Yale College Council  

*Council of Representatives Meeting*  
Sunday, November 2, 2014  
Meeting Eight

**Agenda Items**

1. Project Proposal: Isiah Cruz  
2. Gender Neutral Housing vote  
3. New Project Assignments

**Attendance**

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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).

Graduate-Undergraduate Integration
Presentation [ISIAH]:

- Joint grad-undergrad calendar
  - Benefits:
    - Increases grad-undergrad interaction.
    - Easy way to be aware of interesting graduate events since the publicity sphere for their events rarely includes us.
    - Raises attendance for both grad and undergrad events (Master’s Teas, Discussions, Guest Speaker events).
  - Logistics:
    - Isaac adding graduate events into our overarching calendar. Isaac and Joori Park (President of Graduate Student Association) currently in contact.

- Grad-Undergrad mentorship program
  - Step 1: Group Go
    - Organized activities to get multiple undergrads and grad students to meet in small groups to interact based on hobbies, activities, career interest, etc. (i.e. hike up East Rock, coffee meeting, sports).
    - Groups potentially sorted by activity.
    - This would foster an organic relationship, while allowing us to get feedback on how we can structure a one-on-one mentoring program and gauge the interest level.
    - Undergrads will gain the opportunity to interact with multiple grad students and they can self-select grad students they wish to connect with based on interests and personality.
    - The logistics behind this program are minimal. Quick start.
  - Step 2: Formal Mentoring Program
    - Group Go will allow us to gage interest in a more formal, individualized mentorship program.

- Gradu-Undergrad gov mixer
  - Would consist of small group discussions based on committees (i.e. Student Life, Finance, Events). The GSA equivalent of our Student Life committee would team up with our Student Life committee to recap what each have accomplished this year and what each hopes to accomplish.
Everyone moves to the Reception Room. The GSA and YCC Presidents will then be asked to say a word to everyone regarding the direction each student government body is headed.

Finally, everyone will get a chance to mingle in the Reception Room.

**Potential Hurdles**

- The GSA only represents the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences. This excludes Yale SOM, Yale Law School, Forestry School, etc. Thus, we would have to try and get their student government equivalents on board as well.
- This might require a committee solely dedicated to Grad-Undergrad Integration (as proposed by GSA).

**Discussion:**

- **Grant:** What level of interest have the grad governments displayed?
- **Isiah:** They’re extremely interested and they’re ready to move forward if we are
- **Michelle:** How would you match people based on interests for the mentorship program
- **Isiah:** First it would be based on the interest in a specific activity, then it would be more personal, like based on career or academic interests.
- **Adam:** I went to a conference that included both grad and undergrad students, and the grad students expressed concern that they felt left out of university life because Yale focuses so much on the college. This program I think would help make the university more inclusive.
- **Azan:** Who handles the program, sets up the programs, organizes the events, etc.
- **Isiah:** The student life chairs of each organization would take charge. We already have all that in place.
- **David:** Polled the Council: who would be interested in academic versus social mentorship (academic wins by huge margin). We should look at going straight to academic mentoring and not use social mentoring as our pilot.
- **Ashley:** Have we looked at other mentorship programs and seen what’s good and bad about those and why we need another program in the same vein?
- **Isiah:** No, but this would be a much bigger program spearheaded by the student governments in a cooperative way.
- **Isaac:** This is going to be a lot of work for other people that might not yield useful results, or results that warrant that much work.
- **Adam:** This will give people the opportunity to get a mentor without having to be in an interest club (which has grad mentors). It’s a more flexible program.
- **VOTE:** Implement…
  - **Joint calendar:** PASSED 19-1 (Phan, JE17 dissent)
  - **Mentorship program:** PASSED 20-0 (only academic mentoring)
  - **Mixer:** PASSED 20-0

**Gender Neutral Housing Update**

Presentation [MAIA]:

- Last year in December there was a report requesting gender neutral housing be extended to Sophomores. We want this Council to reaffirm our commitment to this goal
Discussion

• Zach: Is this only for sophomores, or for freshmen too?
• Maia: Just for sophomores.
• Tyler: This is something I’ve worked on since coming to Yale, I think this is something we should keep pushing for. Lots of other schools have done this, and I think this could be one of the best things we could do as a YCC.
• Grant: One argument made last year against this was that it makes it much more difficult for the housing committees to accommodate housing requests in the Spring.
• Michael: I just want to clarify, we’re not writing a new report unless there are new objections, but we think it’s important to talk about it once more because it’s so important to the student body. Overwhelming majorities of the student body are in favor or indifferent to this issue, and it’s rare to see such a consensus. We’re hoping this vote will keep the debate in the public’s eye.
• Ben: What’s are the arguments against it?
• Maia: Two main reasons. First, there are concerns about maturity. Second, they say it’s infeasible in some colleges from a logistical standpoint.
• Layla: Since the data we have is getting old, is there benefit to sending out another survey?
• Michael: I think that’d be unnecessary. The question now is not whether students support it, but what the administration is going to do (or not do) about the issue. We will ask for FCC to have an official vote on the issue though.
• Ethan: Are these reasons that the administration cites publicly available?
• VOTE: PASSED 20-0

New Projects
Presentation [MAIA, JOE]

• Extensively reviewed by the EBoard
• Sorted out based on feasibility, relevance to the YCC mission, needed/doing/done
• Whittled down to 13 new projects

Academic
• Double major, double diploma
• Design practical academic advice panels
  • How to choose a major, how to reach out to profs, tutoring resources, etc.
• Offer “short courses,” half semester practical courses count for 0.25 or 0.5 credit.
  • Scuba diving, rifle shooting, swimming, bookbinding, weightlifting
• Spread out daily course schedule
• Generally reevaluate distributional requirements

Student Life
• Double major, double diploma
• Design practical academic advice panels
  • How to choose a major, how to reach out to profs, tutoring resources, etc.
• Offer “short courses,” half semester practical courses count for 0.25 or 0.5 credit.
  • Scuba diving, rifle shooting, swimming, bookbinding, weightlifting
• Spread out daily course schedule
• Generally reevaluate distributional requirements

University Services
• UCS mentor program: seniors w/ sophomores/juniors
• Provide more bike racks in key places (LC, WLH)
• Standing desks in Bass and SML
• Critically evaluate Yale Acute Care