

Yale College Council
Council of Representatives Meeting
Saturday, September 12, 2015
Meeting One



Agenda Items

1. Introductions
2. The Schwarzman Center
3. September Events
4. Events Committee Update
5. YCC Policies
6. Reminders

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	Alex Cruz	X
MC	Kevin Sullivan	X		
MC	Carter Henschien	E		
PC	Lauren Sapienza	X		
PC	Sofia Braunstein	X		
SY	Christopher Bowman	X		
SY	Avery Thompson	X		
SM	Samuel Kim	X		
SM	Peter Huang	X		
TD	Korinayo Thompson	X		
TD	Joshua McGilvray	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).

The Schwarzman Center

Presentation by Susan Cahan and Erin Johnson:

- Steven Schwarzman is giving \$150 million to create a campus center by renovating University Commons and Memorial Hall (money will go towards programming in addition to renovating)
- The Advisory Committee is doing an “ambitious listening tour” and is here today to hear from us
- The Schwarzmen Center includes:
 - 1) The main floor and basement of Commons
 - 2) The basement and upper two floors of Memorial Hall
- Floor plans:
 - 87,000 square feet of space
 - Lower level has been a maze of dark rooms, can be opened to create large spaces (some will still be needed for mechanical systems)
 - Commons will remain dining facility serving lunch and hosting major events
 - Colonnade outside of Commons might become an outdoor café
 - President’s Room will continue to be used for University functions, but there is a lot more available space on upper two floors of Memorial Hall
- Planning imperatives:
 - All parts of the Center, and all floors, must be accessible.
 - The proposed uses for the Center must not detract from the sense of community within the colleges or in each of the professional schools.
 - Current lunch service (Monday–Friday) for students in Commons will be retained.
 - The basic floor plate of Commons will be retained in order to hold major University events there.
 - Presidents’ Room needs to be periodically available for University functions.
 - Memorial Hall, honoring Yale graduates, will be preserved and enhanced.
- Some tentative ideas:
 - Turn Commons into a performing arts space for dances, hack-a-thons, cultural activities, etc.
 - Use technology to enable audiences to connect with politicians, scholars, entertainers, and thought leaders for educational panels and discussions
 - Small rooms could be used by student organizations
 - Mid-size rooms could be used for improv to chamber concerts to yoga and salsa lessons to virtual career counseling workshops with prominent alumni

- Third floor hallway could be art gallery with rotating artwork
- Basement of commons could be a place for students to meet, socialize, eat, and/or make things
- Exterior could be an outdoor café opening up onto Beinecke Plaza
- Imagine a three-day Burma festival in the center with Burmese cuisine, screening of a film, lectures, photographs, etc. so it becomes a themed week in Schwarzman
- Imagine we took visitors who gave Master's Teas to the Schwarzman Center for a live performance/panel (second showings)
- Build on Iron Chef event for more University-wide "foodie" events
- Small, dedicated staff
- The goals: a place buzzing with activity everyday
 - Where students can drop in and always know something interesting is going on
 - With rooms for student meetings to draw groups to Schwarzman Commons who will then hang out afterwards
 - Where students can have meetings, parties, conversations ... and fun ... and encounter people from beyond their college or school
 - Where, to a degree unprecedented at any U.S. university, Schwarzman is a place where undergraduate and professional students mix and make friends across school boundaries
- There will be tours of the facilities on Tuesday, Sept. 16 & Wednesday, Sept. 17

Discussion

- Q: What words come to mind when envisioning a successful Student Center for Yale?
 - Korinayo: 24/7
 - General consensus: FOOD, ideally 24/7
 - Larry: Open
 - Peter: Easy, affordable, reservable
 - Amour: Creative, open, flowy, colorful, relaxing
 - Josh: Information, communication
- Q: What would you like to see included in the Center?
 - Daniel: Café with late night dining (food served from 7 pm – 3 am), that is what would make me leave my college to go there
 - Josh: Within colleges, butteries are a great way to connect, would be great to have something like that
 - Amour: Healthy food
 - Mollie: A Starbucks where you can use meal swipes
 - Sofia: It'd be great to have a bar, serve alcohol
 - Korinayo: Let Y Pop-Up use the space every once and a while
 - Jane: Mini grocery store
 - Avery: Food-court style dining
 - Phan: Bring in outside vendors with a bunch of different ethnic food styles
 - Jane: A lot of freshmen walk into the dining hall and it is the epitome of Yale, would rather not lose that feeling with micro-restaurants; continuity with Yale's traditions is important; preserve the architecture of Commons
 - Kevin: Wants to reiterate the preservation of Commons, the idea of having a huge Starbucks and Subway logo is a turn-off, basement is more suitable for outside

food vendors

Peter: Hard to reserve spaces on campuses, would be great if there are easy to reserve and free spaces in Commons to reserve

- Daniel: It would be great if you could use your third daily swipe in Schwarzman if you skip breakfast, could partner with Blue State Coffee
- Susan: Could also partner with businesses started by Yale students
- Mollie: Spaces similar to small one-person study rooms in Bass
- Larry: If the point of the center is that lots of groups can use it, how will it be more easily reservable?
- Katherine: More rehearsal spaces for performing arts groups
- Diksha: Broadway Rehearsal Lot is currently the most fought for space so we need something like that, also need larger performance spaces so groups don't need to turn away guests, could have a New Haven restaurant featured each week
- Josh: As many New Haven things as possible
- Maddie: Wellness space with healthy options, yoga studio, virtual fitness classes
- Amour: A sound-proof silent room where you lock up phone and computer and no one speaks, tech-free meditation type room; open art studio to paint and play with clay
- Josh: Central space with a lot of technology and screens where people can advertise events
- Korinayo: Annex for particular offices like the LGBTQ resource center or Af Am House
- Avery: Virtual interactive bulletin board to advertise events, sort by category
- Daniel: Might want to talk to the people who launched UBlend app
- Maddie: A corner of a room with news headlines, virtual ticker
- Sammy: Group work spaces like the ones in the CEID, wall-to-floor white boards
- Lauren: Movie theater
- Phan: Really comfy room with TV and couches
- Mollie: Show new movies in the Schwarzman Center
- Kevin: For the two balconies, would be nice to have seated space or meeting rooms
- Joe: Huge stash of board games
- Shannon: Central tutoring center
- Josh: A lot of windows, especially on the upper deck
- Meg: Mini-spa for mani pedis, sauna
- Sammy: Storefronts for student business
- Amour: Cooking spaces
- Jane: Market-like food court for local restaurants, student pop ups, etc.
- Peter: Video map in the main entrance, what is happening in each space at any given time
- Maddie: Cultural-center hosted events (e.g. Slifka's Bagel Brunch at Commons)
- Kevin: Multifaith, cross-cultural interactive space
- Katherine: A way for students to be able to ask where to go to for different resources
- Mollie: Aquatic center
- Sydney: Petting zoo

- Korinayo: Large area for napping
- Diksha: Rock-climbing wall
- Megan: Make all the services offered free or reduced-price
- Maddie: Look at what traditions happen already (like YSO Halloween Show), use Commons to livestream
- Q: What should be avoided in the Center?
 - Larry: Extreme temperatures
 - Korinayo: Over-commercialized
 - Lauren: Restricted hours of operation
 - Rodrigo: Souped up version of residential colleges
 - Ethan: Overly academic
 - Diksha: Compartmentalized
 - Sarah: Too many spaces for reservation
 - Shannon: High price for renting Commons
 - Josh: Tight staircases
 - Maddie: Heavy doors
 - Josh: Too much technology
 - Kevin: Architectural incompatibilities

September Events

- Thursday 9/17 at 8 pm: SAF Allocation Town Hall
- Saturday 9/19 (time TBD): Council Retreat
- Saturday 9/19 at 10:30 pm: YCC Party
- Sunday 9/27 at 4 pm: WhYCC Meeting

Events Committee Update

- Football Season Opener Tailgate (9/26)
- Night at the Planetarium (9/26)
- Hoedown (10/10)
- Reality Check: Meditation/Stress Management (TBD)
- Last Comic Standing (week of 10/27)
- Fall Show (11/12)
- H/Y Party (11/20)
- Reality Check: Car Maintenance (TBD)
- H/Y Tailgate (11/21)
- Women's Basketball Tailgate (12/3)
- Study Breaks x2 (12/14 & 12/16)