



Agenda Items

1. Campus Dialogue
2. Rep Presentation: Post-Term Airport Shuttles
3. Petitions for Associate Membership
4. 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	E
CC	Michael Yuan	x	Sammy Bensinger	E
CC	Luis Patiño	U	Josh Hochman	x
DC	Joseph Cornett	x	Megan Ruan	x
DC	Daniel Hamidi	E	Joel Bervell	x
ES	Sydney Wade	x	Maya Sweedler	E
ES	Joseph Tomchak	x	Phan Nguyen	x
JE	Benjamin Held	x	Alex Cruz	E
MC	Kevin Sullivan	x		
MC	Carter Henschien	x		
PC	Lauren Sapienza	x		
PC	Sofia Braunstein	x		
SY	Christopher Bowman	x		
SY	Avery Thompson	E		
SM	Katherine Oh	x		
SM	Peter Huang	x		
TD	Joshua McGilvray	x		
TC	Devyn Rigsby	E		
TC	Shah Kahn	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).

Campus Dialogue

Guiding Questions:

- The situation now is very different from a week ago (Email + SAE)
- Previously, it was not YCC's role to facilitate conversation.
- Now, we are having a broader conversation about race relations and issue on this campus and in this country. What, if anything, should YCC do to engage in this discussion?

General Discussion:

- **Andrew:** At the recruitment coordinating meeting, we discussed what kind of steps should we take as the face of the school to new students. What should we say to people planning on attending Yale? Personally, I have a lot to learn. We should get involved. Campus has been ripped apart, lots of activity with cultural houses, Facebook statuses, Overheard at Yale has turned into a battleground (free speech vs. diversity and inclusion). If anything, this should be a good indicator that we should become involved. A lot of what the university has done has been reactionary. Catalyst events get everyone riled up, leads to repercussions and action by university. Being aggravated by the lack of direct communication between people of color and the university. Cultural houses are a space for minority students to find a home, but not as a loudspeaker. This loudspeaker is the YCC - to make appeals to the university. The anger and sadness stems from people of color not feeling like their voices are being heard. The solution? A **YCC committee** to show our dedication to having an inclusive student body and promoting communication. Shift towards preemptive, rather than reactionary policies. Gives us a better perspective on how to act in future crises. If nothing else, to allow students of color to feel their voices are being heard. Creation of the **Afro-American Cultural House** is a perfect example: BSAY promotes four tenets to the university. One of the biggest resources this school offers are its **students**.
- **Carter:** Completely agree. Big push to have **orientation training** on diversity. Student input in the process as the administration formulates training. Could go hand in hand with the YCC Committee.
- **Katherine:** From the moment people of color step on campus, they are put into a separate group. Though the cultural houses are open to all, very few who are not of color actually go to them. Medium, so that everyone including people of color should be able to feel comfortable.
- **Shannon:** Short term option - having a large-scale **community art project**. People come together and have a space for solidarity. Instead of discussion and debate, express through art. A place to find common ground, rather than being divisive.

- **Rianna:** Short term - conversations on anti-racism training, cultural competency training. YCC can step in here. Long term - improvement of life skills (e.g. financial literacy forums) - currently, people lack the life skill of **empathy** - YCC should reach out to cultural houses and support any efforts to fill this gap. Promote awareness of **bias reporting process** on campus. This is an official procedure that people don't know exists. **BSAY Demands** - YCC doesn't necessarily need to affirm these, but should publicly acknowledge that they have been written and sent to administration. Lack of diversity in **mental health resources**, therapists, etc. Mental health is a YCC issue - we can affirm this and bring it into our conversation about mental health going forward.
- **Diksha:** How to be an ally. People who might not be involved in organization that feel the burden (on the periphery) look to things like Facebook to get their information. Overheard is creating a false dichotomy by going to the extremes. Lots of people are having trouble figuring out their place and where they fit into this picture. Thus, they have been stepping away from conversation due to lack of extreme views or personal stories. YCC can teach people **how to step back and listen** - this is also a way of participating. Teaching people how to actively seek out forums to listen, and be an ally.
- **Kevin:** No problem in acknowledging that BSAY demands exist, important in an immediate sense. There is a sense of exhaustion right now. YCC can do a lot to get these demands out there. We can also acknowledge existing infrastructure. YCC can be a venue for **awareness and sensitivity campaigns** (think: It's on us). Get lots of groups involved, so that burden won't continue to fall solely on the cultural houses. **Orientation training for freshman** should be a long-term goal.
- **Joe:** In working with administrators who have been here for decades, noticed that emails/words/forums are easy. Faith in them as people, but not necessarily their commitment to action, not just words. YCC's role should be to **hold them to action**. Take the specific action items to Provost, Secretary, Dean. This cannot just be a placating email. We've done this with other issues in the past, and we can do it for this one. **Shannon's art project:** don't want to co-opt a movement - don't want to step on the toes of the cultural houses.

Discussion on Statement:

- **Maddie:** Many groups have been releasing statements and sharing stories via social media and media. We should not stay silent. We want members of the larger Yale community to recognize that YCC has not been passive. It relates completely to the YCC's relationships with students.
- **Katherine:** Saying "we're here for you" could be enough for now. Taking a stance could be difficult, especially given a lot of the extreme views being published. We should reassure student body that we are here.
- **Diksha:** Include contact information - let people know who they should and can contact.
- **Maddie:** Would reps be comfortable serving this role? Serving as liaisons. This is our role and what we were elected for.
- **Peter:** Silliman community talk about Christakis email. Frustrations because the Christakis' seemed very stubborn and unwilling to bend their views. We need to put pressure on administrators.
- **Kevin:** Include list of BSAY demands and links to extra information - ways for people to educate themselves.
- **Rianna:** Professor Jafari Allen send list of readings to BMU about solidarity.

- **Josh:** Our place to assert solidarity with the movement, but caution pressuring the administration to action. A statement of action should not come before consulting the groups actually leading the movement.
- **Joshua:** Concern about it inciting another “overheard at Yale”-esque discussion. Main point should be support and mental health. The point is not to instigate an academic debate; should lean more towards practical ways to provide support.
- **Phan:** If we list residential college reps as point people, we should discuss a common approach for the reps to use when talking to peers. Will be speaking on behalf of YCC.
- **Sydney:** Also requires us to educate ourselves. Do research, read, and know what’s going on. Either read the list of readings (BMU) or information from another source.
- **Adam:** When talking about pressure on admin, the movement has already written a list of actions. We should include these action items in our statement.
- **Joe:** Our approach. Follow the structures we have used here. Do not engage in the debate about free speech. Focus on how to empower students, and how YCC can help provide support.
- **Shannon:** Concern that we are not only representing students of color, but also students who side with the free speech argument. How do we represent both?
- **Joshua:** Last week we were talking about *one* controversial issue. Now, regardless of the details of individual cases, we should affirm the difficulties students of color face. This separates the issue from isolated incidents.
- **Joseph:** People have confided in me that they feel physically unsafe. Need to keep in mind the way that these discussions have grown into a climate of unsafety.
- **Peter:** In Silliman, people want to focus on the splintering community and how to save it. These conversations are happening in other colleges. There are policies that people are presenting, and our statement should include the fact that reps can present policy ideas to the exec board. More concrete than simply saying “we’re here for you.”
- **Josh:** Topics discussed between reps and student body should be compiled. Reps should report what they are hearing, and a YCC point person should consolidate everything. These ideas and conversations should go somewhere.
- **Ryan:** Be careful - don’t want it to look like YCC is creating the “student decision”. Emphasize that we can act as a pipeline to administration for *their* ideas.
- **Andrew:** We are hoping the YCC Committee will be able to accomplish this. Appreciated feeling like his concerns were heard through Cultural Connections. Their entire job was to listen. Members of the YCC Committee would need to be entirely dedicated, listening and compiling everything that is said.
- **Maddie:** Exists a Minority Advisory Standing Committee, but defunct. Our committee will serve to fill this gap.
- **Katherine:** Concern about being divisive is not a big one.

Discussion on YCC Internal Reform:

- How do we make YCC, rep positions, exec board more open?
- **Diksha:** Regarding the historical lack of diversity, it has to do with the public perception of YCC student government being in line with national politics. What do national politicians look like? This boxes people in/out. Change this perception: it is a council. People who like other people, who like listening to other people, can do something about

it. We should be a *link*, rather than a *government*. We want everyone, not just those interested in politics down the line.

- **Joe:** Task forces are a way for people to be involved in YCC/policy without necessarily signing on as a council rep.
- **Rianna:** Creating more opportunities for students to get involved without elections. Who wants to run matters. But also, minority students find their community within minority groups, which makes it harder to win elections. Inability to win an election doesn't mean they don't have the same ability to represent a large population on this campus.
- **Maddie:** How can we outreach to cultural communities and other sectors on campus?
- **Joshua:** Move away from residential college system - these don't have a core defining message or mission. Athlete groups and cultural groups do.
- **Amour:** have reps from YSAC, cultural houses, be on council
- **Sydney:** have consistent conversation with the cultural houses
- **Kate:** What will new positions be like? How will they be formed and how can people be selected?
- **Josh:** e-board is often filled by people who had other positions previously. residential college constituencies are different from groups that have common interests.
- **Ryan:** VP of cultural diversity - perhaps create a YCC position that wholly serves this purpose
- **Peter:** secondary constituencies - room for us to reimagine
- **Sydney:** This is not about YCC being against free speech. The issue goes far beyond what has happened this week, with the email or with SAE. Communicate this to students.

Post-Term Airport Shuttles

Presentation by Ethan Young (Council Rep):

- Current Travel Options
 - CT Limo, Go Shuttle, Train service, Tweed-New Haven, ASA Transit (limited number of buses at end of term, more affordable, but inconvenient), Uber (shared cabs)
 - Most common: JFK
- Peer Institutions
 - Summary graphic of how much students pay at other schools
 - Take-away: other schools pay much, much less
 - Some are private setups, others are really good public transport structures
 - UConn and Q-pac pay about the same as we do
- Sample Trips to LGA and JFK
 - Time is Money
- Survey Data
 - 1300 responses, majority didn't have an opinion, those who did Did Not feel they had satisfactory airport transportation
 - Average Cost: Students pay on average \$50-100 dollars
 - Randomly, a bunch of students pay >\$200?!?!?
- Ideological Decisions
 - Focus on negotiations with CT Limo - Yale more likely to respond well for things in state

- Metro-North exists to get to New York
- Bradley also provides similarly priced flights as JFK and LGA
- Disadvantages international students
- Argument: Residence closures necessitate adequate/affordable transportation.
- Recommendations:
 - Conversation with Financial Aid Office - Yale total cost of attendance includes \$1000 allowance regardless of where the student is from. This should reflect distance travelled, but also \$1000 is not reasonable for anyone.
 - Travel Stipends for students on financial aid - even in the \$30 ballpark.
 - Directly subsidize shuttles - already done with CT Limo, but hasn't been renegotiated in a long time
 - Use Yale shuttles to transport students hourly or every two hours to the airport. Free or very reduced rate.
 - Publish a clear transportation guide and spell out the timetables, expenses, and warnings/tips for frequently used routes - help them not waste their money

VOTE: PASSED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Announcements

- Shifts for HY party set up - must volunteer in order to get Spring Fling VIP pass
- Fall Show on Thursday, November 12, 7:30 pm
- Tell Diksha if you are willing to host a Harvardian
- Mixer is on Friday, November 20 at 8 pm