



## YALE COLLEGE COUNCIL

April 17, 2013

Dear University Council Committee on Alcohol,

Over the course of this year, the Yale College Council (YCC) has conversed with student groups, the Dean's Task Force on Alcohol and Other Drugs, and Yale administrators about the topic of alcohol at Yale. After a careful examination of the alcohol culture on campus, recent changes in alcohol-related regulations, and shifts in student perception toward alcohol over the last few years, we have created a list of recommendations for the University Council Committee on Alcohol. The following report hopes to give an overview of Yale's alcohol culture and recommendations that we believe will keep students safe. As you form your own recommendations for President Levin, President-elect Salovey, and Dean Miller on the topic of alcohol, we urge that you consider our analysis in the process.

### **The Current Situation**

Yale University has put into place a series of policies designed to offer a University response to alcohol use and abuse. In theory, the policy at hand—as it has been presented by the administration—is designed to promote safety and responsible drinking. Yale is a “wet” campus, and alcohol consumption is not prohibited on Old Campus or in the Residential Colleges. Freshmen attend meetings and workshops that discuss alcohol use at Yale. Students who have consumed too much alcohol may spend the night in Yale Heath for safe watch, and Freshmen Counselors have been given training on how to respond to intoxicated students. These baseline policies—of education, awareness, and treatment—are beneficial, and ones that this Council supports.

In recent years, however, students have begun to express concerns over the development of Yale's alcohol policy. In comments and responses provided to this council, students are primarily concerned with three core issues:

1. Host Discipline — In the past year students have been notified that any individual who hosts a party at which underage drinking is occurring may be punished under

both Yale and New Haven laws, possibly resulting in both fines and an appearance before the Executive Committee. The problem with such a system – as far as Yale’s laws go – is that it disincentives hosts from seeking treatment for an intoxicated minor from fear of retribution. Furthermore, Yale administrators and the Yale Police Department, who often ask students seeking help where they got intoxicated, exacerbate this host discipline problem. Students have incentives to lie about where they got intoxicated since the vast majority of drinking occurs within suites, among closest friends. Therefore, organization leaders, who host parties, are often unfairly held accountable for the actions of others. As a result, this policy is both detrimental and unjust.

2. Vague Policy Outlines – While several individuals acknowledged that they have been provided information regarding Yale’s alcohol policy and response to intoxicated individuals, we have heard repeated requests for a clear, simple outline of Yale’s alcohol policy, especially those points pertaining to discipline, both prior to and following a visit to Yale Health. At present, many students are unaware of the specific consequences for a Yale Health visit, and what actions may be taken depending on what authority position is contacted with respect to an intoxicated student.
3. Enforcement vs. Safety Dichotomy – As with any policy built around a potentially harmful substance, Yale’s alcohol policy seeks to ultimately create a safe environment for students to learn and socialize. However, recent developments—including the host regulations referenced above and increased anxiety from administrative response (including many reports of local police being more intrusive)—have caused students to express concern that Yale’s attitude towards alcohol has shifted from a supportive to a punitive one. Indeed, one senior referenced the need for a policy that reverses the trends seen in his four years here and that will instead “prioritize student safety, and not strict enforcement of laws.”

We believe that at the heart of these three issues, and many others like them, is a lack of trust of the administration by the students, which stems from a scarcity of information and recent increases in alcohol consumption enforcement. In order to fix the problems referenced above, this Council recommends the following:

## Recommendations

1. That the Yale University President makes a public statement advocating for a reconsideration of the U.S. legal drinking age. We ask that Yale University join the Amethyst Initiative, which is a group of 136 college presidents and chancellors advocating for a lowering of the legal drinking age. Evidence shows that the U.S. legal drinking age of 21 has not produced its claimed benefits, and instead has created side effects, like binge drinking and disrespect for the law—the very behavior the legislation was aimed at deterring. If the safety issue we face is high rates of binge drinking, the University should make a public statement and be a leader among our peer institutions regarding the single biggest inhibitor of the University’s ability to protect students, the minimum drinking age.
2. That the administration publish a clear outline of the current alcohol policy (enforcement, punishments, etc.), and in doing so expand upon areas where consequences are definite (e.g. what specifically will happen medically to a student found passed out in a street by a FroCo) and noting what portions are left intentionally vague (e.g. if underage students are found to have consumed alcohol at a suite party), so that the student body may better act in accordance with such regulations. We also ask that consequences be focused on rehabilitation not retribution, with an emphasis on alcohol counseling.
3. That the administration continue to explore, support, and within a year ultimately achieve the creation of a dance/social space on campus, so that there exists a large-scale, re-occurring event for students who wish to socialize on weekends without alcohol. In doing this, we believe that the administration will be addressing one of the major issues voiced to this Council: that many students participate in alcohol-related activities on weekends because there is no other popular social outlet.
4. That the administration, in conjunction with this Council, work with the Alcohol Task Force and other student groups – particularly those, such as Fraternities, for whom alcohol consumption and distribution is a significant factor – in order to determine the most effective policies for a safe campus with respect to drinking. Some recent Yale College regulations, like the registration requirement for off-campus parties, were created without proper student input. Following this, we urge the administration to outline an alcohol disciplinary policy that will be enforced and followed as written by the administration for at least five years.
5. That Yale Administration and the Yale Police Department will not ask students where they got intoxicated. The reality is that most drinking occurs within suites,

and because of the conflict of interest this causes, students are likely to not disclose the true whereabouts of their drinking. This policy puts students who hold parties, fraternity leaders, and others at unnecessary risk, without any discernible benefit. It must be made clear that these students will not be held unjustifiably accountable for the actions of others, or else there is an eminent danger of students not seeking medical attention as well as an unwarranted change in Yale's open and all-inclusive social culture.

## **Conclusion**

The University is placed in a very difficult position. Yale must simultaneously uphold increasingly stringent state laws regarding alcohol, while recognizing that alcohol consumption is common among college students. The YCC believes that the University should take a clear stance by saying that alcohol is first and foremost a safety issue, not a disciplinary one. By relaying this message, and clarifying policies around this message, we can cut down on the perceptual fear of discipline that students feel. Any attempts at making alcohol a disciplinary issue will create unintended consequences that will put students at risk. In our campus-wide survey, over 200 students reported that they did not call for help when intoxicated due to a fear of being reprimanded. This number should be zero. The University should do everything it can to ensure that these perceptual fears are eliminated.

The danger of having an alcohol-related death has only been exasperated recently with new regulations and practices that have made students reluctant to seek medical attention for both themselves and their peers. To prevent this alarming trend, the university must be clear that students that need help can be rehabilitated without fear of being reprimanded.

Sincerely,

The Yale College Council  
[ycc@yale.edu](mailto:ycc@yale.edu)

## Addendum

Below are the results of our campus-wide survey sent out on March 20, 2013, which 1762 students completed.

Class year				
#	Answer		Response	%
1	2016		553	31%
2	2015		513	29%
3	2014		414	23%
4	2013		282	16%
	Total		1,762	100%

## How informed do you feel about Yale's alcohol disciplinary policies?

#	Answer		Response	%
1	Very informed		365	25%
2	Somewhat informed		868	60%
3	Not informed at all		194	13%
4	Uncertain		30	2%
	Total		1,457	100%

## Have you ever personally experienced a situation in which YOU chose not to seek assistance under the influence of alcohol because you were afraid of disciplinary repercussions?

#	Answer		Response	%
1	Yes		209	14%
2	No		1,211	83%
3	Uncertain		36	2%
	Total		1,456	100%

**Have you ever decided not to get medical help for A FRIEND under the influence of alcohol because you did not know the disciplinary consequences?**

#	Answer		Response	%
4	Yes		274	19%
5	No		1,128	77%
6	Uncertain		54	4%
	Total		1,456	100%

**Please write any additional comments regarding Yale's alcohol policy.**

Students submitted hundreds of comments, which the YCC synthesized into the above recommendations to the University Council Committee on Alcohol. Categorized responses submitted by students are below. We left out any comments that were inappropriate or that would have revealed the identities of the students. The categories are: comments on alcohol being a safety, not disciplinary, issue (p. 7-10), comments advocating for more disciplinary action (p. 11), comments supporting current Yale regulations (p. 12), comments criticizing current Yale regulations (13-15), and additional comments (p. 16-17).

## Comments on alcohol being a health, not disciplinary, issue:

“During the 2010-2011 school year, alcohol was first and foremost a safety issue. The policy (as I understood it) was, of course, that Connecticut state law will be enforced on campus, but students were not penalized for seeking medical attention when a friend was under the influence. This year, now that the Excomm and the Yale Police are more heavily involved in all alcohol-related hospitalizations, I have heard (on no less than 3 occasions) that people are choosing to not seek help for their friends for fear that all of the affiliated parties will be punished. That's not safety. A more intensive and restrictive alcohol policy will not alleviate the situation, it will only make matters worse.”

“Yale students should be treated like the responsible and mature individuals that they are-not belittled and patronized by burdensome rules that create perverse safety incentives.”

“Yale's alcohol policy should be about protecting the students and helping them if necessary, and NOT punishment.”

“It should treat alcohol as a medical, not a disciplinary, issue.”

“I think Yale has a very positive policy in general, though I think the message has moved away from one of safety to one of discipline in the past few years. Compared to other schools, Yale's policy is still generous though and allows students to seek help without fear of legal repercussions.”

“Yale is not as interested in helping students in need as they are in making examples out of students in need. The school remains lenient in comparison to many other institutions in terms of alcohol policy, but the way they handle alcohol violations is very overbearing.”

“My friends called for medical help for a friend who was intoxicated and faced harsh consequences.”

“When I came to Yale I was relieved that the alcohol policy was safety-focused. This makes the most sense. Over the past three years, however, I have noticed a worrisome trend that drives more drinking underground and increases the possibility of getting in trouble. I really encourage Yale to reverse this trend to make alcohol policy safety-first.”

“Yale's policy on alcohol is too strict. There should be no ramifications for seeking medical help for a friend. Ambulance rides being very expensive and the follow-up meetings/punishments are a big reason to not seek help. Additionally, college kids are going to drink. It's fun and just part of being a college student. Yale being more conducive to "fun" is a big part of what makes it better than Harvard or Princeton. The trend towards a stricter

stance against alcohol would ruin this. Yale should not try to stop or treat alcohol "problems," but rather let it happen and provide no reasons for students to not seek medical assistance if they are worried about the safety of students."

"Last year I felt the policy was more about safety, but now it is becoming more of a disciplinary issue. While it is still more accepting than some colleges I know, I have seen the consequences of becoming harsher on alcohol policy and punishing students, instead of worrying about safety."

"Yale should understand that alcohol is part of college atmosphere whether administration likes it or not. And adding disciplinary consequences will not stop college students. I believe the administration should embrace this fact and instead teach the dangers of binge drinking but if a student were accidentally learn the hard way; they or their friends should not fear the consequences of helping the student. I have a friend in University of California Berkeley that refused to call for help for a friend who was throwing up in the toilet excessively because she didn't want to get him or herself in trouble. I like how right now there are no consequences; students will learn how to deal with alcohol properly. This is just how in foreign countries the drinking age is not really enforced so it becomes part of the culture and people know how to deal with alcohol. But in America there is more binge drinking for students have been so repressed that they want to experiment."

"Please continue to put safety first, You're never going to stop people from drinking who want to drink, so make sure there are ways for people who don't want to drink not to, and that there are ways for those who do drink to stay safe. I also think it's important to recognize levels of drinking, which I've never seen done here. Having a few drinks is very different from binge drinking. It would be more helpful if you tried to teach people how to drink in moderation. That's the biggest place for improvement. Students who drink heavily may start to drink in moderation, but they're not going to stop drinking altogether. And students who begin drinking should be given a good model of how to drink in moderation and still have the focus of the night be on fun instead of safety."

"I don't even drink, but I like Yale's take on alcohol consumption. They want you to have fun, but most importantly, be safe about the decisions you make, which I think is crucial. Safety>discipline."

"I disagree that Yale treats alcohol first and foremost as a safety issue - this implies that Yale attempts to create a secure setting in which to consume alcohol, and this is definitely not the case. Yale does not intervene when alcohol creates an environment that endangers students. From what I understand, Yale provides treatment to students who come to the health center without asking questions - I feel that more questions should be asked, not to incriminate the student or the groups providing the alcohol, but to prevent situations where students need

medical attention in the first place. One day, someone will get seriously injured or killed. Yale needs to take more responsibility for the safety of the activities of the undergraduate groups that it funds, houses, or otherwise recognizes.”

“The policy is and should be that alcohol is a SAFETY issue first, not a disciplinary issue. Yale should focus on teaching students to drink safely.”

“I think Yale's alcohol policy is the correct approach to dealing with alcohol at college. The safety of students should be the foremost concern.”

“Disciplinary measures aren't going to stop drinking at Yale. Instead, they're going to drive students away from seeking help or going to the authorities when medical or other situations occur. Focus on safety, and encourage responsible drinking, but don't employ punitive measures as scare tactics.”

“I am very concerned that new alcohol policies are putting too much of an emphasis on punishment. Drinking is going to happen either way - best to create an administrative environment that really does prioritize safety. I thought it was good at the beginning of my freshman year.”

“It seems to be changing in a negative direction. When I came in as a freshman it seemed far more safe and less harsh. The current policy will eventually make drinking more dangerous as it is driven underground.”

“If the policy becomes more stringent, I have no doubt that all of my answers would switch to "yes". Yale's alcohol policy is uniquely thoughtful and respectful, and it is important to protect the safety of the students. I have too many friends at other schools that have told me horror stories of leaving sick friends because they were afraid of disciplinary action. Seeking help is NOT a problem. A change in policy would change this, and the repercussions would be grave.”

“I think that Yale's primary concern should be the safety of its students. Underage drinking will happen; attempts to make it a disciplinary matter will only acerbate the underlying issue. Students need to know their limits.”

“I think the current alcohol policy works, but I'm worried about the proposed directional changes. It's really important that alcohol continue to be viewed as a safety issue, not a disciplinary one, or else people will stop getting help. Additionally, I know there is a lot of concern about Yale's alcohol problem, but I think it is worth noting that unlike other schools we do not have a drug abuse problem or a notable ‘drug culture.’ If you ask me, we have the lesser of two evils, and that's worth taking into consideration.”

“It is clear that Yale's alcohol policy is not purely for safety. All students know that the administration is more concerned for the public view of Yale.”

“The worst situation a leader of an organization can be put in is one where he/she has to choose between the right thing and the thing that Yale has incentivized him/her to do.”

“If Yale's alcohol policy changes and landing up in Yale-New Haven or Yale Health warrants disciplinary action, my answers to the above questions might change in the future.”

“I'm a FroCo and I find Yale's alcohol policy extremely beneficial to the safety of students. Students aren't scared to seek help when they need it since they know they won't 'get in trouble.’”

“‘Safety first’ used to be the policy at Yale, but since Mary Miller decided to crack down on parties and alcohol many students feel that they can no longer take the risk of seeking help/medical attention if they or a friend is too drunk. This is dangerous for Yale students and the social climate at Yale.”

“In the last few years it seems that the administration has taken a more hardline approach to alcohol; it is no longer just a safety & health issue, but a disciplinary one. We need to return to earlier policies and approaches, which were more understanding and lenient, and kept the safety of students in mind, as opposed to curtailing their social activities.”

**Comments supporting more disciplinary action:**

“If it was a disciplinary issue, underage drinking would probably decrease.”

“I wish the alcohol policy was stricter. The current, accepting policy makes student think that there are little or no repercussions, and it really negatively impacts the lives of students who are not out of control with alcohol consumption.”

“The alcohol policy should not just be a safety concern, but one of zero tolerance.”

## Comments Supporting Current Regulations

“I think Yale handles alcohol perfectly. Yale's policy aims to prevent any situation where students are having a discussion over a peer's unconscious body to decide if it's worth it to seek medical attention because they might get in trouble. This is an imperative safety measure. I also strongly do not think that Yale's drink more as a result of this "accepting" policy. Because drinking is addressed as a safety issue more than a disciplinary one, students are granted the healthy ability to drink throughout an evening whereas my friends at other schools are forced to binge drink before going out - this often involves taking an un-healthy number of hard alcohol shots alone in a dorm room, which is obviously dangerous because they cannot tell how drunk they are. Also, drinking enough in one sitting to compensate for many hours out is far more dangerous than drinking more spaced out. If anything, I think it would be beneficial for students to be reminded of the specifics of the alcohol/safety/disciplinary policy when they are sophomores through seniors (maybe at college administration night?), because we are heavily told about these policies during freshmen year Camp-Yale and then never really told again.”

“Very good. Don't change it.”

“Don't change it. It's fine now. People drink, just take care of them if they drink to much.”

“I fully support Yale's alcohol policy, which takes into account the motivation of college students.”

“I think Yale is extremely generous and understanding to Yale students regarding alcohol. I do not think they are strict at all when it comes to punishment, and provide a ton of support for the safety of the students.”

“I think Yale's alcohol policy is great.”

“I love Yale's alcohol policy. It puts safety and security first. I like that we foster a culture of supporting one another during difficult situations (alcohol-related medical emergencies, safety issues, etc.) and not just punishing.”

“It's first and foremost a health issue, as it should be.”

“I appreciate its concern for safety.”

## Comments criticizing current Yale University regulations:

“Yale's current policy in which students sent to DUH and Yale Health are asked ‘where did you drink’ penalizes off campus groups and makes alcohol a disciplinary issue rather than a safety issue. God forbid that a freshman dies because his or her friends will make the decision not to seek medical attention because of fears of disciplinary repercussions...the irony, of course, is that Yale's current policy places an inordinate focus upon avoiding legal implications for the university. Let's make Yale's alcohol policy about personal responsibility, safety, health. Give students the information, tools, and incentives they need to make smart, educated decisions. Let's create a culture where students drink responsibly according to societal norms rather than one of drinking games, juvenile "pre-gaming" and binge consumption of alcohol. Most importantly, lets stop shifting blame around and focus upon that which is truly important.”

“Yale needs to not prosecute fraternities for calling DUH when someone is sick.”

“Registering off-campus parties is a terribly dangerous idea. Did they not understand that people would not abide by their rules if ExComm punishes the offense?”

“Forcing people to register a party of more than 50 people (holding whoever registers liable) and banning fall rush without any notice or discussion prior to with fraternity and other organization leaders is ridiculous. Can the administration please talk with students before implementing such radical changes so that both parties can amicably come to a conclusion? It just creates hostility when rules like that are sprung upon students. (I'm not part of a frat, I just think the administration shows a distinctly anti-frat bias, and well as less concern for safety than discipline).”

“I am most disappointed in the discrepancy between what Yale advertised as its alcohol policy when I came to school here and what I have seen first-hand and in the anecdotes of others. Alcohol policy at Yale is highly irresponsible, with harsh, inconsistent and rather arbitrary punishment. It provides a disincentive to appropriately address potential situations of alcohol-related harm for fear of repercussions. This is a far cry from the touted "safety-first" approach. Furthermore, the overzealous punishment and occasional pursuit as criminals of those involved in alcohol-related incidents and events affects the social development and professional prospects of students at a university that is meant to develop these among other things in those enrolled.”

“Students are going to drink, whether Yale has an extremely strict or an extremely lax policy. Stricter regulations will not stop student drinking, they will just make the situation more of a hassle for all involved parties. The current policy, as I am aware of it, leaves a lot of room for students to behave as they choose, but has all of the resources necessary should any situation

involving alcohol get out-of-hand. I approve of the current policy. In my experience it encourages students to seek help when they need it, rather than discouraging such behavior in order to avoid the repercussions of requesting help from outside authority. Yes, a lax policy, as some may consider Yale's current alcohol policy to be, does seem to 'encourage' drinking, but in reality it provides an environment in which students feel safe to drink, and therefore safe to ask for help when they need it."

"When I was a freshman, I was assured that Yale would not take disciplinary action for mere alcohol consumption. Then cops started breaking up parties on Old Campus. I understand that Yale can't flout our country's absurd alcohol age limits outright, but it doesn't have to enforce them as aggressively as it seems to have decided to start doing. When arrived on campus, it seemed that Yale generally treated its students as adults. I'm a senior, and the way this administration has treated the alcohol policy in the past two years makes me think they've decided we're actually still in high school."

"The administration's apparent decision to move away from the medical issue first mentality is going to cost student lives."

"I recently took a friend to DUH under the impression that she could be monitored there over night without repercussions if we picked her up in the morning. However, when we got there they made her go to the Yale New Haven hospital although she was completely responsive and in my opinion would have been fine without any care. The ambulance ride cost a lot of money and we were told that she would have to talk with her dean. Because of these negative and surprising consequences, I will be less likely to take a friend to DUH in the future."

"Admin talks down to students who have gotten in trouble for drinking - it becomes a mental health problem and students are subjected to "psychoanalysis" and being talked to like a mental patient for some dumb mistakes they may have made. Does not feel safe or secure, just patronizing and disdainful."

"Freshman year it was way different--I don't think it's safe for freshmen anymore."

"I think this year in particular the policy has become a lot more disciplinary than safety-focused, which many students view as a negative change. I remember being so impressed that Yale, as opposed to many other schools, cared much more about safety and less about punishment of alcohol use, but this year the administration has really been cracking down on busting parties and making students feel like drinking is not an option even when done relatively safely, which I think might make people afraid to seek necessary help."

"Alcohol is an underground culture. People pre-game too hard because they know they won't be able to drink at big dances and events. I don't believe cancelling safety dance was a

good way to deal with this issue; it just avoids one such event rather than addressing the issue at its root.”

“Yale's alcohol policy and attitude is changing for the worse.”

“Students at Yale often don't seek help when someone gets really drunk because they are afraid of repercussions from ex-comm etc. The attitude has changed considerably the last 3 years. Since Yale punish people and ex-comm them if someone gets drunk on their party, even if the student that got drunk did not even drink at the party but rather drank before he/she arrived, there is no chance in hell someone voluntarily calls for help anymore. Sure, if someone is in danger, everyone will call, but none will call as a safety measure - which often happened before. I hope Yale is proud of what it has accomplished with its new attitude.”

“Education of what happens when you go to DUH/YNNH, what the process is, what the consequences are, etc. need to be addressed.”

“They used to be much more clear and transparent but with the new changes in policy they have become much more confusing to understand and as a result I feel much more concerned regarding help for alcohol issues due to fear of potential consequences. During one of the orientation programs counselors who were trying to obtain help for a very drunk freshman got into trouble, so this brings into question whether it is safe to help your friend if they need help, without fear of disciplinary action.”

## Other Comments:

“Again it's important not to ruin what is so unique about Yale's social scene, the fact that people can walk into almost any party on campus and feel welcome. Start cracking down on people throwing parties and they will shut them down to a much smaller subset which will ruin what makes Yale's social scene unique and special.”

“Most people are concerned primarily with the expense of a trip to Yale health. I believe that Yale Health and Yale's health insurance policy are tremendous helps to students. I wish that more students understood Yale's policies on alcohol.”

“The solution is never going to be to just bust up more frat parties. That just means more people will drink in their rooms, where there are less people who could watch them (particularly true for freshmen, who don't have established social scenes yet).”

“Sometimes medical help is not sought because of the consequences (meeting with Dean).”

“Yale Health staff was extremely accusatory, belittling, and unhelpful.”

“Yale's alcohol problems are the result of school culture, not school policy. I don't think imposing harsher consequences will change that. Students will just get more creative about how they break the rules, you know? To solve this we need to change school culture, because seriously, what is "normal" here is often "hmmm, alcoholism?" in the real world.”

“I don't think the emphasis should be on increased disciplinary consequences; I think we should focus instead on providing alternate ideological and social frameworks for alcohol consumption besides/ instead of binge drinking.”

“Getting the police involved with DUH or Yale-New Haven visits due to alcohol should definitely be stopped.”

“There have been issues with the police forcing students to get help when it was not necessary.”

“I think that, although it is a hard task, it is important for Yale to take steps not to enable alcoholism at Yale. I have talked to professional school students, who believe that Yale provides so much alcohol for students that it ‘pays students to drink,’ and I believe that the situation should also be remedied for undergraduates. I think that providing less alcohol at university-sponsored events such as receptions for parents or senior celebrations would help give students a straightforward message about alcohol instead of the mixed messages that currently confuse students.”

“Groups on campus take care of members of their groups.”

“The overhaul of Yale's policy regarding alcohol was surely meant to show dedication to making the school a safer environment, both in terms of the physical health of the consumer, and in terms of creating a safer sexual environment. I find that the result is rather that it has driven underground the kind of drinking situations that put students at risk of poisoning or assault and has increased student animosity towards the administration.”

“There should be an upperclassman (or group of upperclassmen) in each college who should be the ‘alcoholic advisor.’ In case of an emergency, this person can evaluate if the person needs to go to the hospital and bring them in case the friends are too afraid. They would act almost as Fro Cos.”

“Yale mostly just doesn't police alcohol at all.”

“There needs to be a system where students can seek advice or help from a FroCo type person that is not a mandated reporter. They should be trained and should certainly be encouraged to tell students to seek further medical help if needed. But, unlike a FroCo or a Dean, asking them for help does not automatically mean that this event is reported or has a chance of incurring disciplinary action.”

“I think Yale needs to be more clear that the use of alcohol, while not punishable, is highly discouraged.”

“Way too strict. As with drugs, this tabooish view leads to more and more irresponsible consumption. For starters, drinking age should be 18. And yes I'm an international student. Thanks!”

“Can we please stop attacking organizations as if they are the root of a drinking culture?”

“More practical instruction necessary - how many drinks a person should have each night, warning signs that a person has consumed too much, how to care for someone who is only moderately drunk (water, Advil, etc.), physical signs as to whether outside assistance needs to be called.”

“I'm a senior, so there should be few disciplinary consequences now. This makes me comfortable asking for help, but I could very much understand an underclassmen feeling uncomfortable.”

“Nothing will ever change if the drinking age is still 21. If I can buy cigarettes, and I can put my life on the line by enlisting in the military, then there is no reason that I should not be able to responsibly consume alcohol.”