

FAS-SEAS SENATE

**AN ELECTED BODY OF THE FACULTY OF ARTS AND
SCIENCES AND SEAS**

YALE UNIVERSITY

An Open Letter to GSAS Dean/VP for Postdoctoral Affairs Cooley Concerning Faculty Consultation In Postdoctoral Union Contract Negotiations

APPROVED by the FAS-SEAS Senate
May 12, 2026

Dear Dean Cooley,

The FAS-SEAS Senate writes to ask that a faculty advisory committee be constituted and consulted periodically during negotiations with Local 33 over the terms of a contract with Postdoctoral researchers at Yale.

To be clear, we are not asking for faculty representation at the negotiating table. Rather, we envision that the negotiators would consult this committee to better understand the impact of proposed contract provisions on the faculty overseeing postdoctoral trainees and therefore on research at Yale. While we speak for the faculty of the FAS and SEAS, we also believe that representation from professional schools that have significant numbers of Postdoctoral researchers (most notably the School of Medicine) would help the committee understand the varied Postdoctoral research employment arrangements and funding models at Yale.

Some areas where we anticipate that such a committee might offer useful input include possible impacts of multi-year appointments, supplementation of outside fellowships, changes to benefit levels, and how quickly a ratified contract will go into effect.

We hope that you agree with us that informed feedback from a faculty committee could help smooth implementation of a contract with Postdoctoral researchers and minimize after-the-fact complications. We welcome your feedback on this recommendation and look forward to working together toward a mutually beneficial contract with Postdoctoral researchers.