Yale College Council  
*Council of Representatives Meeting*  
Sunday, March 29, 2014  
Meeting Eighteen

**Agenda Items**

1. FCC Report on the Freshman Experience  
2. Amendment: Standing Committee Appointments  
3. Amendment: Spring Fling Dates  
4. Amendment: Decanal and Presidential Search Process  
5. Amendment: Executive Board Appointment Qualifications

**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).

FCC Report on the Freshman Experience

• Presentation [FCC Representatives]
  o Overview
    ▪ Three Components
      • Counselor Group Composition
      • Resource Accessibility and Usefulness
      • Orientation Diversity Programming
    ▪ Methodology
      • Survey: sent to the entire class (348 responses)
      • Interviews (12 Freshman Counselors, Director of the Office of Gender and Campus Culture, Professor Crystal Feimster, BK Dean Genoni, Hannah Peck, Coordinator of the Writing Center, Assistant Director of the Office of Career Strategy)
  o Current FroCo group composition
    ▪ Each residential college dean can choose the composition of his or her Froco groups
    ▪ Choice 1: Gender
      • 10 colleges have co-ed system
      • Silliman & TD have single-gender system
    ▪ Choice 2: Suitemate Configuration
      • Freshmen are in the same Froco group as
      • All of their suitemates (BK, BR
      • One of their suitemates (CC, DC)
      • None of their suitemates (MC, SY)
    ▪ Recommendations
      • Monitor the pilot co-ed groups in TD and Silliman next year and expedite the shift to a full co-ed system
      • The two new residential colleges should offer freshmen exclusively co-ed groups
  o Career and Academic Resources
    ▪ Overview
• Students complained about inaccessibility and unapproachable of OCS and Symplicity
• Setting up writing tutor appointments is complicated
• Freshmen are unsatisfied with their freshman advisers
• Students don’t take advantage of TA’s, TF’s, and DUS’s

Recommendations
• OCS increase freshmen-directed advertising of freshman events so students are well aware of their services. Additionally, reaching out to the Freshman Counselors could ease feelings that the OCS is unapproachable.
• Provide information to freshmen about the Writing Center and how to use their services periodically throughout the year, so that freshmen who did not get the information during Camp Yale can be know how to make an appointment with the tutors/partners; relay this information to Freshman Counselors
• Deans match incoming freshmen with academic advisors with similar academic or personal interests. This method has shown to be successful with Berkeley freshmen, who have the highest approval rate of the academic advisors.
• Clarify roles of academic advisors

Current Diversity Programming
• “Unexpected Connections”
  • Freshman are emailed artistic representations of Yale’s diversity over the summer
  • Discuss them in Freshman Counselor groups
  • A majority of students indicated that they think socioeconomic status is an important issue on campus, but they do not feel very comfortable discussing it.
  • Many students indicated that they do not feel very comfortable discussing sexual/gender or ethnic/racial identity as well.

Recommendations
• Replace “Unexpected Connections” with a more comprehensive, interactive program similar to CCE training.
• Have trained professionals (ie: relevant professors) develop the curriculum, and have freshman counselors or representatives from the cultural houses/LGBT cooperative implement it.
• Emphasize socioeconomic status, but also include sexual/gender and racial/ethnic identity.

Final Conclusions: FroCos
• While 90% of freshmen surveyed in co-ed groups prefer their status quo, only 40% of Yalies in single-gender groups prefer their status quo.
• The Yale College Council should work with the administration to ensure that the two new residential colleges’ Froco groups are co-ed, as that arrangement is overwhelmingly supported by freshmen.
While the plurality of freshmen surveyed prefer a system in which their entire suite is in their FroCo group, the data do not suggest that there is one system that is so preferred by students to warrant lifting the use of the local option. Therefore, the Yale College Council should not focus its efforts on reforming this aspect of the FroCo program.

**Final Conclusions: Accessibility of Resources and Usefulness of the Resources**

- About two-fifths of those surveyed have not used OCS. We recommend providing an informational PDF or sheet for freshmen during orientation about this resource.
- The Writing Center should offer varied hours to accommodate different students’ schedules, particularly in the morning.
- Freshmen in different colleges have highly varied levels of satisfaction with their Freshmen Advisors, but Berkeley students have the highest level, suggesting that Dean Genoni’s method of intentionally matching students to advisors based on interest and personal qualities is highly effective. We recommend that residential colleges adopt a similar system.
- Half of freshmen surveyed have not consulted a DUS at Yale, so freshmen counselors ought to emphasize the importance of such meetings during orientation.

**Final Conclusions: Diversity Programming**

- Freshmen surveyed are more uncomfortable discussing socioeconomic diversity than racial/ethnic diversity or sexual/gender diversity. New orientation diversity programming should emphasize all three of these kinds of diversity, with special attention to socioeconomic diversity.
- The administration should implement a diversity workshop, similar to alcohol or sexual conduct workshops in orientation, hosted by FroCos, Cultural House representatives, and/or members of the LGBTQ community, for role-playing and simulations to improve freshmen’s level of comfort when discussing diversity.

**Discussion**

- Sam: Can you define what “Academic Adviser” is?
- Peter: Yes, the administration defines it differently than the freshmen, which could be a factor of poor communication. The administration says that the purpose of these advisers is to expand the horizons of students. Students, on the other hand, want advisers to give them information about specific programs and a better understanding of the departments they are interested in.
- Zach: Have you looked into Kaleidoscope as a guide for diversity programming? It was used to introduce diversity topics to the freshmen last year.
- Daniel: Definitely, we’ve looked into both last year’s and this year’s programs, but we still believe that a standardized program is more effective at communicating such complex issues than random artistic representations.
- Tyler B: Freshman Counselors are working on a new, interactive program that’s actually really good. So we’re definitely moving in the right direction.
- Sarika: Have you thought of incorporating PLs from cultural houses? They seem like logical people to reach out for diversity programming?
Amendment: Standing Committee Appointments

- Presentation [MAIA, DAVID]
  - Overview
    - Add provision under each EBoard member’s responsibilities. However, keep the VP’s appointment section as is: “Appoint members to University Standing Committees with advice and consent of Council.
  - Discussion
    - Maia: This is a way for us to institutionalize YCC input at the administrative level and to ensure that the people who are serving on these committees are held accountable.
    - Yonghyun: It’s also a great opportunity for the people on these committees to grow and gain insight. It would be a great way for directors to obtain a more comprehensive perspective on the policies they hope to shape and change.
    - Grant: Is there a provision to say that a student who has a strong and valid reason to be on the committee instead of a director, that person can at least apply to be on the committee?
    - Michelle: Right, those people might not want to be on YCC, but would be great members of these committees. How would they be able to share their perspective without also being forced to be an EBoard member?
    - Maia: That’s a great point. I think that would be dealt with on a case by case basis, rather than formally put into the constitution.
    - Maddie: Also, these are a small portion of the committees. There are so many other committees through which people can make their voices heard.
    - Michael: The impetus for this is partially that at the Calendar Committee meeting, I was kicked out when they actually made the decision. The students who are on EBoard are the ones with the most accountability and experience in these fields. I think this will add transparency to this process and it would increase the legitimacy of the YCC in voicing opinions to the administration.
  - VOTE: PASSED, unanimously.

Amendment: Standing Committee Appointments

- Presentation [MAIA, DAVID]
  - Overview
  - When I was a freshman, President Levin stepped down. There was a big student movement to get a student on the search committee for a new President, but we only got a person who played an advisory role in the process. Last year, when the Dean stepped down, there was again a movement to get a student on the committee. We succeeded, even though there was controversy about it being the YCC president.
  - Under Article V, add the following after Section Three:
    - Section Four: Administrative Search Committees
      - From time to time, the Yale administration will allow students to serve directly on search committees for high-level administrators.
      - For any search committee that seeks to choose either the President of Yale University or the Dean of Yale College, the student position(s) shall be filled by election, according to the following:
• Any student enrolled full-time and physically present on Yale’s campus shall be eligible to be a candidate
• Every member of the student body shall be eligible to vote.
• The Yale College Council shall facilitate this election by asking for candidacy statements and organizing campaign rules as it sees fit.
• In order to win an election, a candidate must satisfy the conditions under Sections Six and Seven of Article VI of the Constitution.
  o For any search committee not seeking to choose either the President of Yale University or the Dean of Yale College, standard appointment proceedings outlined in Section Three of Article V shall apply, unless the Yale College Council votes to hold an election for the position.

• Discussion
  o Maddie: When you talk about time constraints from last year, that was a huge issue. We only had four days to mobilize this search for a representative on the committee. That would have been extremely hectic if we hadn’t settled it internally. How would we deal with this timeline if we had to elect people?
  o Tyler: In the future, by enshrining this in the constitution, we can push back and say we can’t feasibly handle such a timeline.
  o Anna: Part of the issue last year was that people were coming right off of the divestment referendum where there was so much confusion. That confusion won’t exist in the future, so your process will have a lot more support.
  o Grant: Regarding the timeline, we could hold the election and choose a provisional recommendation. That way when they do let us know that there will be a student on the committee, we will have a rep.
  o Maia: The administration does let us know in advance. So there won’t be ambiguity about whether or not there will be a student on the committee.
  o Phan: What would be the cost-benefit of adding a provision that would tell the administration to give us enough time to hold an election.
  o Tyler: This is an internal document, so we can only really say “if you want student input, this is how you should do it.” But we can’t make demands like that.
  o Yonghyun: How would we ensure that there is equal power allocated to professional and graduate input on the President’s committee? I would feel uncomfortable just monopolizing the student input.
  o Tyler: Presumably, when the presidential search committee happens, there will also be equal input from the other organizations.
  o Maia: That is always the case.
  o Maia: I want to bring something up as well, as devil’s advocate. One of the arguments before was that the YCC president is the person that meets the most with the dean of Yale College out of the whole school. They know the ins and outs of the office, its role, and what makes a good and bad dean. So wouldn’t it make sense that the president of YCC be the person who represents student input on the search for a new dean?
  o Tyler: The other argument though is that this is such an important position that it should go to someone who is able to commit fully to this role. It’s so hard for the YCC president, juggling so many roles, to give the attention needed to this position.
Zach: I also think it’s a principle thing. The student body should elect someone for this specific purpose.

- VOTE: PASSED unanimously.

**Amendment: EBoard Member Appointment Qualifications**

- **Presentation [MICHAEL]**
  - Wording: Strike Article III, Section 3, Clause 1 in bold: To be appointed, each prospective Director must… have previously served as a full term member or affiliated member of YCC.”
  - I think we need to have enough confidence in our elected EBoard members to make the right decisions based on all information and qualifications. This amendment will

- **Discussion:**
  - Adam: I strongly agree with this amendment.
  - Anna: I disagree with this. It takes so little time commitment to be an associate member of YCC or part of an affiliated group. If you want to be in a managerial role, I think you should show that you’ve had more experience in the group than just filling out an application.
  - Isaac: I think this would be most relevant for Communications and Student Organizations. You don’t need previous experience to be effective.
  - Maia: This will prevent the elected officials from having to reject the most qualified applicant for an unqualified person who happened to be tangentially involved for a year.
  - Yonghyun: I’m opposed to this. This clause will help screen for people who have taken the time to get to know the organization. It’s also a principle thing: if you want to lead this organization, you should demonstrate interest prior to applying for the highest level of leadership.
  - Tyler B: I agree with this amendment with one key caveat. I think there should be greater Council oversight. We should institutionalize a better process for council members to grill nominees.
  - Phan: Maybe we can change this amendment to say that the three policy directors should have been affiliated with YCC, but not necessarily the other ones.

- **VOTE: FAILED 14-6 (needed ¾ majority)**
  - Dissent: Josh, Lauren, Azan, Phan, Tyler, Anna

- **VOTE 2, experience is only needed for policy director roles.**
  - PASSED unanimously.

**Amendment: Spring Fling Date**

- **Presentation [CHADD, JACKSON STALLINGS]**
  - Wording:
    - Article II, Section Thirteen. Add clause 1. reading: Approve Saturday as the day of the week holding Spring Fling: Two-thirds (2/3) majority.

- **Discussion:**
  - Megan: What you said is absolutely correct. We don’t know how many things are going to change with Spring Fling over the course of the year, and to restrict it to a single day is extremely difficult. This will also impact other student preferences.
I think that having something this specific is not a good idea because you need to allow for flexibility if you want to get the best artist and accommodate the schedules of equipment providers, chaplains, facilities, etc. There are so many other repercussions.

- Tyler B: These decisions are something you need to be so flexible about. It could be a difference of like $30,000 if you have it on one day versus another. This is really a terrible situation where we need to choose a Saturday or a Monday. I really don’t think the Council has all the information they need to make this decision.

- Grant: I don’t think this should be an amendment, it should be worked into the Spring Fling guidelines. The athletes are required to be off campus more than any other group on campus, which is a huge limiting factor for them. We should add athlete preference to the list of limiting factors for Spring Fling.

- Josh: Why does the chaplain’s office have veto power?

- Jaime: Because the chaplain has jurisdiction over old campus. I wish this weren’t the case, but she is really at the top of the totem pole but it just won’t budge.

- Jackson: This is also a problem for Jewish athletes. They look at this as a religious bias, where spring fling can’t be held on Sunday but it can be held on the Jewish Sabbath. This is just another one of the major issues that needs to be considered in this debate.

- Jaime: I wholeheartedly agree. But my argument today is that this is not the solution to this problem.

- Michael: Before we go forward, we need to acknowledge the great work of the spring fling committee. We put nearly $200,000 each year into this event. Overwhelmingly, this is our “Super Bowl Sunday.” I get the concerns, but to an extent, we need to decide where the decision lies: council or spring fling committee. But there is an argument that this event is so close to the mission of council that, even though council doesn’t have all the information, this decision impacts student life and culture.

- Jaime: I want to emphasize the fact that this decision to a large extent not ours to make. People largely can’t go to Spring Fling on Monday either. At the end of the day I was elected by the student body and this ultimately falls with me.

- Jackson: You keep using the words “people can’t go on Monday.” That’s a preference for students, but it’s an obligation to Yale for athletes.

- Ben: I think we can change the wording to say that council must determine the day of spring fling, but not restrict it to Saturday.

- Jaime: For example, last year, we would not have had time to come back and forth to council to decide the day of Ja Rule versus Chance versus Diplo. We need to reserve some flexibility here.

- Jackson: You should be appealing to the Council to see what the student body wants most. Therefore it should go through YCC in my mind.

- Maia: When is the day set?

- Jackson: When do you set the date of spring fling?

- Jaime: It’s traditionally decided in the summer, so we can book vendors, etc. earlier in advance.
Tyler: You look at artists and availability and pick an ideal but then you realize it really won’t work due to a number of factors, etc. It’s fluid. There is no “when you set the date.”

Maia: What if Council voted at the end of the spring semester to order the dates of spring fling in order of preference?

Jaime: I’m fine if it’s a recommendation, but we need to leave flexibility for the committee.

Tyler M: I think that’s useless because there’s no accountability.

David: I think we should send out a survey every year that will ask people to what extent they would be unable to make it to Spring Fling on certain days.

Josh: I think this is generally just a lack of communication and representation with Spring Committee. We can amend the composition to Spring Fling Committee to ensure athletes have a say. If athletes are on this committee they can see what the pros and cons are of putting spring fling on a specific day.

Megan: Athletes are welcome to apply for spring fling committee. The applications aren’t restricted in any way.

FAILED: 4-11-3
- Approved: Josh, Michelle, Chadd, Ben
- Dissenters: Sam, Joseph, Megan, Lauren, Azan, Tyler B, Tyler M, Sarika, Michael, Anna, David
- Abstentions: Grant, Zach, Phan