



Agenda Items

1. YCC Long-term Discussion
2. TF Evaluations Presentation
3. Standards for YCC Partners
4. Petitions for Associate Membership
5. Reminders and Announcements

Attendance

BK	Diksha Brahmhatt	X	Joseph English	X
BK	Ethan Young	X	Madeline Bauer	X
BR	Mollie Johnson	X	Amour Alexandre	X
BR	Shannon Flores	X	Daniel Tovbin	X
CC	Michael Yuan	X	Sammy Bensinger	X
CC	Luis Patiño	X	Josh Hochman	X
DC	Joseph Cornett	X	Megan Ruan	X
DC	Daniel Hamidi	X	Joel Bervell	X
ES	Sydney Wade	X	Maya Sweedler	X
ES	Joseph Tomchak	X	Phan Nguyen	X
JE	Benjamin Held	X	Aparna Nathan	X
MC	Kevin Sullivan	X		
MC	Carter Henschien	X		
PC	Lauren Sapienza	X		
PC	Sofia Braunstein	X		
SY	Christopher Bowman	X		
SY	Avery Thompson	X		
SM	Peter Huang	X		
TD	Joshua McGilvray	X		
TC	Shah Kahn	X		
TC	Devyn Rigsby	X		

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).

YCC Long-term Discussion

When should Council elections take place – spring or fall?

- Joe: Council used to be fall; eboard was spring; changed in 2013 because there was value in having a cohesive YCC from the start; problem is freshmen can't be elected to YCC if elections remain in the spring. Eboard elections will remain in April – thoughts on moving Council elections to spring?
- Carter: The first meeting of the year was exciting and helpful to forming this family right off the bat; would hate to lose that by separating elections.
- Sydney: There's value in having the summer months to plan ahead. This year, it fell apart because the excitement from spring wasn't sustained through the summer months.
- Kate: Spring elections provide a big advantage. This year, the associate membership program was strong; maybe there's a way to mandate freshman representation on council by saving two spots for FCC (ie automatic associate with voting privileges)?
- Josh: Uncomfortable with idea of not having elected freshmen with votes. There's still time to formulate an agenda even without the summer — they're not substantial enough to justify not having freshmen on Council.
- Xander: Maybe we can find a compromise?
- Sarah: Like the idea of special election in fall for freshmen. Would like to see those people not be chair and vice-chair of FCC because, though that's part of it, there should be a broader reach to allow more people to participate.
- Joshua: FCC and YCC have very different missions; a great FCC chair might not be the best YCC representative. Maybe freshmen should elect someone halfway through the first semester so the freshmen have a time to understand school policy.
- Joe: Freshmen bring something key, which is energy and enthusiasm.
- Joseph: Freshmen can bring that as associates.
- Larry: FCC is a great introduction to student government. We're discussing not whether or not freshmen get a voice but whether or not we should give up spring elections to give freshmen the vote. Concerned YCC elections will draw away from FCC.
- Shah: A freshman elected representative. It's not fair to say freshmen don't have things they want to change; it's not changing things from bad to good but maybe from good to better. Also, fall elections skew representation towards freshmen because freshmen tend to come out to vote more.
- Phan: Not necessary to move elections. We can create additional spots on Council for freshmen so we can get voting freshmen on Council that draws from any college — some sort of at-large delegate.
- Maddie: Like the idea of having definite freshmen representation, but concerned about the process. How would having the whole class vote, as opposed to individual colleges, work?

- Devyn: Other elected freshmen rep. It was hard to come in late and be a bit of an outsider, so that will be hard for freshmen. The freshman perspective is key to not lose, so if there are going to be freshmen elected in the fall, it makes sense to have the reps be elected then too.
- Shannon: We'd have to clearly distinguish between FCC, YCC, and College Councils.

Which Eboard positions should be elected and which should be appointed?

- Daniel: Doesn't think it's important for a treasurer to run in a class-wide election. Experience is the most important when looking for a Finance Director, so his position should be appointed, not elected.
- Maddie: Because the money is growing, mostly from student activities fee that comes from the student body, it makes sense for students to have a say in who manages that money. There's a level of accountability the Finance Director has to the student body.
- Kate: What about electing a group of people to Eboard and then positions are meted out afterwards? There should be some degree of appointment based off an elected body.
- Adam: Having elections for something like this is a crude system. Not all voters will analyze the candidates appropriately, so appointing will be better for something like this.
- Joel: Explained endorsements.
- Will vote on an electronic ballot.

What does the future of Class Councils look like?

- Sarah: FCC is totally different from SoCo and JCC. The latter two depend on who's elected as president that year and have less accountability. The Councils aren't elected until fall, but the president is elected in spring. The value that YCC gets from getting the ball rolling over the summer could possibly be extended to SoCo and JCC. It helps to set an agenda over the summer. Also, motivation for both groups drops off second semester.
- Kevin: Observed huge drop in SoCo participation this semester. SoCo and JCC lack an equivalent of chief-of-staff — they sort of need their 'bulldog.' It's hard to find the balance between keeping everyone motivated and throwing creative events and having fun.
- Sammy: Class Council elections are chronically under-enrolled and uncontested. Is there a lack of interest and would moving elections to the spring change that? JCC struggles with that especially.
- Maddie: Ewurama was considering having people just join JCC because about 4 people ran. Maybe we should just elect two people and have other people join or apply?
- Joe: A few models. (1) Leave as is. (2) At-large delegates. (3) Eliminate the college model, make it smaller, and allow people to join as they want, like Senior Class Council. (4) Make it application based with an elected president and vice-president that solicit.
- Kevin: Pointed out value in institutional memory in the form of handbooks or constitutions. Brought up possibility of changing the name. Council implies a sense of governance, which isn't the purpose of SoCo or JCC — what about Sophomore Events Committee?
- Sarah: Limits scope of what SoCo can do, though.

Should the President and vice-president run on a ticket?

- Joe: Three ideas. (1) Everyone is elected independently — current model. (2) President and vice-president run together. (3) Joint ticket — three or four people run together.
- Sammy: Unofficial tickets occasionally run together.
- Xander: Concerned that a joint ticket shifts the dynamic.
- Rayan: Joint tickets force students to pick a single voice on a whole platform, which isn't a great idea.
- Kevin: Doesn't like electing board as a group, and is hesitant to do joint tickets because it limits students a little bit. Prefers independent elections.
- Adam: If the president and vice-president can already informally run on a ticket, why do we need to force it? Also opens up possibility of having a group of friends on an eboard.
- Maddie: Helps cohesion of eboard.
- Joseph: People will vote for the top of the ticket, so it negates the importance of the vice-president. Students should have the choice to elect someone other than the potential president's pick.
- David: Seen friend groups run together in an organization and take it over, and it sometimes become difficult to separate professional duties and personal relationships.
- Joshua: You lose vice-president's personality to the ballot, but not sure if we should value vice-president's personality. We should be focusing more on platforms so student elections become more about what the person wants to do rather than a personality contest.
- Kate: Having separate elections is a check and balance system, and the system of appointment
- Ryan:

Teaching Fellow Evaluations

By Joseph Tomchak, ES '17:

Recommendations

- Give students access to see the evaluations they write up for TFs at the end of the semester.
 - Fall survey supports that.
 - Logistical problems in that TFs are appointed last-minute; might need to put this on a different platform.
- Restructure the evaluation system; make it four questions instead of just one. Make it about the TF as well as the class itself.
- Provide students access to a TF's CV and research interest so students can view their interests or areas of expertise before enrolling in a section.

Discussion

- Shannon: Do you know where the comments given to TFs go after people fill out end-of-semester surveys?
- Kevin: Would love to see TF's resume. His Con. Law class assigns sections based on TFs and it's made a difference in his experience in the class.
- Sydney: Also loves the CV/interest part, but unsure about how the evaluation system will work. Not sure how long TFs teach for — many are one-and-done so that won't help too much.

- Joseph doesn't have that info.

YCC Partnership Program

Presentation by Maya Sweedler, ES '18

- COPY AND PASTE FROM HANDOUT HERE
- Should Council have to ratify all potential partnerships?
- How much is at the Communications Director's individual discretion?
- Are these standards fair and reasonable?

Discussion

- Josh: Sounds good.
- Matt: One more thing to throw in is that FCC has been contacted by certain groups on campus also (e.g. Office of Career Strategy). We should consider how to form partnerships with Yale groups like them.
- Josh: Have you ever rejected a partnership and felt really badly?
 - Maya: No.
- David: How many partnership requests do you get, and how many do you think would be taken to Council?
 - Maya: About 3 a month, and about one third merit coming to Council.
- Kate: Do you think Council members could have some responsibility beyond just ratifying?
 - Maya: A lot of it is outreach online, so we can definitely throw that in there if people would be comfortable with that.
- Sydney: Is the reason we ask about monetary support that they already have because most people come to us for money?
 - Maya: No, that is rare. But if they do have money, it means they will probably be around a little bit longer.
- David: I'm concerned about how long the presentations for these partnerships would be at Council because we'd have to go through so many steps.
- Larry: Is there any way the Communications Director could just present these to the rest of Council? I think it's important that we get more of your input than their input. We don't want a good presenter just winning us over if the product isn't good. You'd be the best person to present that information in an unbiased, efficient manner.
- Peter: Just to prevent student groups that have personal connections with the Communications Director, it would be a good idea to have a special committee within Communications Team to present the ideas most relevant to YCC.