Yale College Council

Council of Representatives Meeting
Sunday, October 5, 2014
Meeting Five

Agenda Items

1. Project Proposals:
   a. Independent Activities Period
   b. Staff Appreciation Day
2. Associate membership confirmation

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).

Project Proposal: Independent Activities Period

Presentation (ZACH):

• What
  o “An academic ‘hiatus’ ripe with extracurricular delight.”
  o Totally or primarily student organized
  o Lectures, panels, seminars, workshops, practice sessions for academic, cultural, or practical activities and skills

• Issues to consider
  o Demand
  o MIT students may have a much-greater demand for an IAP than do Yalies, as MIT academic work is generally regarded as significantly more time-consuming and thus more capable of encroaching upon extra-curricular engagement.

• Duration: How long would this event last?
  o Where does the “free time” come from?
  o When would this event occur?

• Option 1: “The Awk Block”
  o Time Frame (period after November Recess but before Reading Period):
    o Begins: 8:20 AM on Monday, December 1, 2014
    o Ends: 5:30 PM on Friday, December 5, 2014
    o Classes end; Reading Period begins
  o Positives
    § A nice way to give students something new and exciting to do before returning to the all-too-familiar drudgery of finals cramming
  o Negatives
    § Many of the classes taught during the “Awk Block,” especially toward the end, are review sessions that students won’t want to miss.

• Option 2: October recess Time Frame:
  o Begins: 11:00 PM on Tuesday, October 21, 2014
  o Ends: 8:20 AM on Monday, October 27, 2014
  o Positives
    § Many, many students—especially internationals—will be on campus.
    § Gives students incentive to save money they would’ve otherwise spent on travel.
    § There’s a rotation, but at least a few dining halls are open during either recess.
  o Negatives
Little more than a month away; relatively little time for preparation

- Option 3: Spring Suggestion 1: Spring “Camp Yale”
  - Begins: Wednesday, January 7, 2015
  - Ends: 8:20 AM on Monday, January 12, 2015
- Spring Suggestion 2: Spring Break
  - Begins: 5:30 PM on Friday, March 6, 2015

Question/Discussion:

- Grant: What form will these activities take? Guest lecture, student-led, independent study?
- Zach: I think it should be student organized, but I don’t see why there shouldn’t be guest lectures, etc. as well. Also, workshops (cooking classes, how to change a tie) would be a great idea.
- Anna: Are you sure option one is realistic? I know that last year with the change of reading period cause a lot of issues.
- Maia: No classes would be cancelled.
- Maddie: Is this more like Bulldog days where you sign up to attend and go to several smaller blocks, or one or two extended “classes” with a recurring series of lectures?
- Zach: Ideally the former.
- Azan: If this were to happen in either term, classes would still be going on while this happens, right?
- Zach: Right, that would be a possibility.
- Phan: Where is funding coming from? For cooking classes, etc. there are expenses.
- Zach: YCC wouldn’t pay, but the administration and/or students would be responsible to pay for the classes they take.
- Tina: Although funding would probably come from YCC anyway, because student groups sponsoring lectures would apply for funding via the UOC.
- Vicky: A question about the MIT model. Is their program administered by their student government or the administration?
- Zach: The administration has a committee that handles it.
- Ashley: I’d like to talk about how this might not be inclusive for everyone. Athletes won’t be able to participate.
- Azan: I view this as an activity that would primarily be available for people who can’t go home over breaks, because they’re the ones who are on campus during the proposed times.
- Maddie: I think this needs to go back to the drawing board a little bit. It’d be beneficial to students who participates, but we should reach out to administration more to see if they can bring in lecturers or guest speakers that can serve a similar purpose but avoided placing additional burden on student groups.
- Vicky: It might be more feasible as an opportunity to have this happen over a weekend instead of a designated break. There’s less hassle for student groups and the administration, and it might fit into the schedule more easily.
- Azan: I agree, if we were to start out with making this into a weekend event hosted by YCC to measure participation and student interest. It’s a safer way to start the project and see what people want, if anything.
VOTE: With a campus-wide survey, seek feedback from the student body to gauge interest
  • 16, in favor
  • 1, do not proceed with the idea (Tyler Blackmon)
  • 1, move straight to Fall Break implementation (Chadd Cosse)

Project Proposal: Staff Appreciation Day
Presentation (SARIKA, MICHELLE):
• General Idea
  o Show each college staff our appreciation; continuation of last year.
  o Last year, a college rep sat outside the dining hall with poster paper, which people
    signed on the way out.
  o This year, we want to do something similar but a little more personal
• New initiative
  o Three posters for each college.
  o On one poster there will be a large photo of the staff with a caption saying
    something along the lines of: ‘Calhoun Loves our Staff’
  o Names of staff underneath so that people can put names to faces
  o Students will sign or write messages on small mini cards that they will then
    glue/stick onto the other two posters.
• When and where
  o The poster should be presented and put up somewhere visible right before
    Thanksgiving break. Most colleges have a thanksgiving dinner and before this
    would be a good time to do it.
  o The photos should be taken at least 2 weeks before the signing
• How
  o Each YCC representative will be responsible for gathering students of their
    college to do this. It could be outside the dining hall or at another popular space.
  o We are requesting that the YCC communications team in conjunction with the
    reps organize how to take the photo.
  o We will coordinate with Masters and dining hall managers when would be a good
    time to do this.
• The Budget
  o Poster paper: 69 cents (totaling $24.84, 3 per college)
  o The glue stick costs 98 cents (totaling $23.52, 2 per college)
  o The mini cards cost $1.18 per 100 (totaling 28.32)
  o The markers cost either:
    o 1.98 for one. If we bought two, it would total $47.52
    o A set of four for 5.98 which would total $ 71.76
  o **The total would come to $124.20 or $148.44**

Discussion
• Ben: How many staff members are we talking about? Just dining hall, facilities?
• Maia: It would be dining hall staff.
• Azan: Why can’t we do both?
• Maia: We can, we just want to ensure that it’s focused and more personal. We can do
  both, but not at the same time (one in each semester)
• Vicky: What’s the timeframe?
• Sarika: It would ideally be over the week just before Thanksgiving.
• Ben: We just did it over the course of one night last year, and it worked out well. Like during a family night during the week prior.
• Tyler: In JE, we had an issue in the past about staff not wanting their names advertised. How would we go about dealing with that or figuring out who wants to engage with this project or not?
• Sarika: Obviously we’d take that into account, but I think if it’s for thanking purposes, few of them would actually mind.

VOTE: Unanimous consent to implement

Associate Membership Confirmation
• Zach Murn
• Lauren Sapienza
• Shannon Flores
• All confirmed with unanimous consent