Yale College Council

Council of Representatives Meeting
Sunday, October 19, 2014
Meeting Seven

Agenda Items

1. Financial Aid Task Force Update
2. Rapid Resolutions
3. New Colleges Standing Committee opportunity
4. Project idea solicitation results

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).

Financial Aid Task Force Update
Presentation:
• Have town hall soon to request student input
• Put out a survey to the student body to get tangible data
• Michael will meet with Financial Aid Office representative to begin dialogue

Rapid Resolutions
Eliminate dining hall exclusivity in Morse, Stiles, and Silliman
Discussion
• Sam: Council of Masters unanimously agreed (as well as the Silliman SAC) to implement these measures. Looking at the data, the atmosphere is not conducive to a good family dinner. Having so many people crushing the dining hall is not creating a good experience for people in the college.
• Isiah: One of the biggest benefits to the residential college system is having the dining hall right there. There are lots of times when we just can’t eat because there are so many people in the dining hall. This policy let’s us have a relaxed experience while eating.
• Adam: Talking about Morse, come 6:30 or 6:40, the line for pizza and the wok is extremely long. I didn’t ask to have brick oven pizza in my dining hall, but for better or for worse, we have huge 20 minute lines that prevent us from eating in a timely manner. Much less the problem of finding a seat.
• Vicky: Two things. Michael, do you know if Berkeley still has family dinner? (Yes) When they enacted this years ago, people would run out of food. While the community aspect is good to consider, we also need to consider the impact on dining hall workers.
• Sarika: Calhoun gets flooded too. We don’t have exclusive hours. I understand what you’re saying, but I don’t think it’s unfair for certain dining halls to have favoritism. What I don’t understand is why they did this for Silliman. It’s not necessarily demand, but the layout of the dining hall that causes such a backup. But I go there now, and no one is ever there anymore. The exclusivity just made the dining hall deserted.
• Austin: If we go down the road of making Morse/Stile, then Silliman exclusive, why won’t every college just become exclusive to have a better atmosphere.
• Michael: People in Morse, Stiles, and Silliman are getting better food and they have better access to their dining halls. That’s not fair to people who aren’t in those colleges.
• Tyler B: I love the residential college system, but I also know that there are lots of people who don’t have their own friend group in their own college. I do worry about the trend of
people blocking their dining halls to transfers if there are people in one college whole
  can’t eat with their friends.
• Grant: I’m opposed to this resolution. One other issue is that now, while Yale is pushing
  away from college individuality, this is one of the last ways colleges can be individual
  and exclusive. Branford had nothing until this year when we got hot breakfast. It’s
  stepping too far to break the last ties and the last bits of autonomy.
• Jaime: I think the argument that the difference in quality food is not strong. Now that
  food production has been outsourced, that argument holds less weight. The fact that so
  many people went to Silliman even though it has a poor set up shows, also, that
  overcrowding is a factor of college location. People coming from science hill would
  flood the dining hall.
• Danny: I eat in Saybrook all the time and enjoy it. Historically, dining halls might not
  have been the same quality, but now they’re equal.
• DEFEATED, 5-13-2

Reinstate chicken tender days on Thursdays
• PASSED, 13-6-1

Eliminate that backpack checks in Bass/SML
• Michelle: It’s in the insurance contract to check bags, but we can request more
  information about the contract.
• PASSED 12-8-0

Quarter Term Update
Presentation (MICHAEL)
Big successes
  • It’s On Us campaign
  • Voter Registration Drive
  • Getting an SOM course with 40 people to be worth 1 credit instead of 0.5
  • Whole milk in Commons
  • Student Activities Fee covered by financial aid
Sexual Assault Reform
  • It’s On Us campaign took off
  • Engaged with CCEs and with the Women’s Center
  • Next semester, we’ll hopefully reach out to the groups that participated and see how
    things have improved with them as a result of the pledge and discussions
  • Statute of Limitations was eliminated for people who have committed sexual assault
Financial Aid task force
  • Much more to report after the meeting tomorrow
  • Want it to be out before Aid packages are sent out for the Class of 2019
Mental health services reform
  • Still following up with Dean Holloway soon
Completed Projects
  • Some projects take longer than others, but it’s great that several members have already
    started completing projects
For our project idea solicitation initiative

- Some irrelevant to academics, student life, university services, but interesting to consider
  - Event ideas, already done or happening
- Many other great ideas, will publish a comprehensive list soon
- However, lack of accountability for those who did not submit ideas
  - Majority of reps submitted ideas late, even after three reminders
  - Nine council members did not submit ideas at all
    - Adam Gerard
    - Alex Simon
    - Azan Virji
    - Austin Long
    - Alex Cruz
    - Joseph Cornett
    - Megan Ruan
    - Vicky Chou
    - Yaphet Getachew
- Absolutely unacceptable that reps can’t take 20 minutes to go to their college council meeting, talk with friends, or engage in introspection to come up with three ideas
  - This reflects on varying levels of interest and commitment to this organization
  - We hope everyone can be committed, but if not, it’s important that you talk to us and figure out your future involvement. No hard feeling, we just all want to be on the same page.
- Reps need to follow up and send in ideas if they have not done so already