Yale College Council

Council of Representatives Meeting
Sunday, October 12, 2014
Meeting Six

Agenda Items

1. Steve Blum AYA/STAY Presentation
2. Social Chair Initiative
3. Project Idea Solicitation
4. Associate membership confirmation: Ethan Young

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).

AYA/STAY Initiative

Presentation (STEVE BLUM, ’74):

• YCC and AYA complimentary purposes
  o YCC ensures that undergrad have a voice at Yale, the AYA provides alumni with a voice and empowers them to serve as ambassadors of Yale
  o AYA structure: officers, Board of Governors, elected delegates, at-large delegates, committees and groups
  o The YCC has a real voice with Yale’s administration, AYA nominates more than a quarter of the Yale corporation

• Facts
  o 160,000+ living Yale alumni, 75 class groups, almost 200 Yale clubs
  o More than 400 alumni delegates, 24 elected members of the Board of Governors, four officers within that Board, and ex-officio members
  o Supported and empowered by 36 paid AYA staff, approximately $4m in funding

• Myths
  o The AYA only manages events and alumni
  o The AYA “really” seeks to induce alumni to donate money to Yale
  o You have to apply for AYA membership
  o AYA members pay dues

• Programming and Events
  o Primarily led by alumni volunteers
    ▪ Class reunions, geography-based clubs, shared interest/identity groups
  o Yale educational travel
  o Alumni Service Corps (like a Yale alumni peace corps)
  o Strategic initiatives

• STAY: Students and Alumni at Yale
  o Mission is to bring students and alumni together for the greater good
    ▪ Unique in the Ivy League
    ▪ College students, grad/professional students, alumni
  o Funding and support
  o Six platforms: Leadership training, financial literacy, networking, mentoring, service, career webinars

• Points of Opportunity
  o Join/attend BOG Young Alum/Student subcommittee
  o Promote and attend AYA events: assembly speed-networking, lunches, Humanities in Action, Yale Day of Service, Reunions
Promote and attend STAY events: leadership forums, Financial Life at Yale, Conquering Finance, Yale-Jefferson Award winners

- Two specific suggestions to YCC
  - Yale leaders envision a dramatic broadening of alumni involvement with students
    - AYA would like YCC suggestions on innovative ways for alumni to help students at Yale
  - Consider creating a Directorship of Alumni Affairs

Discussion
- Tyler B: Can you talk about the Yale Corporation appointment process?
  - Steve: There are about 50 people who are considered, and it’s boiled down to two or three who are voted on by the alumni. Discussions in committee about specific criteria, including gender, geography, etc. to narrow down the pool.
- Azan: There was an election process to elect a class liaison to the AYA. Is that a program that is still going on? I feel like that person is having the same role as what you’re requesting from the YCC.
  - Steve: I know exactly who ask, so I’ll get back to you about that.

Sustainability Workshops Initiative
Presentation (GRANT, ALEXANDER):
- Overview
  - Systemic **issues with sustainability awareness** in Yale College
    - Poor/disparate awareness of…
      - Sustainability resources (Office of Sustainability, student reps)
      - Sustainable living (e.g. energy use, recycling), etc.
  - Improve student awareness of sustainability, already a **strategic goal for Yale**
    - One suggestion: a mandatory class for freshmen
    - Framework already in place for Froco group awareness-building, but has problems, needs development
  - Goal: Help Yale develop a sustainability awareness program for freshmen
    - Small-scale pilot phase of freshman workshop planned for spring semester, then review feedback.
  - Partners: Yale College Dean’s Office, Office of Sustainability, Student Sustainability Coordinators, Old Campus sustainability team, YSEC.
  - YCC involvement: YCC has access to administrative contacts, can help aggregate student feedback and input
- Project Details
  - Workshops taught by the each college’s Student Sustainability Coordinators (supported by college sustainability support committees)
    - Already trained and qualified; will be required to attend training to ensure consistency across workshops
  - Pilot project tentatively scheduled for January, organized by Office of Sustainability
    - Geared toward freshmen of only one college (likely Saybrook)
  - YCC would only be involved through contact with administration and potential support for the Office of Sustainability by gauging student input
Discussion

• Azan: How would you measure the output of the pilot program
• Alexander: The administration has already measured the culture, and they’re convinced that giving the students this workshop will have a concrete output. Perhaps the most insightful thing to remember is that there is already a framework in place with the Office of Sustainability that can be used. We have noticed that there are issues with how this programming is disseminated though, so we’ll change the medium through which to deliver it.
• Maddie: I’m confused about what role YCC would have.
• Grant: I think the EBoard would include this discussion in their discourse with the administration and see what administrators think our most effective role would be. If the Office of Sustainable needs more student input or manpower, we can provide that. It’s being implemented either way, but we’ll be helping with that process.
• Sam: Will freshmen be required to go through these workshops?
• Alex: Eventually, that will be decided by the administration, and I think they’ll want to encourage that.
• Anna: What sort of things will they be learning
• Alex: A few broad categories. First, what is sustainability and why is it important. Second, how does that apply to student life at Yale, and how can we live sustainably in your specific college (recycling, energy, etc.).

VOTE: PASSED, unanimous consent

Project Solicitation

• Michael: Silliman dining hall open to all students, move package pickup location, reintroduce chicken tenders to dining halls on a weekly basis
• Jaime: Shuttle stop to package pickup
• Grant: Updates on existing projects
• Joe: A form will go out to all Council members soliciting project ideas.