Yale College Council – Council of Representatives Meeting
Saturday, November 2, 2013; Meeting Six

Action Items

1. University Services
   a. Office of Disabilities Note Taking Quality Control
      i. Follow up with Office of Disabilities to implement recommendations.
         Kathy Khalvati (JE ’17), 11/7
   b. Post Office Reform
      i. Investigate feasibility of temporary solution
         Yaphet Getachew (PC ’16), TBD

2. Student Life
   a. Referendum
      i. Develop details of timeline and process
         Board, 11/3

3. Organizational
   a. Constitution
      i. Review Constitution
         All, 11/9

Attendance

Excused Absence
1. Martha Glodz (BR ’15)
2. Maddie Bauer (CC ’17)

Unexcused Absence
1. Leah Motzkin (BR ’16)
2. Khalid Attalla (JE ’16)

Minutes

• Meeting Starts: 4:02 PM
• Social Update – Danny Avraham (BR ’15)
  o YCC Day of Service to work together on volunteer projects once a month
• Admin Updates from Danny
  o Met with Dean Miller, Provost, Dean Gentry, Dean Meeske
  o Other meetings with Dean of Financial Aid and the Dean of Admissions
  o GNH: will only need to be approved by the Deans of Residential Colleges and Council of Masters
  o Ad Hoc Grading Committee: next Thursday the faculty will be meeting to hear back from grading committee about their different findings
    ▪ Still in initial stage of reevaluating
  o Mental Health: Report positively received by student body and administration
• Working with administration to address each recommendation in the report
  o Academic Calendar: Recommendations presented to the Dean’s Office
    • Exact configuration to be determined based on sustainability for 7 years
    • Hopefully presented to University Officers within 2 months
  o Organization Management System: President’s Office is also boosting this process
  o Dorm Access: YCDO is open to reconsider
    • Dean Meeske and Dean Gentry do not oppose, others in facilities may have some issues
  o Distributional Requirements
    • Currently no incentive to take harder science class as a non-science major
    • Should be Cr/D since they are not meeting their academic purpose
  o Secondary Concentrations
    • Provost does not fundamentally oppose it
    • Need to refine our arguments to be more than just credentials – need academic reason
  o Bring Banners on Commons back for H-Y game

• Office of Disabilities Note Taking System Quality Control – Kathy Khalvati (JE ’17)
  o Context
    • Office serves entire university (both graduate and undergraduate) so swamped with work
    • Emphasis on limited time and unlimited volume of request
    • Currently over about 300 sets of notes being distributed (large volume) to 600 students
    • Sometimes the students who need notes are regulars, sometimes they are one-timers
    • Hand, shoulder injuries, concussions
    • In many cases, the student has already missed class and needs past notes as well
    • Note-taking is a paid position: $12.50/hour
    • **Main complaint:** delay in receiving notes and lack of quality
  o Issues and Recommendations
    • 1) **Anonymous distribution of notes**
      • Issue of how to get the notes to the students quickly and privately
      • Inefficient system of employees getting emails from note takers and forwarding them to students themselves
      • **Recommendation:** an online private workspace through Classes V2 in which students can publish and receive notes anonymously and efficiently
Yale College Council – Council of Representatives Meeting
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- Note-takers publish notes and students access them
- Site protected by NetID and password

2) Quality Control:
- Admins are not in these classes; they do not know if the notes are being taken in the right manner
- As of now, student note-taker is the quality control
- Recommendations:
  - Create video module of Dean Schenker’s, Dean of Academic Affairs, note-taking seminar
  - Publish seminar on website and require all student note-takers watch it

3) Note-taking process
- People are not aware or do not follow through with the process
- Students don’t pick up professor letters
- Professors don’t follow through to make announcements
- Note-takers do not return notes in time and students do not report to the office of the issue
- Recommendations:
  - Publication of steps in note-taking process in the Teaching Students with Disabilities Guide
    - http://yalecollege.yale.edu/content/teaching-students-disabilities-guide
  - Creation of a small paper checklist with all steps for both note-takers and students receiving notes

4) System of Feedback
- No formal way of receiving complaints and feedback
- Judy York concerned that YCC and others hear more complaints than her own office
- Recommendation:
  - Create and send out periodical feedback surveys

5) Recruitment:
- Recruitment system very informal and unorganized
- Huge public statements flooded office with requests usually chosen on first come first serve basis
- Recommendations:
  - Break down into long-term and short-term note-takers
  - Get note-takers from each of the big lecture courses early on in the semester or even before the semester begins who can be relied on throughout the year
  - Also hire tutors on a more immediate basis if needed

Next Steps
Goal: to be first project of new employee who will work with YCC
(a long term, ongoing project)
Judy York, Director of Disabilities Resources, very enthusiastic
Meeting again with Mrs. York to show council votes and
suggestions on Thursday, Nov 7th

Overview of Recommendations
- Creation of an online private workspace through Classes V2 in
  which students can publish and receive notes anonymously and
  efficiently
- Creation of video module of Dean Schenker’s, Dean of Academic
  Affairs, note-taking seminar to publish online and require note-
  takers to watch
- Publish clear steps involved in note-taking process in Teaching
  Students with Disabilities Guide
- Create a small paper checklist with all steps for both note-takers
  and students receiving notes that can be distributed and published
  online
- Create and send out periodic surveys for feedback
- Create recruitment process for long-term and short-term note-
  takers

Questions
Q – David – why not require students to have to attend the note-
  taking seminar?
  • Kathy – too much of a delay to take the seminar. Often there
  is a need to have the note-takers immediately
Q – David – is there a contract for note-takers?
  • Kathy – no currently no contracts
Q – Michael L – could you elaborate on recruitment? Can there be
  writing samples beforehand?
  • Kathy - there needs to be both long-term and short-term
    solutions. Office only has 2 people to handle all the
    applications. Short-term note-takers can address
    immediate issues. Long-term note-takers can be recruited
    in a more thorough process.
Q- Joe V – if note-takers are in the class won’t they take better
  notes?
  • Kathy – yes, that is the standard. They need to be in the
  class
Q – Azan – once a week the professors should review the notes?
  • Kathy – it’s a great idea, but hard to mandate all professors
    to do it
Q – Yonghyun – can’t you fire bad people?
  • Kathy – yes, they are willing to fire people
Q – Grant F – can you get notes from more than 1 person in a class?
Yale College Council – Council of Representatives Meeting
Saturday, November 2, 2013; Meeting Six

- Kathy – good idea
- Danny – but potentially budget issues
  - Q – Vicky C – could you get a sample of notes over the first week to choose?
    - Kathy – yes, could fit into the long-term process
    - Sara – but manpower problem
    - David – Vicky’s idea may save time down the road
    - Danny – lots of tricky logistical issues and office of disabilities does not have the resources
  - Q – Mason Ji – don’t large lectures have TAs that could review notes?
    - Danny – yes great point, should be added to recommendations
  - Q – Jaime – what about student jobs to review notes?
    - Danny – another possibility, add to recommendations as well

- Vote to approve all recommendations – 21-0-0

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### Note Taking System
### Quality Control

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Yale College Council – Council of Representatives Meeting
Saturday, November 2, 2013; Meeting Six

Leah Motzkin 1
Ewurama Okai 1
Andi Peng 1
JR Reed 1

- Post Office Review – Yaphet Getachew (PC ‘16)
  - Post Office Problems
    - We are the only Ivy League university that uses this package and mail delivery system, in which we use one central US Post Office for almost all of our mail.
    - This single location has lead to unreasonably long lines at the start of each semester.
  - Post Office Solutions
    - Nothing can be done with the Post Office itself since we do not have the jurisdiction to request anything of the federal employees that work there.
  - Peer Institutions

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Recommendation

- Seek a temporary remedy to package delivery problems at the beginning of each semester.
  - This proposal would consist of a few parts.
    - Since all PO boxes are already linked to a residential college, for the first three or so weeks of term we would have all packages delivered to the separate residential colleges.
    - According to the survey I sent to you all, the majority of the residential colleges do not have the capability to handle all of this mail. Therefore, we would need to look into the feasibility of creating a temporary student job of running a make shift “package post office” within some room of their college.
    - If this system is not feasible in the residential colleges then I propose looking into the feasibility of using a central space at Yale for package pick up at the start of term.

Questions

- Q – Sara – so they are being routed to residential colleges and then other buildings? Each res college may not have room to store
  - Yaphet – that is why we are proposing this option. Need Dean’s office to look into this
  - Danny – in each residential college it would vary and could be used for a limited period of time
- Q – Zac – how will they be rerouted?
  - Yaphet – central mail in Orange, CT. All Yale mail goes through there to be sorted and sent to your PO box. All would be sent to either residential colleges or central location
- Q – Saif – why not extend services to 143 Elm Street?
  - Yaphet – 143 Elm Street is just UPS, so private service
- Q – Leigh – is there a way that we can encourage students how to properly identify mail? For example, let people know that 143 Elm Street is for UPS packages?
  - Yaphet – yes, we could do that as well
- Q – Joe – two issues, processing times and lines are the problem. Wouldn’t adding distribution add to the processing time?
Yale College Council – Council of Representatives Meeting
Saturday, November 2, 2013; Meeting Six

- Yaphet – they already do that, each PO box is tied to a residential college so they already sort them. Now they would just route it to the Post Office
  - Q – Yonghyun – why don’t other colleges have these problems?
    - Yaphet – most of them have built other buildings
  - Q – Yonghyun – could we purpose this as a long-term solution?
    - Danny – we could, but its not top priority for administration
    - Sara – administration already has thought about it
  - Q – Grant B – could you designate 4-6 colleges to go to the PO box and the others to the residential colleges? So you still use Post Office?
    - Yaphet – yes we could look into feasibility of that
  - Q – Vicky – what tactics is Post Office using to fix this?
    - David – they do bring in more people, but its not enough
  - Q – Jaime – what about the issue of if you don’t know which address to put since you don’t know if its going to be sent UPS or USPS?
    - Ben – something like that does exist, but not heavily utilized
  - Vote to approve recommendation (19-0-2)

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• Referendum Process – Danny Avraham (BR ’15)
  o Harvard’s Referenda Process – Fall ’13
    ▪ October 18th – Referenda process advertised.
    ▪ November 4th – Group must submit question, signatures from 10% of student body (670 students) in support of question, and 300-word Pro statement.
      • Question must be neutrally worded and call for a “yes” or “no” answer.
      • Signatures collected via Google Form by the organization.
    ▪ November 8th – Final question and 300-word Con statements due.
      • Question must be approved by polling group in IOP and revised if not neutral.
    ▪ November 10th – 150-word Pro/Con rebuttals and list of organizations for and against due.
    ▪ November 11th – Campaigning begins.
    ▪ November 18th-21st – Voting open.
  o Proposed Yale Referendum Process
    ▪ Process will be incorporated in the revision of YCC’s constitution.
  ▪ **VOTE 1: Procedure to hold referendums**
    • Petition with signatures of 10% of student body acquired the same semester
      o If rejected by simple majority of the Council group need to acquire signatures of 20% of the undergraduate student body.
    • Council of Representatives 2/3 majority decide to hold a referendum.
  ▪ **VOTE 2: Number of referendums per year and dates**
    • One date for referendums each semester (two a year).
    • Exact date determined by the Executive Board.
  ▪ **VOTE 3: Referendum Language and Ballot Information**
    • Question Must be neutrally worded and call for “yes”/”no” answer.
    • Wording of question must be approved by Office of Institutional Research and a Executive Board.
Yale College Council – Council of Representatives Meeting
Saturday, November 2, 2013; Meeting Six

- Ballot will have link to a webpage on YCC website with Pro/Con statements and rebuttals solicited from the study body.

### VOTE 4: Grounds for binding referendum
- At least 50% of student body must vote.
- At least 50% of those voters must have voted “yes.”
- Must amount that at least 1/3 of student body is in support of the referendum.

### VOTE 5: Binding referendum
- The YCC must write a position paper outlining the student body’s stance in support of the referendum and present the paper to the administration.
- Any referendum that isn’t binding is just considered “advisory” and the Council of Representatives can still chose to address it.
- All referendum results will be sent to the administration and student body.

- Questions
  - Q – Kevin – could the 50% of student body be a lower body?

- Questions on Vote 1
  - Q – Vicky – are we going to be specific on where the signatures come from?
    - Danny/Kyle – yes, they need to be undergraduate students
  - Q – Zac – will there be dialogue between group and YCC if council rejects referendum?
    - Danny – yes, YCC will explain why it was directed
  - Q – Grant B – Do we need to figure out details of Google Form to gather signatures?
    - Danny – technical details can be figured out later
    - Ben – will need to be identifiable
  - Q – Kathy – do we have a referendum now?
    - Danny - no process now
  - Q – Joe – will there be election rules?
    - Kyle – we can hold them with same rules as YCC candidates or change rules
    - Danny – would link to university guidelines
  - Q – Allison – is there a mandate for a time limit on when they come up with a con?
    - Danny – yes, would be under vote 2

- Vote on Vote 1: 17-0-3

Referendum Process

VOTE 1: Procedure to hold referendums
Yale College Council – Council of Representatives Meeting
Saturday, November 2, 2013; Meeting Six

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- Questions on Vote 2:
  - Q – Joe – what about issues that need to be held timely?
    - Danny – executive board could decide when to hold recommendations
    - Kyle – dates have to neutral
  - Comment – Andrew – we should set guidelines that referendum need to involve Yale to prevent political candidate endorsements
- Vote to approve recommendation 2 to hold one referendum per semester (17-2-1)

Referendum Process

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VOTE 2: Number of referendums per year and dates
Yale College Council – Council of Representatives Meeting
Saturday, November 2, 2013; Meeting Six

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Khalid Attalla 1
Madeline Bauer 1
Grant Bronsdon 1
Vicky Chou 1
Joseph English 1
Connor Feeley 1
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Ewurama Okai 1
Andi Peng 1
JR Reed 1

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- Vote to approve recommendation 3 on referendum language and ballot information (20-0-0)

Referendum Process

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VOTE 3: Referendum Language and Ballot Information
**Yale College Council – Council of Representatives Meeting**

Saturday, November 2, 2013; Meeting Six

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- Debate on Vote 4 and 5:
  - Originally on powerpoint presentation vote 4 and vote 5 were in reverse places, and vote 5 stipulated that at least 50% of student body must vote, and at least 50% of voters must vote “yes.” Order of votes was switched during meeting and after the following debate the 1/3 condition was added.
  - Allison – 50% must vote is good. If more people than 50% vote, than it should be a higher percent
    - David – than should it be 30% of the student body?
  - Grant – could it change to be 2/3 majority of those voting?
  - Ewurama – why not just 1/3 of student body
    - Grant B – because if everyone votes and 2/3 vote no it would be a binding referendum
  - Kyle – best thing to do is to add a second stipulation on the second line
  - Kevin – is 50% of the student body too high a bar?
    - Kyle – no, over 50% normally vote in YCC elections
  - Yonghyun – bar should be higher if its binding
    - Danny – too many people would be indifferent so hard to get over 50% to participate
  - Saif – whichever stipulation is higher
  - Changed language to 33% for third stipulation
  - Connor – referendum can fail and we can still support it
  - Allison – If there is overwhelmingly negative response for no, would the YCC need to report the no vote?
    - Kyle - No, because the question is an affirmative one.
Yale College Council – Council of Representatives Meeting
Saturday, November 2, 2013; Meeting Six

- Vote on 4 (18-2-0).

Referendum Process | What binding means
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- Vote on 5 to approve whether the referendum is binding (20-0-0)
Yale College Council – Council of Representatives Meeting
Saturday, November 2, 2013; Meeting Six

Connor Feeley 1
Grant Fergusson 1
Yaphet Getachew 1
Jaime Halberstam 1
Richard Harris 1
Mason Ji 1
Kathy Khalvati 1
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- Referendum on Fossil Fuel Divestment - YSEC President, Alexander Vernoit
  - Parallel conversations happening at 300 colleges including peer institutions
  - Harvard did a referendum last year
  - YSEC worked with YCC last semester and this semester to plan a referendum
  - Yale ACIR – students, faculty, and alumni
    - Presents recommendations to the Yale Corporation Investment Committee
    - YSEC has been interacting with them, met with cooperation and approval
    - Assembled 80 page long report
  - **VOTE: Hold Referendum on Divestment From Fossil Fuel before Thanksgiving Break** - Danny
    - Group has petitioned YCC to hold the referendum since February 2013.
    - Group previously received confirmation on the date from YCC Executive Board.
    - Group obtained nearly 1,000 signatures of undergraduates to bring their cause to the YCC when the guidelines that appeared on YCC’s website were 400.
    - Similar referendums were held at peer institutions, including Harvard.
Yale College Council – Council of Representatives Meeting
Saturday, November 2, 2013; Meeting Six

- Process and date are similar to that in peer institutions and were reviewed and agreed upon by the administration.
  - Danny Comments
    - We are asking for referendum because this process has been postponed since last year
    - YCC has worked with them before and YSEC has fulfilled all its responsibilities while YCC has gone back and forth on its position on this
    - Referendums are not a new things, we are simply catching up
    - We should hold referendum within past two weeks to respect
    - Administration thinks current timeline is appropriate even for gathering opposition and similar timeline took place at peer institutions
  - Questions
    - Q – Grant – will we publicize it
      - Andrew – yes it will be announced
      - Danny – yes we will send an email
    - Q – Yonghyun – do we campaigning guidelines prepared?
      - Danny – will be expansion of election campaigns
    - Q – Vicky – will we meet to discuss results?
      - Danny – we do not need to adjust our meeting
      - Andrew – we will announce results after the referendum
    - Q – Connor – what about wording? do we have to use petition?
    - Q – Michael – were signatures all valid?
      - Danny – not relevant to this one, since we are deciding to hold a referendum
  - Vote on whether to hold a referendum regarding divestment (19-0-1)

**Divestment from Fossil Fuel**
Hold referendum before Thanksgiving break?

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Yale College Council – Council of Representatives Meeting
Saturday, November 2, 2013; Meeting Six

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• Re-evaluate Student Activities Fee – Kyle Tramonte (SY ’15)
  o Background
    ▪ The Yale College Council since 2005 has collected its revenue from a student activities fee.
    ▪ Students can opt-out of the fee by simply clicking a button
    ▪ Currently $75, up from its initial level of $50
    ▪ In addition to the YCC and its subsidiary bodies, the money is used by the UOC to fund student groups and pay for a portion of club sports activities
  o Current Problems
    ▪ Rising artist costs for Spring Fling
    ▪ Increase in the number of student groups applying for money from UOC
    ▪ General inflation
    ▪ “Free-Riding”
  o Peer Institutional Research
    ▪ Opt-out Provision
    ▪ Only Yale and Harvard currently have an opt-out provision. Harvard’s much more tedious.
    ▪ General Level
    ▪ Yale= $75, Ivy + Stanford Average = ~$190
    ▪ Financial Aid
    ▪ Harvard and Yale the only schools in Ivy League to not have SAF part of tuition and thus eligible for coverage by financial Aid
  o Recommendations
    ▪ 1) That SAF be included in the Yale tuition and thus be included in the discretionary spending portion a student’s financial aid package
    ▪ 2) Contingent upon the inclusion of the SAF in financial aid, that the opt-out provision be removed.
3) In the event that the SAF cannot be included in financial aid, that the process for opt-outing be changed to match Harvard’s, requiring a formal written communication from students with the aim of limiting “free-riding.”

4) That the fee be raised to a level determined by the Yale College Council, decided at a later date, to reflect changes in Yale College and the larger economy.

Questions

- Danny – who here knew about SAF?
  - Lots of people knew

- Q – Grant – even if fee is not raised are we still pursuing 3?
  - Kyle - Yes

Vote to approve recommendations (19-0-1)

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- Constitution Review – Joe English (DC ’17)
Briefly presented main debatable issues to be resolved next meeting.

**Overview**
- Term lengths and election cycle
- E-Board structure
- Leadership roles
- Quorum and voting
- UOC structure

**Term Length**
- **Status Quo**
  - E-Board elected in April
  - Council elections, additions to committees in September
  - First day of winter break to last day of fall semester
    - E-Board and Council elected in November
    - Additions to committees in January
  - First day of school to last day of school
    - E-Board and Council elected in April
    - Additions to committees in September

**Recommendation and Discussion**
- First day of school to last day of school
- E-Board and Council elected in April; additions to committees in September
  - **Pros**
    - Eliminates summer limbo
    - Entire council can hit the ground running in the fall
    - Eliminates the need for two election cycles
  - **Cons**
    - Prevents Freshmen from running
    - Creates potential vacancies without Freshman

**Eboard**
- **Status Quo**
  - Elect President, Vice President, and Communications, Finance, Student Organizations, and Events Directors
  - Appoint management board
**Yale College Council – Council of Representatives Meeting**  
Saturday, November 2, 2013; Meeting Six

### Harvard Model
- President and Vice President elected independently
- Nominate cabinet for Council approval
- Events/UOC chairs elected out of the bodies they govern

### Executive leadership model
- President and Vice President elected on one ticket
- Nominate cabinet for Council approval

### Recommendation and Discussion
- **Executive leadership**
  - Pres./VP elected on one ticket, nominate cabinet for approval
    - **Pros:**
      - Greater synergy between executives and cabinet
      - Council given some autonomy in choosing own leadership
      - Reduces election stress
    - **Cons:**
Centralizes power to two individuals
- Potentially reduces diversity of thought in leadership
- Prevents students from running for office without a partner

Roles and Responsibilities
- **President**
  - Chief Executive of the YCC
  - Official spokesperson for student body and YCC
  - Oversees productivity of Council, committee, and cabinet
- **Vice President**
  - De facto Speaker of the Council
  - Oversees projects headed by Councilmembers and M-Board
- **Chief of Staff**
  - Manager of cabinet
  - Head of internal communications
  - Aide to President and VP for logistical/administrative issues

Quorum and Voting
- Quorum: 2/3 of voting and E-Board members are present
- Proposals: Simple (12/24) majority
- Policies: Two-thirds (16/24) majority
- Associate memberships: Two-thirds (16/24) majority
- Constitutional Amendments: Super (18/24) majority
- Impeachments: Super (18/24) majority

UOC Structure
- **Status Quo**
  - Student Organizations Director appoints members
  - Councilmember status not considered
  - Operates with autonomy; decisions not subject to Council review
- **Council Integration**
  - Council members rotate serving as OFMs
  - Gives authority to elected representatives

Meeting Ends 6:00 pm