**Yale College Council**

**Council of Representatives Meeting**

**Sunday, December 4, 2016**

**1PM | Phelps 207**

**Mini Agenda**

1. **Call to Action/Attendance**
2. **Unfinished Business**
   1. YCC Collaboratory - *Jordan Cozby and Trey Kinison*
3. **New Business**
   1. New Ideas Fund Applications - *New Ideas Fund Committee*
   2. Resources for Reporting Sexual Misconduct - *Heidi Dong and Adam Michalowski*
   3. Satisfaction in STEM - *Cole Addonizio and Brett Gu*
   4. YCC-Wide Fall Reception - *Steven Tian*
   5. End of Semester Holiday Party - Secret Santa
   6. End of Semester Representative Outreach

**Minutes**

New Ideas Fund

* Have created, publicized and received around 30 applications for the Fund
* Will have an online poll to narrow down the top 4 applications

*Review and Discussion of Ideas (do not include in minutes on the website)*

* Carlos: for the College Tea’s website, OrgSync can be used to help consolidate college tea ideas
* Adam: College Tea’s website may not be the right use of the fund
* Carlos: who proposed the ideas
  + Julia: students sent in written proposals
* Sydney: what are the categories?
  + Julia: Category 5 is the most likely and the best planned out
  + Liana: Category 4 is a good idea but less planned out than Category 5
* Julia: Cross cultural performance includes more than just slam poetry
* Liana: Provide funding for different students to partner together
* Larry: Up4 is a tech startup but targeted toward promoting social get-togethers
* Julia: Wishing Wall - create a permanent display on campus
* Kate: Be sure to keep in mind that this fund can be used to empower groups who may not feel that they can come to YCC and that it should be used for events/groups that don’t have other means of obtaining
* Will send out a poll to Council to vote on the top 10 ideas (to narrow down to four); will include descriptions and a comment section for feedback
  + Will have second and third round interviews post-vote

STEM Student Satisfaction

*Introduction and Background*

* Goal: To investigate why is the STEM experience perceived as not as good as those of humanities students
* They also reviewed STEM programs at other higher education institutions; found that overall underrepresented students are not pushed to enter these academic fields

*Survey Data*

* Survey Question: I am genuinely captivated by the material taught in classes required for my major
  + Responses validated that STEM students are less engaged in their classes compared to other students
* Survey Question: I felt fully prepared for the STEM classes I placed into freshman year.
  + Students of color, women, and first generation students expressed that they felt less prepared for these courses
* Survey: Would you benefit from a freshmen STEM mentoring program
  + Underrepresented groups in STEM (students of color, women, low-income and first-generation students) found more benefit from freshmen STEM mentoring programs than their peers
* Survey: Flipped classrooms were unfavorable across the board; support for this teaching style was below 2.5%
* Other Considerations
  + STEM DUSes are aware of variance in grading policies and TF quality and complaints related to lab courses, lack of support groups in mathematics
  + Kate: STEM students do amount of work in lab similar to that done in a full credit class, STEM students are split (0.5 designation allows them to take more classes but some want a full credit for the work), most professor feel that labs should only be 0.5 credits
  + There is a lack of funding available for high-cost STEM organizations (administration fund is capped at 400 dollars from UOC)

*Recommendations*

* Institute STEM freshman-senior mentorship program (stabilize and make sustainable)
* Encourage the publishing of clear worksheets to outline major requirements; not uniform across majors
* Organize Camp Yale student-led Q&A session about STEM placement exam results
* Improve the engineering advising program
* Change UOC grant policies to help better financially support high-cost STEM organizations

*Thoughts for Future Analysis*

* Consider how to make STEM more interdisciplinary

*Questions and Discussion*

* Heidi: How did we get the qualitative data?
  + Cole: Personal experience and reading through YDN articles
  + Heidi: Target people who are interested in STEM but do not know what branch of STEM, speak with people from all different divisions of STEM
  + Cole: Will reach out to Joel Bervell about STEM at Yale
* Kate: Are so called STEM organizations students who research under a professor?
  + Cole: Not necessarily, because some student groups do not have funding through a professor but still engage in high cost activities
  + Jason: Every student group fights for funding, so have to be careful not to excessively favor STEM. Also consider using juniors for in the mentoring program instead of seniors because seniors are about to leave campus and we want to keep a running relationship with the students
  + Jason: Be sure to consider the definition/identification of a STEM student as you are writing your report. Though someone takes STEM classes, they may not identify as a STEM student
* Nick: UOC is looking at new policy updates and is happy to engage in conversation with different student groups on how to better fund student groups; with new students coming in for the two new residential colleges the funding will be strained
* Sydney: What about the academic departments, e.g. engineering groups getting funding from the engineering department?
  + Cole: Student groups are most likely already applying to other funds and need UOC with extra support; maybe implement a UOC application process in which students have to show fair faith effort in applying to other sources of grants

Resources for Reporting Sexual Misconduct

*Introduction and Background*

* Goal: initially, thought that they would focus on improving and expanding reporting resources, but found that many of these options are already being worked on; changed to focus on accessibility, understanding, and utilization of the current resources
* Review of three recommendations:
  + Publicize resources
  + Improve student relationships with relevant faculty
* Peer institutions:
  + All Ivies have a 24/7 hotline reporting system; four have online reporting options as well
  + Columbia has an online reporting system for all instances of harassment and assault
  + Overall move to vendor-based and third-party online reporting systems e.g. Callisto at Pomona
* Current Resources:
  + SHARE is currently the main point of contact for formal or informal complaints
  + High level of confusion regarding the reporting process (lack of understanding of the distinction between the formal and informal reporting processes) - (YCC and Women’s Center Report 2015)

*Data*

* Strong support for online reporting system overall
* High level of confusion regarding the reporting processes
* SHARE most widely known and liked system for reporting; would like to continue to push SHARE as the main point-of-entry for reporting sexual misconduct and violence
* Overall, cis women and men were equally likely to agree that they felt more comfortable reporting sexual misconduct via an online reporting system (78% and 80%)
  + Online reporting system had the highest level of support amongst cis women and men compared to the current systems (over phone and in-person)
* More than two-thirds of students-of-color, LGBTQ, and first-generation students were in favor of a discrimination and harassment based system

*Recommendations*

* Publicize and clarify reporting resources
* Push for SHARE to be the point-of-entry for reporting sexual misconduct and violence
* Create promotional videos and address how dealing with reporting sexual misconduct can be more difficult for POC and LGBTQ students

*Action Items*

* Larry: I am most in favor of pushing for SHARE as the point-of-entry into the reporting system; we should continue to push this. The publication could come from YCC internally and could be a YCC project next semester
  + Adam: Ideally our report would be a blueprint for work going forward
  + Update materials - disseminated by the residential colleges
* Nick: As a member of UWC, I know that we want to clear up confusion on how to report sexual misconduct, so we would like to be involved in helping this initiative. Also the CCEs created a video series a few years back on how to report instances
* Carlos: Camp Yale would be a great time to introduce to freshmen how to report sexual misconduct
* Yonatan: Beyond Camp Yale, we will need to advertise to sophomores-seniors
  + Adam: Dean Boyd had the idea of integrating SHARE Staff, CCEs, and others with residential colleges, e.g. asking SHARE Staff to meet with Branford College Council
* Jason: We could include infographics of reporting resources within each room on the back of each doorway
  + Heidi: Dean Boyd says some students would feel uncomfortable with a resource sheet on just sexual misconduct itself especially if they’ve experienced sexual violence, but we would like to find a way to incorporate the publication of resources

YCC Collaboratory

* Trey: Diksha, Jordan, and Trey have been working on Yale New Haven relations; were joined by members of the New Haven community for the YCC Collaboratory event to explore how New Haven residents and Yale students can have a stronger relationship
  + Yale-NH misconceptions, sharing Yale-NH space
* Trey: There is a lot that we can do to create closer connection with New Haven, a connection that is weak despite the long history of Yale in New Haven; a whole list of ideas
* Jordan: Some items that we can tackle next: promote resources such as bike share and buses, 10 community impact teams (neighborhood associations) can be paired with the Residential Colleges and see ways that can get involvement in different parts of the city, better publishing different New Haven events
* Diksha: Something powerful that we figured out during the Collaboratory, breaking down misconception cannot be just through programming or through Yale administrative actions; ask ourselves how many of our friends are New Haven residents who are not somehow affiliated with campus; a lot of our focus should be on creating a long-term connection and not just go out into New Haven with Yale friends
* Daniel: Were immigrant and refugee communities a part of the Collaboratory?
  + Jordan: A lot of younger folk who lived near East Rock and older folk from nearby neighborhoods
  + Diksha: This is just a springboard, some groups at the Collaboratory face challenges reaching out different communities
  + Daniel: Can help reach out to IRIS for upcoming events/discussions
* What are the next steps going forward? Continue to speak with Diksha, Trey, and Jordan about ideas going forward

YCC-Wide Fall Reception

* Will be on Thursday, December 8 from 9-11PM at Pacifico Bar and Restaurant

Angel Tree Sponsorship

* FCC, SoCo and JCC are funding the Angel Tree program; *can YCC send an email to advertise the Angel Tree Program*
* You take a tag for a specific kid and then you got out a shop for them; all gifts should be brought to the Saybrook Common Room and are donated to the Salvation Army

End of Semester Representative Outreach

* We will be funding you to host a study break for your residential colleges during reading period/finals period

Faculty Diversity Town Hall

* THIS WEDNESDAY FROM 7-8PM in LC 211
* Cover photo to be released later!