April 3rd

- Discussion
  - Andrew comment about thanking people
  - Maia clarification
  - Kevin clarification

- Approved by unanimous consent
• UOC Grant Cycles S7 & S8
  o Kevin – where are we at for the final cycle?
    ▪ Ben – assuming 7 and 8 go through we have enough in the budget to have the required cushion from the business office. Last $1500 is used for mandatory capital equipment fixes.
  o Anna – why were many organizations listed twice?
    ▪ Ben - We don’t combine applications, so if we get two we respond twice. For example, Hellenic society submitted 3 applications.

• University Standing Committees
  o Kyle – starting University Standing Committee application process on Monday. I would like your help in doing this. Ideally, I will remove names and assign numbers to everyone application, so everyone can do a first round of vetting of a committee, so it nonbiased and as transparent as possible.
  o Everyone said they would help.
  o Kyle – expect further information about deadline and committee assignments.
  o Bechir – What if you apply for a committee?
    ▪ Kyle – then you won’t be assigning people on those committees.
  o Danny – to clarify: the YCDO makes the final decisions, and we just submit a list of people to put on. It’s important to have YCC members involved in relevant projects on these committees.

• Financial Aid: Student Contribution – Sara Miller
  o The Award
    ▪ Cost of Attendance: Tuition, room, board, travel expenses and personal expenses.
    ▪ Expected Family Contribution: The amount a student’s family is expected to contribute towards the cost of a Yale education.
    ▪ Demonstrated Financial Need: The amount that remains after a family's Expected Family Contribution is subtracted from the Cost of Attendance.
  o What is the current cost of attendance for a student on full financial aid?
  o 1. Self Help (term-time job)

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Freshmen</th>
<th>Upperclassmen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012-2013</td>
<td>2,700</td>
<td>3,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013-2014</td>
<td>2,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014-2015</td>
<td>2,850</td>
<td>3,350</td>
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</tbody>
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2. Student Income Contribution (summer job)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Freshmen</th>
<th>Upperclassmen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012-2013</td>
<td>1,550</td>
<td>2,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-2014</td>
<td>1,600</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-2015</td>
<td>1,625</td>
<td>3,050</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• What is the current cost of attendance for a student on full financial aid?
  o $6,300
• 9-10 hours per week?
  o Let’s say:
  o 10 hours a week x $12.00 an hour x
  o 12.8 weeks a semester * 2 semesters
  o = $3,072
  o $6,300 – 3,072 = $3,228
  o This is pre-taxes and assuming you get a job in the first week.
  o Grant B – what is the average Yale job?
    • Sara M – from looking at the site, I’m not sure.
• Student Income Contribution
  o “Please note that fellowship funds are meant to cover the costs of the proposed activity only. Budgets should not include compensation for lost income.” -CIPE Summer Fellowships Common Application
• Recommendation 1
  o 1. Rename parts of “Student Effort” for comprehensibility.
    • Student Income Contribution = Summer Time Contribution
    • Self-Help = Term Time Contribution
• Recommendation 2
  o 2. Allow students to put Yale grants towards Student Income Contribution.
• Recommendation 3
  o 3. Require Student Employment Office to hire students on financial aid for the first two weeks of the semester.
  o Cons: Financial Aid is self reported on website.
  o Sara M – I’d prefer to reword this that it is mandatory to prefer to hire students on financial aid for the first two weeks of the semester.
  o Kevin – How are students supposed to say they are on financial aid now?
    • Ben – you can see if they are on federal grants
    • Various – Different questions with Federal work study and Pell Grants
- Andrew – would this include research assistant jobs?
  - Sara M – Only preference in the first
- Diana – The website is also really bad, and it will be impossible for people to pay if they don’t get the job in the beginning.
- Saif – International students cannot work off-campus. Also, their financial aid for travel is much shorter than it actually is. Costs $16.50 to attend per hour.
- Sara S – Financial aid dependent
- Guest – We have to pay tax on financial aid.
- Various – Room and board financial aid is taxable.
  - Danny – Some students may not be on full financial aid, but still need to pay. We may not want to disadvantage such students.
  - Sara M – It would make sure.
  - Danny – We just don’t want to adversely impact those who are not on full financial aid but who still need to work on campus.
  - Kevin – I’m not sure we need to worry about those not on financial aid. If your parent makes more than 200,000 a year then you don’t have financial problems.
    - Danny – You can’t make such an assumption. You don’t know everyone’s condition. Some students might not have financial aid but also don’t receive money from their parents.
- Recommendation 4
  - 4. Research the possibility of increasing Yale’s minimum wage.
    - Stopped increasing.
    - Matt – What about linking it to term-time contribution increase?
    - Kevin – Can you do a special bonus for people on financial aid?
    - Bechir – That sounds like it would be difficult.
    - Leah – Do you want to recommend that we do the research?
      - Sara – We should probably do it first.
    - Bechir – For student income contribution and self-help, they include estimate for books and travel, right?
      - Sara M – Yes.
- Discussion
  - Saif – Why don’t we just get rid of the SIC altogether?
    - Michael M – Hurts students
    - Sara S – Administration is really committed to this.
    - Danny – We have to remember too that Yale’s budget is constrained.
    - Grant B – Could we recommend freezing it for a certain time period?
    - Saif – Have you seen comparable schools?
      - Sara M – Harvard’s counterpart is a little lower than ours in SIC, and self-help is a little higher.
Diana – Instead of eliminating self-help and student income contribution, I think we should consider making it into a communal contribution. All students on campus should work without wage, their wage will go to cover the SIC.
  - Joe E – so you’re proposing raising tuition and telling them how to pay for that raise in tuition?
  - Michael H - how would that affect students?
  - Sara M – Some colleges run like that.
Jaime – SIC shouldn’t be adjusted on a yearly basis, but dependent on what year you enter Yale.
Sara S – You can take loans out for any of things.
Kevin – We should address that people do take out student loans.
  - Allison – Yale does say no loans as a policy.
  - Ben – What they mean by loans, it means that in your package you won’t be given a loan, unless it is additional to that package?
Vicky – Students do reapply to financial aid every year.
Sara M – Where will SAF be covered?
  - Sara S – Covered under personal expenses.
Yonghyun – One concern I’ve been hearing is that if you have summer contribution you don’t have same opportunities, can you just pay all of them in a whole?
Leah – Can you establish a fellowship?
  - Danny – Our recommendation to let fellowships cover this would cover this.
Sara S – Yale is still running a deficit and there will be layoffs to remember.

Votes
  - Unanimous consent on recommendation 1.
  - Unanimous consent on recommendation 2.
  - Vote 3
    - Sara S – It’s a confidentiality issue that would likely mean it’s self-reported.
    - Ben – This may dilute the other ones.
    - Maia – Strong that it is the first two weeks in the year.
    - Ewurama – freshman probably won’t get a job in the first two weeks.
    - Grant B – Isn’t the freshman term time contribution less?
      - Yes.
    - Grant F – Is there a way to expedite the hiring process?
    - Matt R – Some schools have students rank job possibilities before they arrive, and then assign them jobs once they get here.
    - Diana – Internationals and students who own farms are also general not covered.
• Danny – We should delay the vote on this item, it’s not properly articulated at this point. There are additional issues we should discuss about financial aid next meetings.
  ▪ Delayed.
  o Unanimous consent on recommendation 4.
• Withdrawal and Leave of Absence Policies
  o We finalized a report on this and had a meeting with President Salovey last week. Reception was very positive, and there is an understanding that the current policies are too restrictive and unfair to students. By the start of next term I hope admin can have a new policy place.
  o General guidelines for reform:
    ▪ Whenever possible, students should be permitted to choose a voluntary leave of absence instead of involuntary leave. The terms “leave of absence” and “withdrawal” should apply only to students taking time away from Yale for non-disciplinary reasons.
    ▪ The terms of readmission for leaves of absence and withdrawals—whether voluntary or involuntary—should permit consideration of individual circumstance.
    ▪ Comprehensive information about withdrawal, leave of absence, patient confidentiality, and readmission should be easy to access and understand.
  o Bechir – Distinction between what type of leave?
    ▪ Danny – Yes.
  o Kevin – what about personal leaves of absence? I have a friend who left for a start up and it was treated like a medical leave.
    ▪ Danny – explanation
  o Ewurama – When you talk about medical withdrawals, are they voluntary or not?
    ▪ Danny – Both.
  o Guest – Will IDs still be deactivated?
    ▪ Danny – Yes, but there isn’t the symbolism of taking it away, which is very unpleasant.
  o All recommendations in report approved with unanimous consent.