Yale College Council  

Council of Representatives Meeting  
Saturday, January 25, 2014; 4:00 PM  
Spring Meeting Two

Action Items

1. All representatives and associates should stay tuned for new project assignments, which will occur over Trello (see end of notes for further details).  
   i. All, TBA

Attendance

Excused
1. Andi Peng

Unexcused
1. Mason Ji  
2. Jaime Halberstam  
3. Michael Marcel  
4. Khalid Attalla

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).

- **Meeting Start**: 4:04 PM  
- **Recap of Performance Psychology Panel** – Danny Avraham  
- **Campus Wheelchair Accessibility** – Kristoffer Acuña  
  - Tried to identify some of the most pressing problems to address in terms of wheelchair accessibility  
  - Talked with Judy York, Director of Resource Office On Disabilities  
  - Also spoke with student who had difficulties last year with access  
- **Recent Progress**  
  - Yale does an excellent job of keeping facilities up to date  
  - Doors on Science Hill automated  
  - New chemistry building to be completely outfitted  
  - Sidewalk lining Grove Street Cemetery Replaced  
  - New Residential Colleges-access to every suite  
  - Cultural Centers
Current colleges are adding more automated doors

Problems
- Holes in stone walkways are filled with crushed stone, deepen over time
- Bikes parked in front of ramps and on ramps
- Crosswalks lacking signs
- Corridors and hallways fill with trashcans
- SNOW REMOVAL
  - Special Services Van only runs 6PM-6AM on weekends, unable to ride Blue Line Shuttle because driver didn't know how to operate lift
  - Special Service Van wait times can be unreliable
  - Elevators, lifts, and automatic doors break

Recommendations
- Work towards labeling hazardous crosswalks, similar to the “Look up” campaign
- Raise awareness about the issues of blocking ramps with bikes and corridors
- Bus drivers of the bigger shuttles know how to operate the lift

Discussion
- Leah – do you want a PSA campaign for this?
  - Yes, that would be best.
- Allison – poster campaign to not put bikes on ramps.
- Grant F – how are we handling the snow?
  - Looking into it, but haven’t heard back yet.
  - Ramps were cleared faster this past time.
- Saif – awesome project, how many rooms or entryways are available by college?
  - Do not have numbers of rooms by college.
- Bechir – why not expand the special services van?
  - Very expensive, but if shuttles can operate the lifts then it should help ameliorate the problems.
  - Bechir – on weekend, the Special Services Van merges with pick-up service.
- J.R. – how will you ensure bus drivers know how to operate the lift?
  - Still need to look into feasibility of how to do this.

Vote – approved by unanimous consent

Open Data Policy – Andrew Grass

What happened?
- Danny – YCC was going to endorse YBB+ on Sunday before shutdown, but then Harry and Peter told us that they were going to shut it down. Administration just discovered site and asked to make lots of changes. Were in negotiations about making changes,
but decided to just block it. Danny met with YCDO and found out there was lots of miscommunication. Registrar decided to shut down the site, but the YCDO never saw the website. Did not know it existed. Number 1 flaw was that there was no communication between YCDO and YCC – they should have asked us beforehand. Clearly YCDO suffered from the PR side. After Danny met with them, they agreed to reach out with Harry and Peter. Now working to bring the site back online.

- Andrew and David Lawrence met with the developers to create a set of recommendations.
- Kris – did the registrar have any idea of the site?
  - Danny – only found out that week from my impression. The site did have some problems, but the shutdown was entirely inappropriate. Administration has a broader problem of how course evaluations are presented to students. Faculty agreed on a very specific manner on how evaluations would be presented to students.

  **Current Situation**
  - Information Technology Appropriate Use Policy (ITAUP) is potentially damaging to student innovation.
  - ITAUP 1607.1 C.5.e reads "Use damaging the integrity of University IT Systems or non-Yale systems. This category includes, but is not limited to, the following... e) Unauthorized modification or removal of data or equipment.
  - Administration’s rationale for shutting down CourseTable and CourseRoulette.
  - This framework might not be how everybody perceives the issue, but we need to work within the constraints of the administration.
  - This has the potential for several parts of Yale to suffer, including STEM, where this type of data policy might stifle advancement and innovation.

  **Open Data Policy Recommendations**
  - Students should be able to repackagge and use any Yale data available to them as long as the following conditions are met:
    - The developer does not infringe on Yale’s trademarks.
    - The developer does not cause damage to or unreasonably burden Yale’s network or servers.
    - The data is not available to people who do not originally have access to it.
      - For example if data is only available to Yale undergraduates initially, it must only be available to Yale undergraduates.
    - The data displayed by an application must have integrity. For example, one should not be permitted to post a site
with deliberately altered course reviews or descriptions, while presenting the data as unaltered.

- No non-malware site is blocked with IP blocking and packet inspection such as how CourseTable was blocked.
  - If the administration uses tools in ways that they're not designed for, it sets a dangerous precedent that could lead eventually to censorship.
- A clear procedure should be created to address violations of the published data use policy. Such a procedure should treat developers with respect, while at the same time recognize the need for rapid compliance.

- Data Categories
  - Unrestricted Data
    - Data sets that are publically available such as course descriptions.
  - Restricted Data
    - Data sets that are limited by CAS authentication to Yale undergraduates.
    - Have to log in with Net ID.
  - Prohibited Data
    - Data sets that contain personally identifiable information such as grades or other FERPA violations.
- Yale should create APIs that enable access to Unrestricted Data and to Restricted data. Where an API does not exist, scraping should be permitted to enable the authorized use of data sets.
  - Ben: APIs essentially make it easier to use information stored in databases.
- Yale dining information, Course selections and evaluations, UCS calendar and employment data, room reservation interfaces, and Bass media data for reserving items.

- Transparency Recommendations
  - Create an administrative liaison as a resource for student developers. Either in the Dean’s office or ITS who knows what the rules are and who can talk with developers to provide answers and further contacts for specific issues.
  - Create a website that can serve as a resource for student developers. A successful example of this concept is Berkeley’s API central [https://developer.berkeley.edu](https://developer.berkeley.edu).
  - Communicate this information to the student body. Potential methods of communication should include an email from the YCDO and YCC, notices in the Computer Science department newsletter, and distribution to the Student Technology Collaborative.

- Discussion
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- Allison: is there a problem getting this approved across different sections (dining, registrar, etc. because the data is different)?
  - Andrew: acceptable use policy starts with ITS, but we’d need to work with different groups to learn about the different types of data (and restriction levels).
- Maddie: how will these recommendations be implemented?
  - Andrew: first, publish the recommendations to take advantage of momentum created by YBB+, but then in meetings with ITS and the Dean’s office, etc.
- Leigh: what do you (Andrew) think about the faculty’s role in YBB+ and how that might complicate future efforts by the YCC?
  - Andrew: if you give people data you should let them use the data—it’s the nature of the digital world now. Certainly it could get complicated.
  - Leigh: will there need to be renegotiation with the faculty?
  - Danny: Yes, this issue will likely need to be addressed, probably at one of the administration’s meetings with the faculty.
- Bechir: Do we know whether our faculty agreements are similar to agreements at other schools? Are we an anomaly?
  - Andrew: I don’t know what the faculty agreements are at other schools.
  - Leigh: many schools use services like “Rate My Professor”
- Allison: I’d talk to Master Hudak of Saybrook
- Saif: Facebook info can be used with a service like YBB+. How would we integrate the use of this information with any of our future recommendations?
  - Andrew: that’s a good question; we haven’t really considered it to this point.
- Matt: Perhaps there should be clearer guidelines for student developer sites about the use of Facebook information.
- Leah: Commended the project and motioned for a vote.

- Vote to adopt all recommendations (19-0-0)

Open Data Policy

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- **UOC Grant Reviews** – Ben Ackerman
  - **Jazz Organization**
    - 25 members. All their requests are in the guidelines, but can we spend $600 on an event that may not be well attended.
    - Leah – can we talk to them about advertising?
      - Ben – advertising not indicative of attendance.
    - Saif – how many emails on their panlist?
      - Ben – 215 people.
    - Yonghyun – Are they a start-up? If so, did they have the event already?
      - Ben – Yes, but unclear if they have had the event already.
      - Yonghyun - In the future, there should be data on attendance.
      - David – would this be an opt-in service?
        - Ben – Yes, but it would be self-reported which would be a problem.
    - Grant F – second year they’ve done it, brought in professional ensembles as well.
    - Vicky – do you know if they had applied for funding in the past?
      - Ben – No.
    - Allison – what is the metric for awarding partial funding?
    - Ben – I would recommend $450 as a compromise.
Kevin – I don’t think this is a clear process. We shouldn’t be voting on this since we don’t know enough.

- History Journal
  - Publications have option to fall under events category
  - Problem with applications for publications is that it requires quite a bit of capital.
  - Lots of publications go unread
  - Gut reaction is to not fund this, but would set a precedent.
  - All or nothing vote – can’t do partial funding.
  - Danny – this is an important philosophical vote.

- Maia – did they print before?
  - Ben – yes, printed with $1500 grant.
  - Allison – purposefully solicit input from history students and get published
  - Kyle – excellent advisory board
  - Danny – could still get their publication sent out another way

- David – how many publications did the UOC fund last semester?
  - Ben – roughly 10-15 publications totaling $10,000 – 15,000

- Joe – should have a breakdown of how UOC process works in the future

- Kevin – we should not be cutting out organizations this year
  - Danny – Some organization will have to get cut since we can only fund $3 out of each $10 requested.
  - Kevin – we shouldn’t be cutting off publications in the middle of the semester.
  - Saif – could have quota
    - Ben – against quotas because would result in rush for applications

- Maddie – next year should consider setting a publication budget with a separate grant cycle

- Bechir – is there any metric in which you could fund according to readership?
  - Danny/Ben – hard for them to know.

Vote to approve funding for S2014_01_EVT_06 (14-0-5)

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- Unanimous consent for all remaining UOC grants

- **Constitution Signing** – Entire Council
  - Danny – any last comments?
  - Kevin – formatting problems?
    - Kyle – we can reformat it.
  - Sara – uncomfortable with how we conducted the joint-ticket process since it was an online vote over break.
    - Grant B – agree with having a joint-ticket vote.
  - Layla – should clarify role of class council presidents.
    - Danny – you are right, we didn’t debate that properly here. Don’t think we should postpone constitution, but worth keeping on agenda.
  - Danny – okay we will conduct another vote then.
  - Vote to not have a joint-ticket

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Vote to approve the entire constitution

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• **Meeting Ends:** 5:15 pm.