Yale College Council
Council of Representatives Meeting
Saturday, November 9, 2013; 4:00 PM
Meeting Seven

Action Items

1. **Organizational**
   a. **Emails**
      i. Answer all emails within 24 hours or give estimate when you can address it
        All, always
   b. **Internal Affairs Manager**
      i. Send out application
        Board, 11/9
      ii. Respond to application
        All, 11/12
   c. **Constitution**
      i. Review all Constitution topics on Trello
        All, 11/16

Attendance

Excused Absence
1. Yonghyun Kwon (TC ’17)

Unexcused Absence
1. Grant Fergusson (BR ’16)
2. Grant Bronsdon (ES ’16)

Minutes

- **Meeting Starts: 4:00 PM**
  o Bechir Auguste-Pierre is a guest present at the meeting
  o Always answer your emails!
  o Andi Peng needs actors for Y-H video
  o Emily Murphy, our video person, is great
  o What have you heard about the referendum?
    - We need to make sure it is clear that YCC is neutral and there is opposition as well
- **Context: Changes in YCC this year**
  o Core of YCC: Project Managers –vs- traditional committees
  o M-board
  o Project List
  o Meeting format, voting
  o Events Committee
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- P&D Team
- Programming Team
- Business Team
- Integration of UOC
- Overall expansion from ~35 members to over 90
- Danny’s Vision
  ▪ Everyone is a leader within the group
  ▪ Question all practices including ones last year
  ▪ Establish a lasting relationship with administration
  ▪ Make student body feel that YCC is there for them and YCC will do things for them
  ▪ Need to get things done

- Constitution Review – Joe English (DC’17)
  - Overview
    ▪ Context
    ▪ Vote 1: Leadership roles – Board structure
    ▪ Vote 2: Quorum and voting
    ▪ Vote 3: Associate Representatives
    ▪ Vote 4: Election cycle
    ▪ Vote 5: Eboard elections and structure
    ▪ Debate: UOC Structure
  - Leadership: Roles and Responsibilities
    ▪ President
      ▪ Chief Executive of the YCC
      ▪ Official spokesperson for student body and YCC
      ▪ Oversees productivity of Council, committees, 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
  - Vote 1: Leadership Roles
    ▪ The Executive Board/Cabinet should include the following members:
      ▪ President
      ▪ Vice President
      ▪ Chief of Staff
      ▪ Communications Director
      ▪ Finance Director
      ▪ Student Organizations Director
• Events Director
• Academics Director
• Student Life Director
• University Services Director

Questions
• Q – JR – are these all positions on the executive board (eboard)?
  • Joe – these are just the leadership roles – the structure of what will be on the executive board will come later
• Q – Maddie – would there be a need for the Chief of Staff if we define the VP as having those responsibilities?
  • Joe – Still need a Chief of Staff so that each leader is not overwhelmed
• Q – Kathy – isn’t it the Management Board’s role to check on the reps?
  • Kyle – yes, but VP needs to know all of what is going on
• Q – Azan – so VP is liaison between Management Board and President?
  • Joe – Yes.
• Q – Bechir – any change on how leadership roles vote?
  • Joe/Danny – we will talk about this later, but recommendation is they don’t vote
• Q – Vicky/Saif – what is the Communications Director’s role if you create a Chief of Staff?
  • Andrew – still plenty for Communications Director to do without some of the internal communications role
  • Andrew – Communications Director does not need to manage internal communications to know what needs to be publicized

• Vote to approve these leadership roles (21 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain)

**Constitution**

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**Vote 2: Quorum and Voting**

- **Presentation**
  - Quorum: 2/3 of voting and E-Board members are present
  - Only the 24 elected representatives have voting rights
  - Vice President casts deciding vote when votes are split
  - President has veto power, need 2/3 majority to override veto (applies to all forms of voting, except impeachments)
  - **Types of votes**
    - Proposals: Simple (13/24) majority
    - Associate Representatives” Membership: Two-thirds (16/24) majority
    - Constitutional Amendments: Super (18/24) majority
    - Impeachments: Super (18/24) majority

- **Questions**
  - Q – David – how do abstentions factor into vote?
    - Joe – abstentions are not considered in vote; they are not counted as no votes
  - Q – Kathy – why is it not just 2/3 of the 24 if eboard is not voting?
    - Joe – eboard has knowledge of all projects, so they may have information about vote that is otherwise not presented if they are not there
  - Q – Yaphet – do you mean 2/3 of eboard and 2/3 of the council need to be present?
    - Joe – Yes.
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- Q – Danny/Andrew – can you clarify if abstentions count toward the quorum?
  - Joe – abstentions do not count toward the quorum
- Q – Zach – wouldn’t abstaining be more powerful than a no since it may mean there is no quorum?
  - Joe – If a quorum is not reached would delay vote until next week, instead of permanently tabling it
- Q – Connor – would there be constitutional power for Eboard to delay votes?
  - Joe – No. President can veto, but that is it.
- JR – I’d like to see more than simple majority to pass things
  - Vote to approve quorum and voting rules (20-1-0)

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- Issue 3: Associate Representatives
**Status Quo**
- Attend two consecutive meetings
- Petition the Vice President
- Pass E-board vetting
- Confirmed by 2/3 majority of council

**Recommendation**
- Attend three consecutive meetings
- Petition the Vice President
- Confirmed by 2/3 majority of council

**Question**
- Q – Ben – does that mean VP can veto an associate?
  - Joe – No. They are just person to whom petition is submitted.
- Q - JR – why is eboard vetting gone?
  - Joe – It’s not necessary because it is the council’s choice.
  - Danny – I agree with Joe now. Before we did eboard vetting since eboard is a better forum to review people.
  - Leah – I thought that vetting makes associates put more effort in the process to be more invested
    - Danny – submitting application to VP shows investment
- Q – Azan – isn’t 3 meetings too long since associates will not be able to get started to help?
  - Maddie – could they be appointed to a task force after 1-2 meetings? So they are slowly integrated
  - Khalid – don’t see a scenario when they will vote no. Should not be a vote and eboard vetting. Either one or the other.
    - Kevin – seconded
  - Azan – pair with elected representative to start projects immediately
  - Joe – good point
  - Danny – logistically hard to implement
- Q – Vicky – associate members have all the responsibilities, but they don’t get to vote. So, they still need to take on projects?
  - Joe – Yes, they need to take on projects as well.
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- Q – Kathy – associates should give 2 minute presentation of ideas instead of short 1 minute introductions so there is a legitimate reason to vote
- Andrew – really not a need for a long process. Associates cannot vote, but otherwise have the same experience as most representatives. After 2 weeks, you can start integrating them and they can get started. If they are bad, you can just impeach, but that probably will not be a problem.
  - Martha – I agree. Should also be both council voting and eboard vetting.
- Q – Michael – 1 or 2 meetings a week? If we meet twice a week, then a 3 meeting requirement is much easier to deal with.
  - Yaphet – I agree.
- Ewurama – put associate’s petition on Trello after 1 meeting for reps to review.
- Q – Khalid – aren’t we just trying to find a reason to vote?
  - Kathy – we should be able to vote since we will be working with them.
- Kathy – Trello is good, but they probably don’t need to pair beforehand since we didn’t have experience with projects before we got started.
  - Danny – we will table this vote for now

- Term Length – Options
  - **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

- Term Length – Recommendation
  - **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
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- **Cons**
  - Prevents Freshmen from running
  - Creates potential vacancies without Freshman

- **Questions**
  - Ben – a problem with the winter break model is that it conflicts with the University Budget since there would be a YCC change-over in the middle of the Fiscal Year particularly in the Undergraduate Organizations Committee
  - David – we could have 2 election cycles, for example maybe have UOC on a different election cycle
  - Leigh – some of the events money allocated in the Fall can rollover to the Spring
  - Azan – what does “additions to committees” mean?
    - Joe – Non-elected members being added to UOC, Events Committee, etc.
  - Q - Khalid – any provisions for people running for eboard to also run as a rep in April if they do not win?
    - Kyle – Joe, Danny, and I have talked about this. Could potentially run as both a representative and as eboard. If you were elected to a board position would need to fill your space as a rep.
  - Maddie – important to have a consistent face for YCC. Would be an awkward shift if elected in winter break. April plan would create lots of election publicity, would this mean too many elections at one time?
    - Danny – Great point. We will clarify after this which eboard members will be elected.
  - Martha – agree with transition point problem in the November plan, there could also be an issue with seniors dropping out after spring semester junior year
  - Leigh – need to set-up processes over the summer. Coordinating amongst council members would be tough over the summer.
    - Joe – this decision helps determine what kind of culture will YCC have? Is it one in which YCC hears issues from representatives or one in which eboard sets the agenda?
  - Allison – board should just not communicate over the summer. They could bounce stuff off the council, but should be good coordinating opportunity. Real advantage is you eliminate the awkward month at the start of the year.
    - Ben – agree with Allison. Also really important for council members to have the prerogative to be involved.
  - Kyle – would still have class council elections in the Fall
- Andi – problem with all elections at the same time is that student body is not aware of the structure of YCC. People may get confused.
- Azan – eboard elections can be chaotic. What if you had eboard elections in November and council elected in January?
  - Joe – change of leadership is difficult in the middle of a Council

- **Issue 4: Elections Cycle**
  - Elections for both the Executive Board and Council will take place in April

- **E-Board Structure**
  - Status Quo
  - Elect President, Vice President, and Communications, Finance, Student Organizations, and Events Directors
  - Appoint management board

- **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**
  - President and Vice President elected on one ticket
  - Nominate cabinet for Council approval
**Expanded Ticket**
- President, Vice President, four Directors 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

**Questions**
- Q – Ewurama – which offices would expanded ticket model include?
  - Danny – we could decide that later
- Q – Maddie – are there requirements to run?
  - Danny – No, currently only need to attend 3 YCC meetings to be eligible to run
• Khalid – I like the idea of a ticket and having elections on their own. Events and UOC elect themselves. Mboard should have student body election.
• Leah – where would people who could be appointed come from? Its sketchy if they are just friends with P/VP
• Azan – is there a class year requirement for P/VP?
  o Danny – No.
• Maddie – is there an application for appointments?
  o Danny – ideally, it should be previous YCC members. Application would be sent to those people then they apply, P/VP chooses, and Council votes.
• Internal Affairs Manager
  o Need someone to help President and Vice-President
  o Will not replace your position as a council member
  o Probably will not get projects from now on
  o Meet on a weekly basis with the board
  o This person will not have any authority over board members
  o Will have decision by Wednesday
• Meeting Ends 5:45 pm