

Yale College Council
Council of Representatives Meeting
Saturday, September 27, 2015
Meeting Three



Agenda Items

1. Budget discussion

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	E	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	Alex Cruz	X
MC	Kevin Sullivan	X		
MC	Carter Henschien	X		
PC	Lauren Sapienza	E		
PC	Sofia Braunstein	X		
SY	Christopher Bowman	X		
SY	Avery Thompson	X		
SM	Katherine Oh	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).

Budget Discussion

- Maya: What is the difference between internal and external accounts?
- Daniel T: The external account is what we have access to and sign checks from. The internal account is something we can't touch, but can access only through the business office.
- Kevin: What happened to the separate council budgets?
- Daniel T: Previously, FCC was allocated \$2,000 and SoCo and JCC were each allocated \$3,000. We agreed we wanted to give them more money, and I think it is most fair to equalize all three councils with the same amount of money.
- Ewurama (JCC President): Relative to FCC, JCC has almost complete autonomy over the events we throw. You have to remember that the events get bigger as students get older, and we have to move more events off campus which also makes costs higher. During junior year, people are turning 21 which means alcohol is another added expense. Our job is to draw in as many people as possible, and we need money to book off campus to do that. If we don't have more money, that's where it stops. If we were to throw 4 events during the first semester and the first half of second semester and then run out of money, that would be the end of JCC. We also don't want to have to rely on YCC lending us money. From my perspective, having more money would be very useful.
- Sarah (SoCo President): SoCo and JCC are both event-based organizations. Policy is possible but the councils' work is mostly events, which cost a lot of money. Yale's biggest events are Spring Fling and Harvard/Yale, but other than that, the events that really attract a lot of kids coming together at one time are class council events. It is much harder for SoCo and JCC to make money than it is for FCC, so money is important for us.
- Joshua: What are the events that SoCo and JCC do and what would you do with extra money?
Sarah: FCC gets a handbook with events and a ton of information about how to execute them, while SoCo and JCC have to start with a totally blank slate. Our process is that we brainstorm ideas and then can pursue as many as we want if we have the funding.
- Tobias: How much was actually spent by SoCo and JCC last year?
- Ewurama: Last year, JCC maxed out and then had to charge \$10 for an event. That's how they paid for the Night at Mory's event last year. They also had to borrow money from YCC and then pay it back. It sounds like they were always playing catch up and I definitely don't want to do that. This year, JCC is looking to host three or four social events: an open bar welcome back thing in October, Mistletoads, and some kind of unique event in November like a date night.

- Josh: There are a few reasons why I don't think SoCo and JCC should get more funding than FCC. Built into FCC's calendar is a huge event in mid-October, the Freshman BBQ, so it is important to have those "just in case" funds available in case money isn't managed very successfully by freshman putting on the BBQ for the first time. Freshman Screw also costs like \$10,000, which is huge. FCC charges about \$10 per person and if only 900 people go, you're in the hole. Finally, the idea of not charging for events is something FCC has discussed in the past as well and if we collectively decide it's preferable to not charge, then all the councils would deserve to get a little more money. That being said, I think it does make sense to have a small entrance fee.
- Mollie: Is the emergency \$10,000 just for council or for everyone?
Daniel T: It's for everyone.
- Sarah: I don't think SoCo and JCC need more than FCC. I just think they need more in general. I was Freshman Screw chair last year on FCC and I can tell you that keeping it under budget was really challenging.
- Ewurama: I can tell you now that juniors hate letting go of their money. Most just don't want to pay for anything at this point. It's not personal. We, as a council, have to think about that. You are absolutely right that Freshman Screw is a huge amount of money, but Freshman Screw is an event that a ton of freshmen are encouraged to go to so it is much easier to get high attendance. Having more money lets us do more things.
- Larry: Realistically, is it all possible to dip into the \$3,000 surplus? Or is it the case that if SoCo and JCC want more money then FCC necessarily has to lose it? It doesn't look like there is that much more money to be handed out in the first place.
- Daniel T: It is not possible to dip into the \$3,000 surplus. We need at least that. We would have to get the money for the councils from somewhere else.
- Ethan: I get that any additional money would be helpful, but what realistically is the figure you'd need?
- Sarah: I'd have to look over my notes on events more to decide.
- Ewurama: \$1,000 more would be great.
- Chris: I was FCC treasurer last year during Freshman Screw. I know throughout the year we were playing catch up and it was very stressful. In the span of \$100,000, \$1,000 is not a lot but to SoCo and JCC, it can go a very long way in solidifying their vision.
- Amour: In regards to the Events Committee, the Dean's Office isn't giving us the funds for Harvard/Yale anymore, so we need extra money for that. We also have a new event that wasn't paid for last year that we need to pay for. Basically we have awesome events for all Yale students to attend, and we need the funding for that.
- Tobias: On the Spring Fling side of things, the real deal is that Spring Fling does receive a lot of money, but it is broken up such that a lot of that money goes towards production costs. Spring Fling needs \$60,000 more than last year just to put on the exact same show we had last year to live up to safety standards.
- Joe: To me, it doesn't make sense that we have this budget increase and yet SoCo and JCC are the only two seeing no extra money going to them right now. Yes, YCC events are great but they are going to be serving freshmen more than sophomores or juniors. As you get older, you are less likely to go to that kind of YCC event so I think it makes sense to give the money to SoCo and JCC because it makes such a difference to them and less to Spring Fling.

- Tobias: I'm definitely not saying that we should staunch creativity, but we know that Spring Fling draws people of all ages. I don't want to assume that more people will go to class councils for their class than YCC events.
- Ewurama: You need to understand that so much of the class council depends on the vision of the president of the council. By not giving us \$1,000 more each, you are giving into the stereotype that class councils don't do anything. Last year, JCC only had 3 events and that is absurd. Juniors go through a lot and they deserve to have a lot too.
- Daniel H: Tobias, the increase we are putting towards Spring Fling exceeds the amount you need for safety and security, right? Like there is an extra amount for better quality performers?
- Tobias: It's \$22,000 beyond that, but it is reflective of the increase in the SAF. But the \$60,000 is the least that production will cost us. If you factor in a couple thousand cushion for additional production costs, that gives us enough money for talent to improve the quality of the performance that people are watching and if you ask what they want to change or what they actually think the increase in SAF is going towards, I know it sounds like \$22,000 is a lot and \$2,000 matters more to class councils, but that is the difference between a great lineup people have heard of and the same kind of lineup as last year. I would be remiss if I easily allowed more to be taken away. We were shooting for \$90,000 and we lost \$8,000 so we are getting a lot more money than specifically SoCo and JCC, but our increase is just reflective of the percent increase in the SAF
- Daniel H: I completely agree with Ewurama and Sarah in saying that in past years, class councils haven't had the best reputation. It is our responsibility given the rise in the SAF to support these two presidents who both seem to have a great vision for the class councils. I'm just wondering within the \$22,000 extra, could we at least take out \$1,500 for each? To not increase the amount of SoCo and JCC given the increase in the SAF is kind of ridiculous.
- Kevin: I'm really lost. So assuming we give \$3,000 extra to the class councils, where would that come from?
- Daniel T: It would come from the Spring Fling and Events budget combined.
- Peter: It is not like we're detracting from the Events Committee if we take anything out because Events focuses on the whole student body and we will attract students of any grade, but if we restrict funding from the class councils, we are restricting building community within the classes itself. There aren't really any events that help sophomores and juniors get to know each other better. Tobias, you said at the last meeting, that \$1,000 or \$2,000 wouldn't matter.
- Tobias: It may not affect who our headliner is, for instance, but when we are working on the back end and have booked two artists, whether we have \$5,000 or \$8,000 left is a big difference. If you guys don't think it is valuable to try to have the SAF increase reflected in the Spring Fling budget than so be it, but we have an event that we know works and I can articulate how it will benefit from this amount of money.
- Peter: Historically speaking, the class councils don't face unexpected costs but I know if things come their way and the administration says you need more security guards, I would think Spring Fling isn't the only thing that gets undercut.
- Megan: I totally agree with supporting class councils but having been on both FCC and SoCo, I think it is important that people realize that part of the point of having a budget is to show you how much you can do with what you've been given and that's what really

goes into making a successful event to bond your class. Going into SoCo which hadn't historically done a lot, we were still able to do a lot with the budget we were given. FCC has only had \$2,000 in the past and they've been able to throw 3 amazing events year after year.

- Phan: I want to address the argument that the SoCo and JCC presidents have a lot of vision and we should give funding to make it happen. I believe you and I am excited to see what happens, but we need to remember that in past years, people have also had great ideas. I totally support FCC getting more funding but I don't think we should do it at the expense of Spring Fling and Events Committee. Freshman events are very important to freshmen because these events are what bond everyone together. For SoCo and JCC, it is really hard to get people to go to events when they choose not to/are too busy.
- Avery: I am completely on the same page as Phan and Megan. Last year, SoCo's PS I Crush You was a nice event on paper but was not super successful because it came down to the marketing of it. I think if you take the money you've been allotted and work on the marketing of it, that will make the event more exciting. High school seniors come in excited about freshman screw, which is one of the reasons it is so successful and if you can get current sophomores and juniors excited about their events, that's what will make their events more successful.
- Ethan: I propose we take \$3,000 from Spring Fling and Events, and distribute it such that the class councils have equal budgets.
- Meg: I want to see concrete plans before we throw money down.
- Kate: I feel like there are so many events going on and if you give \$1,000 more to each council, that is enough for another entire event. It might better to give them less so they can improve existing events, rather than add one.
- Joshua: I object to the fact that we're going off of just the opinions in the room. We all love throwing events. We need a report before we throw money at events without knowing what is happening and how the rest of the school appreciates them.
- Joe: Our pulse on that is you guys. You are elected to represent the student body. That's your job. If you do have the ability to go to your residential college councils meetings and ask their opinions, that's what you're supposed to bring to the table. You'd be shocked the number of surveys that we want to produce. We do a lot of them and this is certainly something we can put on the agenda in the spring and plan for the next administration, but for now we need to make a decision.
- Daniel H: I was thinking we could take \$1,500 out of Spring Fling and Events and then give \$500 to each council, so their budgets are equal.
- Luis: FCC got kind of tight at the end of the year last year with Commons, but then ended up having extra, so I think \$1,000 more than last year is more than enough.
- Mollie: I propose we take \$1,500 from Spring Fling and Events and give \$750 to SoCo and \$750 to JCC.
- Daniel T: There are many reasons that all three councils should be equal and if this is not brought up in this council, it will keep being brought up in future councils. I was on FCC, I was on SoCo, and I was on Events Committee, so I have seen these funds be distributed. I know all the numbers. I'm just advocating for equality.
- Maya: Last year, FCC was good on money.
- Diksha: I was on FCC last year. While there was a whole lot of number crunching, we had about \$1,000 leftover at the end which we basically just blew on a study break but it

wasn't entirely necessary. FCC doesn't have the manpower and time to plan more events than they already do. I honestly don't think the extra money for FCC will go a long way.

- Shah: I don't know how all this works but if we did still have extra money at the end of the first semester, could we give that money to them?
- Joe: That is probably not going to end up happening.
- Phan: It's also important to remember that we are having the game at home this year. There are way more groups that make shirts when the game is at home, so that will be a challenge for FCC.
- Sydney: At the end of the day, FCC has several ways in which they can make money. SoCo and JCC don't have several ways. It is usually hit or miss. YCC is not allowed to make money. I understand it may be harder for FCC to sell shirts this year but SoCO and JCC don't have those options.
- Joel: Having been on FCC and SoCo as well, I think that having that cushion for all three groups is really important. Typically, it is true that freshmen have a monopoly on those shirts, but our year JCC actually sold more than us. If someone else on campus takes that on and does awesome shirts or something else, students are going to be drawn to that.
- Daniel T: From a numbers standpoint, JCC did make a lot of money the year before us. They sold shirts, they sold towels, and they made a lot of money on that. There are definitely ways for JCC and SoCo to profit.
- Ewurama: When Sarah and I came here, we came to talk for all three class councils. I came for more money period. I didn't come for more money than FCC. And if I'm being perfectly honest with you, \$500 or \$1,000 will already make a huge difference. I'm absolutely taking all the advice about marketing. That's the stuff we're going to use. But now it is about being able to get stuff on the front end. I'm not here looking for money thinking that that is going to give me more events. It could be for making the events that already exist go from 80 percent to 90 percent. At this point, the argument you are having is over \$250. That amount of money is not going to make the difference. So in this situation, I'd rather FCC get more money so if they need Commons, they have that option. \$500 for FCC is an event in Dwight Hall that they would've had to do somewhere else that's smaller. I think that all three class councils want the chance to be as great as they want to be and can be. I'd say give all three councils equal money and everyone walks out with more money than they came in with.

VOTE TO DETRACT \$1,500 FROM THE BUDGET OF SPRING FLING AND EVENTS COMMITTEE AND DISTRIBUTE IT TO THE CLASS COUNCILS SUCH THAT FCC, SOCO, AND JCC ARE EACH ALLOCATED \$3,500: PASSED