



Agenda Items

1. Freshman Advising Presentation (Luis)
2. Elm Street Crosswalk Presentation (Lauren)
3. Petition for Associate Membership
4. YCC Reception on Thursday
5. Reminders & Announcements

Attendance

BK	Diksha Brahmhatt	E	Joseph English	E
BK	Ethan Young	E	Madeline Bauer	X
BR	Mollie Johnson	E	Amour Alexandre	X
BR	Shannon Flores	U	Daniel Tovbin	X
CC	Michael Yuan	E	Sammy Bensinger	X
CC	Luis Patiño	X	Josh Hochman	X
DC	Joseph Cornett	X	Megan Ruan	E
DC	Daniel Hamidi	X	Joel Bervell	E
ES	Sydney Wade	E	Maya Sweedler	X
ES	Joseph Tomchak	X	Phan Nguyen	X
JE	Benjamin Held	X		
JE	Larry Fulton	X		
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		
TD	Nick Zevallos	X		
TC	Shah Khan	E		
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).

Freshman Advising

Presentation by Luis Patiño, CC '18:

- Introduction
 - Freshmen fill out the Housing and Advising Form over Summer, detailing their academic interests
 - Meanwhile, Yale affiliates living in New Haven apply and interview to become Master's Fellows
 - A portion of the selected Fellows volunteer to be Freshman Advisors
 - Residential College Deans use the Housing and Advising Form to match Freshmen to Freshman Advisors
- Problems
 - Freshmen often don't turn to their advisors for advice (only 8% responded "often" in the Report on the Freshman Experience)
 - Those that do are often dissatisfied with the advice they receive
 - Varying degrees of experience amongst advisors and varying levels of use of Yale's resources creates varying degrees of advising quality
 - Unclear expectations for advising on both sides
 - No standardized system of matching freshmen to potential advisors
- Solutions
 - Make Advisor Training Mandatory
 - The Yale Administration gives training sessions in each residential college before the start of each academic year, but the sessions are poorly attended
 - Waste of time and resources when no one attends
 - Plurality of sessions means advisors should be able to attend one with no problems
 - Can add in a small incentive for attendance as well
 - Make better matches between Freshmen and Advisors
 - Revise Housing and Advising Form
 - Include personality-based questions, such as favorite hobbies, pastimes, books, Netflix shows, etc.
 - Include sureness of major questions to match breadth of knowledge of the advisor
 - Include question to indicate desire for an advisor within the same field
 - Standardize Matching Process

- Deans should first and foremost match academic interests
- Then, within a certain field of study, match students who are more sure of their major to advisors with less knowledge of other fields
- Finally, match those with similar personality characteristics
- Clarify expectations on both sides
 - Students overwhelmingly want their advisors to be primarily academic, but are receiving wide varieties of advice.
 - Having clearer expectations for the advisor-advisee relationship could greatly increase satisfaction rates and increase the quality of the relationship.
 - As it stands, Advisors are supposed to be primarily for personal, “How-to-Yale” advice
 - The advisor’s role should be first and foremost to provide academic advice, and be knowledgeable about Yale’s other advising and career resources in order to guide advisees to what they need
 - Life advice should come second to academic advice
 - Personality-based matches are still important for cohesive relationships
 - This should be clarified on the Form and in Training
- Revise the Housing and Advising Form
- Formalize the Freshman Advisors’ Club
 - The Freshman Advisors’ Club was an informal network of advisors who worked with Dean Jane Edwards at CIPE, who would share tips about advising amongst themselves
 - This was a great way for newer advisors to learn the ropes from more experienced advisors
 - Was limited to those in Dean Edwards’ sphere of influence
 - A formal FAC could provide a place for an easy exchange of ideas amongst advisors
 - Could be as simple as an online Piazza forum advisors could log into

Discussion:

- Daniel: They should consider looking at socio-economic background in matching with advisers
- Carter: What happens to advisers who don’t want to be advisers?
- Luis: That never happens. Advising is voluntary.
- Lauren: Can we have multiple advisers?
- Luis: There are probably not enough advisers to manage that.
- Joshua: Why can’t an adviser have a different subject area than the advisee?
- Luis: The main problem is that students *want* someone in their area.
- Adam: Advisers should have an understanding of undergraduate student life at Yale.
- Luis: Hopefully the training session should help solve that problem.
- Joshua: Maybe they aren’t supposed to be academic advisers? Maybe they shouldn’t be that. We should randomize adviser placement.
- Luis: Students want an *academic* adviser, according to our survey, by a significant margin.
- Devyn: Very valuable to have someone tailored to your interests.

- Josh: I think hopefully if the housing form is revised, we'll be able to see who wants an adviser matched to their academic interest vs. who who wants more personal advice. One in every three advisors is a staff member, so its a decent chunk. Luis also has a fantastic report and in it he talks a lot about what the expectations should be, and hopefully that report will inform what the program will be. The report will be sent out to Council so if you have feedback for shaping that curriculum, that'd be great.
- Joshua: Let's not cater to students' laziness. Students can go to a faculty member if they want advice about that particular department.
- Kate: I sometimes felt bad reaching out to my adviser because he was chief of staff of neurosurgery at Yale-New Haven. We should have a list of tasks that advisers are supposed to perform, so we don't feel bad about asking them for something.

Elm St. Cross Walk

Presentation by Lauren Sapienza, PC '18:

- 97% of students jaywalk across Elm between High and College.
- 64% of students don't feel unsafe jaywalking.
- Similar rates of feeling unsafe for people who rarely cross or often cross.
- Discussion:
 - Benefits versus inconveniences
 - Alternate methods of traffic regulation
 - Jurisdiction
 - Use in reality
- Options:
 - A. Do not proceed with this project.
 - B. Proceed with comprehensive evaluation of traffic safety on campus.
 - C. Proceed with intention to install crosswalk on Elm Street between College Street and High Street.
 - D. Skybridge?

Discussion

- Kate: Cars that make a right from High Street can whip around really fast - that can be dangerous.
- Cole: There are two crosswalks really close by. It's a one-way street. Maybe a speed bump.
- Adam: Speed limit can be reduced.
- Amour: Maybe a footbridge over Elm Street! Not totally implausible.
- Kevin: I feel most unsafe with bikers.
- Lauren: New bike lanes were added to Elm Street by New Haven. This is the city's jurisdiction.
- Amour: We would talk to Holloway, get his approval, and then go to City Hall with his and our support.
- Carter: I don't think these ideas are workable or worthwhile.
- Joshua: This would slow down the busiest road in New Haven so students don't have to walk an extra 40 seconds to go to a crosswalk.
- Sammy: The rate of feeling unsafe is not the same as the actual safety of jaywalking. It may still be objectively unsafe.
- Lauren: An 81-yr-old woman was struck by a car and killed near SSS last year.

- Larry: If there is a crosswalk, people will have a false air of safety. Cars may not stop, and students may not even look.
- Maddie: This can still be brought to the Yale Committee on Traffic Safety and Transportation and we can ask whether they think it's worth pursuing.
- Joseph Cornett: On College & Wall, students sometimes cross without any regard for cars nearby, and traffic piles up. This may happen on Elm too if we add a crosswalk.
- Kevin: Add a speed bump. People drive quite fast. Address reckless driving.
- Lauren: There is a crosswalk, like the one on College & Wall, near TD.