



**Agenda Items**

1. Presentation: Banning Styrofoam Food Containers
2. Presentation: Tobacco-Free Yale
3. YCC Social Chair
4. YSO Video Shoot

**Attendance**

BK	Diksha Brahmhatt	X	Joseph English	E
BK	Ethan Young	X	Madeline Bauer	X
BR	Mollie Johnson	X	Amour Alexandre	E
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	E
ES	Sydney Wade	X	Maya Sweedler	E
ES	Joseph Tomchak	X	Phan Nguyen	X
JE	Benjamin Held	X	Alex Cruz	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	U		
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).*

### **Banning Styrofoam Food Containers**

#### **Presentation by Bryan Yoon (Facilities & Healthcare Cmte. Chair, Graduate Student Assembly)**

- GPSS Resolution:
  - Whereas, concerns about the environmental and public health impact of styrofoam based products have been presented to representatives of the GPSS, whereas styrofoam products are used extensively on the Yale University campuses, whereas alternative materials exist that can replace these styrofoam products, therefore be it resolved that GPSS will establish a committee in conjunction with GSA, YCC, and the Yale Administration to explore the feasibility and impact of a policy to reduce the use of styrofoam products on the campuses of Yale University.
- GSA Resolution:
  - Whereas, concerns regarding the environmental and public health impact of Styrofoam based products have been widely known,
  - Whereas, Styrofoam products are used extensively among food vendors on university properties, and are major contributors to waste generated in certain areas<sup>1</sup>,
  - Whereas, safer and more sustainable alternative materials to replace Styrofoam containers are readily available, and the university dining facilities already adapted to such options,
  - Whereas, the food vendors on campuses are reluctant to switch to more sustainable options due to cost and competition,
  - Therefore, be it resolved that the University forms an ad-hoc committee in conjunction with GSA, YCC, and GPSS to facilitate a ban on Styrofoam food containers on campus properties through vendor agreement and aid the vendors in cost-efficient purchase of non-Styrofoam containers.

#### **Discussion:**

- Ethan: Yale leases the space on Broadway and towards Chapel. If we are talking about street vendors, which is where this would be most prominent, do those vendors register with Yale? How is Yale monitoring their presence?
- Bryan: This is complicated because Yale such a big institution. If you want to have a cart, you need a permit from city hall for \$500 and can have it anywhere on public property. If

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<sup>1</sup> (1) Waste Audit: Science Hill Dumpster (9/26/2014), Sustainability Service Corps, Yale Office of Sustainability

you are bringing business to a Yale parking lot, then you have to pay a fee to Yale parking. All the businesses on Broadway and Elm have very strict guidelines.

- Maddie: What are your recommendations for enforcement?
- Bryan: We have a timeline of how this should happen. We are simply asking for an ad hoc committee consisting of YCC, GPSS, GSA, and other individuals including those in New Haven. We can follow the standard rating system that Yale sustainability office has to give more sustainable bags to people part of Yale campus. The first step is asking administrators to actually take a look at this and get people together. We are hoping this will be a pilot case of student, staff, faculty, working together to solve a problem.
- Phan: What was the response from the administration?
- Bryan: This has been tried by the office of sustainability many times. When the school staff is asking, they don't have the power. But when we come together, we can.

**VOTE TO APPROVE: PASSED**

### **Tobacco-Free Yale Project**

**Presentation by Mollie Johnson (Council Rep) and Matt Ribeiro (Woobridge Fellow):**

- Recent Trends
  - Smoking is the leading cause of (preventable) death: 42.1M Americans smoke (480,000+/yr)
  - 1,500+ campuses are smoke-free
    - 1,000+ campuses are tobacco free
    - Peer-reviewed literature shows that tobacco-free policies are effective in promoting cessation
  - Yale can be a leader – First of the Ivies to go completely Tobacco Free
- Learning From Past Efforts
  - History of Tobacco Free Yale:
    - YNNH banned smoking in 2009; YSM soon followed
    - Tobacco-Free Yale workgroup formed in 2009 by Dean Gentry (active until ~2011)
  - Pushback came in several forms:
    - Students expressed desire for more input
    - Wanted a say in *developing* the initiative
    - Better communication after
    - Civil liberties argument
  - Access to cessation programs
- Initial Timeline
  - Oct 26: Email from President Salovey and Dr. Paul Genecin to the entire community, Announce program
  - Oct 28: YCC sends email supporting initiative and asking for campus ambassador applications (due Nov 6)
  - Nov 2: Follow up emails from:
    - Mike Peel and Ben Polak - Faculty and Staff, Post-docs
    - Dean Holloway - Undergraduates
    - Dean Cooley - Graduate and Professional Students
  - Nov 10: YCC sends reminder email regarding Kickoff Event

- Nov 16 & 17: President Salovey: Notes from Woodbridge Hall, YaleNews article push, REMINDER OF EVENT
- Nov 19: KICKOFF EVENT (working with the Great American Smokeout), Pres. Salovey – announce on Old Campus (to community), Climb Harkness tower, Free buttons, wristbands, water bottles
- Summer 2016: POLICY GOES INTO EFFECT, Premium discount for non-smoking employees (self reported)
- Plans to Implement
  - Create website (and Social Media tags)
  - Obtain baseline data (e.g. as part of YCC survey)
  - Recruit Campus Ambassadors (for constant outreach)
  - Info sessions and outreach to key groups
  - Giveaway materials and Ads
    - Printable resources (fact sheets) and scripts
    - Wristbands, water bottles, t-shirts, buttons, shuttle/bus wrap, posters
  - Student video contest with prizes
  - Press release in Yale News and other Yale channels (e.g. Facebook, YDN Op-Eds)
  - Monthly messaging (target current campus dept. newsletters)
- How Can the YCC Help?
  - Endorse the initiative
    - Goal: create a healthy community in which smokers are supported in their efforts to quit
  - Include questions in annual survey
  - Recruit initial team of campus ambassadors
  - Send email reminders (2) to students
    - Help recruit more ambassadors
    - Provide us with input and feedback

### **Discussion:**

- Chris: How would you enforce it?
- Matt R: The whole point is to help people quit rather than actually push them off campus. We are eventually working towards the goal of it being a referral to the dean of the college who will ask if they need help quitting (for staff, it would be a referral to human resources). Another university had people picking up cigarette butts on campus if they violate the policy more than 3 times. Others have partnered with local cancer hospital so violators have to work with lung cancer patients.
- Mollie: Also, keep in mind it's a change of culture on campus, not just a punitive thing. There will be adequate signage and people will know smoking is not supposed to be done. If people really feel the need to smoke, they can go off campus.
- Joe: I wanted to raise a concern. You are kind of trying to harass people into making a decision that is good for them. If someone doesn't want to quit smoking, I don't know that we should be telling them they have to.
- Mollie: I think that is a mischaracterization of the program. It is part of a greater wellness program where we're addressing these things.

- Matt R: It will only be punitive in the long term and if students support it. In 2016, we are only considering making it a policy that students would be referred to cessation programs if they need help.
- Joel: Where do off campus students fall into this?
- Matt R: We are hopefully going to have student smokers who will come to us with ideas about how we can make this better for them. Off campus people won't be affected too much but we'll work with them if they need help quitting.
- Joel: What about non-Yalies coming to places like Toads?
- Matt R: Eventually the policy will include visitors to campus. Obviously there will be signage around campus areas.
- Megan: Who will be responsible for saying that a certain person needs to quit?
- Mollie: It is more just making sure that people know the resources that are available for people who do want to take advantage, and a community initiative saying we know this is bad for our health.
- Matt R: A study said the biggest motivation for quitting is peer pressure, the knowledge that your use of tobacco products harm people around you.
- Mollie: I think this is where the campus ambassadors can really come in. One idea is educating masters and deans so students can get the resources from those offices.
- Matt R: Emory also held meetings open to everyone at very central locations.
- Maddie: For the student ambassadors, is this a long term commitment or a one-year thing?
- Matt R: It is ideally a long-term program. We'll provide support for as long as YCC needs it.
- Mollie: In the end, it would probably become more disconnected from YCC. We are creating the group but hope it will be self-perpetuating.
- Josh: Who is determining the exact function of the ambassadors?
- Mollie: There is a lot of leeway. It will be decided by students and administrators.
- Matt R: We will provide a general overview of what we would like from it but it will be a student-led initiative.
- Maddie: Any suggestions?
- Mollie: We are hoping to get lots of swag similar to the "23" gear from inauguration.
- Joseph: Not pins please!
- Megan: Lollipops!
- Daniel: Maybe you can post flyers around campus with statistics about second hand smoking.
- Maddie: What about for student ambassadors? Do you think there will be substantial student interest?
- Ethan: I really think so. I think most people still have plenty of relatives if not friends who have dealt with the issue. It is still a very prominent issue for a lot of people
- Matt R: A lot of student ambassadors at other colleges joined because a family member smoked and they wanted to help spread knowledge
- Matt G: I think if you partner with other public health groups on campus, that would be good.

- Joshua: I think there would be so much support for this if the tone is more generalized rather than individualized. I think some people might be turned off by the Kentucky approach but people will support Yale's.

**VOTE TO APPROVE: PASSED**