

FAS-SEAS Senate Meeting
Thursday, March 28, 2024
3:30 PM – 4:00 PM: Closed Session
4:00 PM – 5:30 PM: Open Session
Dow Hall 100, 370 Temple Street
And on Zoom

Minutes
Approved

Senators Present:

Meg Urry, Chair, Rebecca Toseland, Deputy Chair, Oswaldo Chinchilla, Michael Fischer, Alessandro Gomez, John Hall, Valerie Horsley, Maria Kaliambou, Mordechai Levy-Eichel, Maria Piñango, Constance Sherak, Kathryn Slanski, Mark Solomon, Julia Titus, Paul Van Tassel, Jing Yang

Staff: Rose Rita Riccitelli

Senators Absent:

Andrea Aldrich, Gerald Jaynes, Marijeta Bozovic, Greta LaFleur, Jason Stanley, Dara Strolovitch, Mimi Yiengpruksawan

Guests:

Tamar Gendler, Pericles Lewis, Jeremiah Quinlan, Ken Scheve, Stephen Slade, Katie Trumpener

Closed Session – 3:30 PM – 4:00 PM

FAS-SEAS Senate Chair **Meg Urry** called the closed session of the FAS-SEAS Senate meeting to order at 3:30 PM. **Ms. Urry** noted that the Senate has been offered a short meeting with the Yale Corporation's Faculty Liaisons on April 19th and asked Senators to offer suggestions of important topics for the FAS-SEAS Senate's Executive Council members to bring to the discussion. She mentioned that in discussion with Provost **Scott Strobel**, he stressed that when speaking with Corporation representatives, we probably should not spend our time talking about small issues and focus on one main point that the Senate wants to make with them. **Paul Van Tassel** mentioned free speech and civil discourse as being main topics across all universities, including political issues and graduate student funding issues. He said that paying our students more is good, however we may need to do that by contracting the numbers of graduate students, which he feels compromises Yale's history of excellence. **Alessandro Gomez** agreed with **Mr. Van Tassel's** first topic, however graduate student funding is critical but not something that we should address with the Corporation. **Rebecca Toseland** said that how we protect Yale from outside influences is an important issue, and includes donor and political influences. **Mr. Van Tassel** and **Mr. Gomez** noted that we've not had these controversies at Yale, so why bring it up? **Michael Fisher** feels that the Senate is in a difficult position of conveying faculty wishes to trustees. He noted the biggest concern as he sees it is that Yale has built a reputation of excellence, and now that it is moving to corporatization, he fears that all the good will we have built for 300 years is in trouble of diminishing. After senators offered their concerns on the

various issues facing the University, there was careful consideration and the conclusion was that the main concern the EC should address is asking what the Corporation's concerns are, do they see Yale as vulnerable to outside influences, and what are their expectations of getting a new president. Also, mentioning that the Senate would like to have more communication with the Corporation to find out what they are thinking about as we move forward.

Open Session: 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Ms. Urry introduced Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Jeremiah Quinlan to discuss Yale's [revised standardized testing policy](#) and legacy preferences in undergraduate admissions. **Mr. Quinlan** stressed that test scores help establish the academic foundation for applications under consideration, and provide *one* consistent and reliable bit of data among the countless other indicators, factors, and contextual considerations we incorporate into a thoughtful whole-person review. He outlined information gathered over the last 6 years that pointed out that students admitted with SAT/ACTs earned higher College GPA than students admitted without them. **Mr. Quinlan** noted that now, standardized tests are required of all first-year applicants to Yale for fall 2025 admission and later, and that requiring test scores will also serve to decrease the large number of applicants that we have experienced over the past few years when there were no testing requirements and when applications almost doubled. He was asked if using SAT scores might eliminate from consideration students, who because of various disadvantages, do not do well on SATs. He responded that SAT scores are only *one* factor in the admissions process, and other criteria is used as well. **Mr. Quinlan** provided the following links to obtain information on this subject:

- Policy announcement: <https://admissions.yale.edu/test-flexible>
- Policy details: <https://admissions.yale.edu/standardized-testing>
- A Q&A interview with Yale News: <https://news.yale.edu>
- Podcast [Inside the Yale Admissions](#) Office

Mr. Quinlan then addressed the concern about Legacy admissions, and if we continue Legacy admissions does it prevent some students from being admitted who otherwise would be. **Mr. Quinlan** said that he strongly feels that Legacy admissions have not been and will not be an issue in the future. Dean Quinlan stressed that test scores are only one of many considerations in the whole-person review, and that data suggest scores would strengthen applications from students at less-resourced schools.

Next **Ms. Urry** introduced Douglas Tracy Smith Professor of Comparative Literature and Professor of English and Dean of Yale College **Pericles Lewis**, and Dean Acheson Professor of Political Science and Global Affairs and FAS Dean of Social Science **Kenneth Scheve**, who talked about the proposal to expand the size of Yale College from a target of 6,200 students per year to 6,600 students per year. **Mr. Scheve** encouraged faculty to contact the Yale College Committee members with questions/observations about increasing the number of students (committee members are Melanie Boyd, Alison Cole, Ferentz Lafargue, George Levesque, Sarah Mahurin, Catherine Panter-Brick, Ken Scheve (Chair), Vincent Wilczynski, Jason Zentz). He said that increasing Yale's size would advance Yale College's mission, and addressed what problems might

be created that would harm the quality of Yale's academic and residential education, and what investments might address these issue and pointed out resources that need to be increased – curriculum and teaching resources, classrooms and laboratory spaces, and academic support, residential college life, and other student services and support. He spoke about Major and Senior Thesis advising and what difference does 100 more seniors make. He also addressed if increasing the target size of the Yale College class from 1550 to 1650 (total target size change from 6200 to 6600) would serve to advance Yale College's mission, and what problems might be created by the proposal that would harm the quality of Yale's academic and residential education, and what investments might address these issues. He asked faculty for input about what investments would be needed to ensure that quality in the event of growth.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.