



Agenda Items

1. Second Semester UOC Chair Introduction
2. LGBTQ Task Force Presentation
3. Reflection on Last Semester & Moving Forward
4. Petitions for Associate Membership
5. Reminders

Attendance

BK	Diksha Brahmhatt	E	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	E	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	E	Maya Sweedler	E
ES	Joseph Tomchak	X	Phan Nguyen	X
JE	Benjamin Held	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	Katherine Oh	E		
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).

Benchmarking

Presentation by Joseph English, DC '17:

- Goals – what did we set out at the beginning of this year?
 - Continuation of old projects
 - Making sure nothing falls through the cracks
 - Institutional memory
 - New knowledge
 - Having reps work on projects, doing task forces (e.g. What is the state of dining right now? What are the trends? What do we recommend?)
 - The goal is to produce knowledge so we don't need to reinvent the wheel every year
 - Amplifying student voice
 - How to give a microphone to students who don't necessarily come every Saturday
 - Giving students an outlet via YCC to access administration and create change
 - Internal development
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- Progress
 - Financial aid
 - New reforms:
 - A reduction in summer income contribution from \$3050 to \$1350 for students with the highest need (defined as a student with \$0 parent contribution).
 - A reduction in summer income contribution from \$3050 to \$2600 for all other students on financial aid.
 - A \$2000 “start up” stipend for freshmen with the highest need in order to help pay for winter clothing, boots, a laptop, etc.
 - A \$1000 start up stipend for international students with the highest need.
 - A \$1500 vacation allowance for international students on financial aid.
 - Making sure these conversations continue
 - Production of new knowledge

- Three task force reports ready within the next two weeks (one today) and another three done before the end of our term
 - This YCC will have produced more task force reports than the last five YCCs combined
 - This should give future YCCs enough knowledge to do advocacy right out of the gate
 - Poised for advocacy
 - One of EBoard's biggest jobs moving forward is advocacy
 - We are ready to meet with administrators asap to push this stuff forward
- Vision
 - Internal and external developments
 - Policy prioritization
 - We have finite resources as a group in attention/time we have and attention/time we get from administrators
 - What is our role in campus issues?
 - Utilizing our resources (Council, students, media)
 - Is Council as effective as possible?
 - Is every min of Council utilized?
 - How do we make sure everyone feels like they are contributing to our vision, if that is a legitimate goal?
- Looking forward

Discussion:

- Ryan: People don't really know what YCC does and we have a lot of different policy initiatives, so it would be good if there is more information on the PR side for the general public.
- Kate: Did we send out any survey to the campus asking what they think is the most important in terms of policy prioritization? It would be cool to see what everyone on campus thinks we should work on.
- Joe: We can include that on a survey going out in early February.
- Kevin: One way to use Council more effectively is maybe not have every individual do their own project. Maybe pairing up with people with similar interests would let us go twice as in-depth and also not put as much on EBoard's plate in terms of advocating 40 projects at a time. It could be better to focus ourselves in a lot of good projects. We could even take advantage of the mentorship program we now have.
- Maddie: That is interesting to consider. Would people be interested in working together?
- Joe: What do you think the purpose of a student government on a college campus should be?
- Sammy: To liaise between students who want to create change and administrators who have the power to do it.
- Joshua: I don't think we do a good job at liaising between students and the administration. I think we are clinging too much to our own structures. No one else really cares. I think we should stop holding onto our own ideas of how governments as opposed to going out to cultural houses.
- Sammy: The tour guides are hosting study breaks in each residential college, cultural center, Slifka, and the office of LGBT resources. What if we did something like that for YCC?

- Larry: What is representation is really important to consider when we are looking at goals for this semester. I think its people trusting their representatives to act in their best interest. We should make the link between YCC initiative and results more clear (e.g. the financial aid reform) because that will further legitimize YCC. I don't want to overstate publicity but the fact is the more people know about what we are doing, the more they will trust us to actually enact their recommendations. Instead of just making a task force, email all the people who suggested that task force, thank them for their input, and say we'll let you know what's happening, let us know if you want to get involved, etc. I like the idea of "Why aren't we at the cultural houses"? If we do that, then we draw other people in. That is essentially how we are going to address the question of representation.
- Peter: I want to go back to what Joshua said. I think what Sammy said about student government as a liaison is on point. For example, with the LGBTQ report, a lot of people on the task force are also involved in the Coop and understand LGBTQ issues more than the general representative does. Going back to organizing the structure of YCC, but there are quite a few student groups on campus that understand so much more about specific issues (e.g. mental health) so staying well in tune with what they are doing (but not encroaching) so that we understand how to best help is important. For example, for Next Yale, I think we were really confused about how to reach out without stepping on their feet but we all felt sincere about wanting to help we just didn't have a strong enough connection with them to dos.
- Daniel H: Has anyone done any research on how other student governments deal with these issues of representation? I'm sure others have done good work on this
- Maddie: Yale is so different because of the residential colleges. Are residential colleges the best form of representation, or arbitrary communities that we are placed into?
- Joe: My freshman year project was to research and rewrite our Constitution and part of that was reading other schools' constitutions. You would be shocked at how few effective models there are. The Ivy League basically does it the same way we do with residential college representation. Princeton doesn't really have student government. I think we are best off relying on our own intuitions rather than relying on other models.
- Joshua: I was thinking about what Larry said about democracy but I think we have to get over the barrier of people not caring. YCC elections are kind of random because students don't really run based on contributions. Maybe we can formalize YCC reporting on members' contributions to hold members more accountable and make the elections process a lot more legitimate than it currently is.
- Joe: That's real. We have a long way to go and now is an opportune time to consider it with elections coming up.
- Andrew: I heard a lot of people mentioning office hours but I think the problem is a lot of people don't know what they want to see and just go through having a general sentiment about it so maybe a better way of helping people put their thoughts into specific words, feelings, anything about what is going on is asking in the spring survey how people felt about Salovey's response to Next Yale's demands, for example. Were people satisfied? That would really allow YCC to have a better idea of the proper directions in which to go especially in topics we haven't previously ventured into.
- Kate: Going off what Larry said about us going into organizations, I feel like there is a big opportunity with UOC. We could say if we give you grant, you have to send your president to one YCC meeting so they know the kind of stuff we are working on. That'd

be a good way to show them the kinds of policy we do and what kinds of ideas are helpful.

- Aparna: UOC right now basically only deals with clubs in terms of funding but if you look at what they ask for money for, it gives you a good sense of what is important to each group/what is their priority. I think a lot would be interested in forming a stronger relationship.
- Shannon: I wonder how effective having reps from residential colleges really is. No one came to office hours because they were scared. I like the idea of having representatives who are matched with clubs or different majors.
- Mollie: I think we underestimate the number of things people in this room are already involved in. Maybe we can add 10 min to each meeting to talk about problems related to groups people are involved in because a lot of us do know what specific groups want if we had the time to go over those things.
- Ethan: I agree there are a lot of ways we could be better with representing the student body but I think we also assume that we have a great connection to the administration and I'm not sure we really do. I think Yale is different in that we don't have a formal purchase but only advocacy. I know EBoard has specific relationships with administrators in different departments and that is what we rely on but even if we had the most representative input in this room and perfect reports, those could still be ignored and not addressed. That is a normal outcome. Maybe we can take people like Dean Holloway up on their offer a little more or creating more venues where we interact directly with the administrators who are most relevant.
- Joe: I think you are right. That is why I am such a huge proponent of the endowment. Everything comes down to money and over time, we can grow the million dollars we will have into a lot more money, which gives us independence to break that cycle. That is longer term but we should absolutely think of ways to break out of that system.
- Maddie: Dean Holloway is coming to a meeting in early February.
- Daniel: I think it would be a good idea to maybe have liaisons to various major student groups which might not even require going out of your way because a lot of us are already involved with the major groups. This could be just bringing up what YCC is doing, seeing if they have any ideas, etc.
- Ben: I wonder if there is any way to move to trying to integrate onto phones or the Yale mobile app to put a YCC tab in there or have a YCC type Yik Yak thing or low barriers to entry to suggest things to YCC.

LGBT Task Force Presentation

Q&A with Max Goldberg, PC '17 and Adam Michalowski, BK '19:

- Carter: What is the administration's reason for having gender-based restrictions for freshman rooms?
 - Max: A lot of it is inertia. That is the way it has been and to change that requires an overhaul of the logistics of placing freshman in housing. Contrary to what you might expect, it is a logistically challenging process as is. The majority of people would prefer to be housed in a single gender environment so figuring out the logistics of having another additional choice is complex and there hasn't been a huge student push for it.

- Adam: The one thing we heard is that you can't force someone to live in mixed gender environment so the logistics of making sure there are the right number of suites if you have 10 or 70 sign up is tricky.
- Joshua: You spoke a lot about Brown's model but I don't think they have residential colleges so obviously their sample is a lot larger. Would you recommend asking these questions before putting people into colleges and sorting them accordingly, or would you sort first and deal with the fact that there may be only one LGBTQ person in a college class?
 - Adam: It would be selected before people are placed into colleges but would try to avoid having a preponderance of people who selected this option in one college so it would be spread across the colleges as much as possible.
 - Max: One of our recommendations, which is already in the works, is to ask LGBTQ orientation on the admissions application.
- Peter: For the second core recommendation about eliminating gender-based restrictions on rooming arrangements but I feel like this has argument has been brought up before so why does the administration push back against it?
 - Max: That is probably the most difficult question for us to tackle. You are right. I met with a few administrators involved in various areas of the housing process and you have to tread very carefully because for some administrators it is inconceivable to have two different genders in one bedroom. A lot of it comes down to framing it as making it more diverse, not less diverse, in terms of rooming options and there is no evidence whatsoever that it leads to sexual misconduct.
- Joe: The task force divided this into core recommendations and supplementary recommendations. How do you guys perceive these categories or any other thoughts on that?
 - Max: Another philosophy was things that can be handled in a more segmented way vs. things that need to be handled on a higher administrative level.
- Joshua: You guys didn't mention how much this would cost. The supplementary recommendations seem to be the more expensive one. How worried are you this will be rejected based on cost? What is most cost effective do you think?
 - Max: The bigger issue than money with something like an LGBTQ center is where it would go. That is one of the reasons why as we recommend that, we also recommend an exploratory committee to think about the feasibility of it. We don't have access to a lot of the budgetary information because there has been a lot of cultural center budget movement lately and that information is very need to know. I am hoping we will get access to that further on in the implementation but in terms of convincing, we've been told that right now we have to worry about presenting a feasibility study and then the money question comes later.
 - Adam: As far as things like expanding the PL program, that is already an expensive program and the reason there are resources for it is because there is a compelling case for why it should exist. We have a pretty compelling case for why it should be expanded (older students sometimes discover an LGBTQ identity later on).

- Max: One question I have for all of you is one thing we struggled with is bridging the gap between being assertive but not condescending. Did anyone have concerns with the language of the report?
- Kate: I really like how you included a glossary. I thought that took care of a lot of problems people might have reading it.
- Christopher: I thought the paragraph about Yale being the Gay Ivy was kind of aggressive and left a sour taste in my mouth for the whole report. I think it'd be better not to start with that.
- Adam: Another thing we wanted to watch out for: Is there anywhere the language came off in a way that seemed biased or editorializing?
- Devyn: One of the most compelling things that I read was Ms. Trumpler saying that we lose students because of our policy. That really stood out to me because no school wants to lose students, but she didn't offer any numbers. I think that would be a really good argument to the administration if we had more information.
 - Max: Trumpler said she gets calls from trans students and basically no one who is out as trans and not fully transitioned will come to Yale. But do they not come because of that or because they want to study anthropology and don't like Yale's anthropology department, for example
- Peter: One student said it was like the offices of vices but I don't know if administration would like to read that students think that they deliberately put issues students don't want to hear about away in a corner.
- Joshua: That struck me as a little unprofessional too.
- Maddie: I found that part compelling. I've been to the office many times but when I read it like that, it was really interesting. For me at least, I thought when it transitioned to that narrative style, I found that compelling.
- Adam: Maybe it could be worded slightly more professionally.
- Kevin: I feel the exact same way about the office and even despite feeling that same way, I think tasteful wording can go a long way. Maybe you don't need to have the direct quote but that is definitely a valid point of view because that is kind of how the office feels.

VOTE TO PASS THE LGBTQ TASK FORCE REPORT: PASSED WITH UNANIMOUS CONSENT