Yale College Council
Council of Representatives Meeting
Sunday, November 9, 2014
Meeting Eight

Agenda Items

1. 2015-2016 Calendar Debate
2. Project Proposal: Alumni Speaker Program
3. Timeline for completion of ongoing projects

Attendance

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<td>BK</td>
<td>David Liu</td>
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<td>Vicky Chou</td>
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<td>BR</td>
<td>Grant Fergusson</td>
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<td>Anna Lu</td>
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<td>CC</td>
<td>Austin Long</td>
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<td>Sarika Pandrangi</td>
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<td>DC</td>
<td>Tyler Mikulis</td>
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<td>ES</td>
<td>Benjamin Martin</td>
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<td>ES</td>
<td>Isiah Cruz</td>
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<td>Tyler Blackmon</td>
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<td>Phan Nguyen</td>
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<td>Yaphet Getachew</td>
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<td>Megan Ruan</td>
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<td>Magdalena Zielonka</td>
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<td>Chadd Cosse</td>
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<td>SM</td>
<td>Michelle Mboya</td>
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<td>TD</td>
<td>Alexandra Simon</td>
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<td>Ashley Wu</td>
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<td>Joseph Cornett</td>
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<td>Samuel Kim</td>
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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).

2015-2016 Calendar Debate
Presentation [Michael]:
- Labor Day on September 7
  - Academic calendar based on Labor Day
  - Classes always begin the Wednesday before
  - So, classes will not begin until September 2
- Final exams end December 23rd
  - Residences close December 24
  - Airfare prices will be much higher
  - Burden on international students, longer journey
- Alternative #1: Cancel Fall Break
  - Cancelling Fall Break allows student to go home well before Christmas Eve
  - Con: Backlash would be *huge*
  - Con: Unclear when students would go home
- Alternative #2: Take a day out of reading period
  - This would allow exams to end December 22
  - Undermines YCC’s hardfought gains
- Alternative #3: Move start of classes up one week
  - Just really an ideal scenario
  - Classes would start August 19
  - Finals would end December 16

Discussion
- Hannah: You would be pushing up the fall and spring semesters up a week, right? Is there a way to move up only fall semester? If spring semester is moved up, finals period would overlap with a Jewish holy period and make it difficult for Jewish students.
- David: This proposal is exclusive to fall semester.
- Ben: Does this mean that there would be 3 weeks of fall semester instead of 4?
- Maia: As it stands, that would unfortunately happen.
- Tyler: How feasible is it to change this? It looks like there are a lot of plans in motion that would depend on the calendar the administration has proposed.
- Michael: The administrators I met with said it’s not impossible. The final alternative would make classes start literally one day earlier than this year. I’m skeptical of the idea that this change would throw off Yale operations too significantly.
- Sarika: What happened the period seven year period?
- Michael: There wasn’t an issue because we didn’t have Fall break back then.
- Alex: Would this mean that summer would be shorter?
• David: That’s correct, but previous survey data shows that students value more time during winter break than over summer break.
• Tyler B: I think we should talk about Spring semester. If we go with the third option, we get a month at home for spring break. It’s a really long time.
• Michele: International students don’t get to go home at all. I don’t think that shift is significantly negative enough in the spring to take this opportunity away from international students.
• Jaime: I we were to move back Spring semester, it would cost an extra week to Yale because Yale has to stay operational until commencement and that date is set in stone.

Vote: ALTERNATIVE 3 PASSED

Alumni Speaker Program
Presentation [JOE, SARIKA, JOEL]

What’s the problem?
• Great alumni network, no format to bring them back to campus and interact
• Master’s Teas: Great format, but no connection to the alumni network, exclusive
• Woolsey Events: Grants access to alumni, but in an impersonal format and focuses mainly on graduate and professional school alumni

What do we want to do?
1. Create an incentive for prominent Yale College alumni to return to campus and interact with undergraduates in a semi-intimate setting (picture Sudler over Woolsey)
2. Show alumni that undergrads appreciate them, their work, and the opportunity to engage with them
   1. Strengthen the college’s student-alumni network

Potential Solutions
• YCC speaker series
  • Pros:
    ▪ Logical format to bring alumni to campus and speak to students
    ▪ Highlights our focus on college alumni
  • Cons:
    ▪ Potentially require us to pay speaker fees
      ▪ George W. Bush: $110,000
      ▪ John Kerry: $50,000
    ▪ Prominent alumni are in high demand, is this a solid incentive to come back?
• YCC administered award
  • Pros:
    ▪ All the pros of the speaker series format
    ▪ Stronger incentive for speakers to return to campus
    ▪ Looks like we’ve put more thought/deliberation into selecting them specifically
    ▪ More concrete reason/project/aspect of their life to highlight rather than a generic career talk
    ▪ Unlikely to charge speaker fees if they receive an award

Mr./Ms. X has been awarded the Yale Medal for Lifetime Service in [X] Field for:
1. Being a passionate member of the undergraduate community during her time at Yale and harnessing the diverse resources of Yale College
2. Demonstrating an unparalleled and selfless commitment to [X specific project] in her professional career
3. Establishing herself as a revolutionary, celebrated voice in [her field]
4. Serving as a source of inspiration for Yale students through his or her success in and dedication to [his or her specific cause/field]

**Budget**
1. First class round-trip airfare, assuming furthest travel distance (LAX to JFK): $1000
2. Reception with select members of the college and administration: $400
3. Physical award (awards.com): $200
4. Housing, preferably in a residential college fellow’s suite: $0

**TOTAL:** $1600

This will be established as a yearly expense like Spring Fling. If this is too large an expense or the speaker requires us to pay for a security/speakers fee, we reach out to the AYA, President’s Office, or relevant local foundations (see YPU strategy) to split costs

**Yearly administration of the selection process:**
- YCC President solicits nominations from the Council by the last meeting in October (through an online form) and, in conjunction with EBoard, selects three nominees to present to the Council
- Council debates the merits of each nominee, and ranks them
- President reaches out to nominees in order of preference by Thanksgiving Break
- The highest-ranked nominee that agrees to receive the award on campus is selected

**Yearly event planning process:**
- Award will be presented in March or April depending on speakers’ schedule
- Assigned as a spring project to a representative
- Partner with an events committee member to help with hospitality, advertising, etc.

**Discussion**
- Tyler B: I really like this idea. I’d recommend opening up the nomination process to the student body though. It’d be a great way to involve students in the project and I think the award would carry more weight if it came from the student body rather than just the YCC.
- Isaac: Or an alternative is sending an email to the student body saying that they can submit suggestions to their reps. That way we can build communication between students and their representatives.
- Connor: I’d also consider making this event in Woolsey. I think the benefit of opening the event to 1000 more students really outweighs the intimacy advantage of a setting like Sudler.

VOTE: PASSED, move forward and discuss establishment with President Salovey

**Meetings for the rest of the semester**
- Two hour meeting 11/6, OR 1.5 hour meeting 11/16 and 1.5 hour last week of class
- VOTE: PASSED two 1.5 hour meetings on 11/16 and during final week of classes
- All ongoing projects for this semester will present before the semester ends