



The Senate of the Yale University Faculty of Arts and Sciences and School of Engineering and Applied Science (FAS-SEAS Senate)



FAS-SEAS Senate



- An advisory body representing Yale FAS and SEAS faculty
- Created in 2015
- Composed of 25 Senators
 - 7 Humanities, 5 Social Sciences, 5 Sciences, 3 Engineering, 5 At-Large
 - ≥ 1 Instructional, ≥ 3 Pre-Tenure Faculty Members
- Elections held every spring
- Senators serve up to three two-year terms
- "A key structure in faculty self governance", "A forum for debate and advocacy"



Senate Duties



- Attend monthly Senate meetings
- Serve on 2-3 Senate committees

Examples: Faculty Advancement, Budget, Governance, Diversity ...

- Attend / organize Senate events:
 - Advocacy, e.g., reports or resolutions on academic freedom
 - Informational, e.g., debate fossil fuel divestment
 - Social, e.g., junior faculty happy hour



Impact of Yale Senate



Advocated, alongside others, for significant changes:

- † Yale Child Scholarship Program, from \$16,500 to \$29,500 / yr / child
- ↑ Faculty salaries, from 92% to 97% (Social Sciences) and 97% to 99% (Humanities), as percentages of peers (and still working on reaching parity)
- † Strategic and budgetary autonomy of FAS and SEAS, toward more streamlined decision making
- ↑ Salary, professional dev, family support for Instructional Faculty
- † Institutional support for faculty child-care



Running for Yale Senate



- Nominate self (and others) in response to Senate email query (encourage multiple nominations by colleagues!)
- Senate Nominations Cmte confirms candidates' intention to run, collects candidacy statements
- Candidates campaign among faculty colleagues
- Web-based election conducted over ~ two-week period in April/May
- Election winners announced
- Senate service begins August 15



Why Serve in the Senate?



- "Advance the issues most important to YOU, from a highly respected Yale faculty body." Paul Van Tassel
- "Yale works best when faculty are empowered, and the Senate is our foremost mechanism of influence." - John Geanakoplos
- "If a university issue bothers you, become a Senator and try to fix it."
 Meg Urry
- "The Senate has given me a voice as an instructional faculty member." – Rebecca Toseland

2015-2016 Beverly Gage

- **Established the** <u>Senate</u>. Everything from sorting out formal Senate policies, committees, and structures to getting a Senate email system up and running. Bill Nordhaus, who was deputy chair, was absolutely crucial in all of this.
- **FAS size**. In the course of writing a report on the impending opening of the new colleges, we discovered that the size of the ladder-faculty FAS had shrunk significantly in recent years. Thus began the Senate's campaign to track and expand the size of the FAS.
- *Renaming Calhoun*. In the wake of President Salovey's initial decision not to rename Calhoun, the Senate led the faculty's response and successfully helped to produce a change of policy the following year.
- Faculty conduct standards. The Senate successfully pushed the administration to revise the pending Yale faculty conduct standards to ensure due process and faculty-peer control.

Reports issued in 2015-2016

- Report by Shiri Goren and Charles Schmuttenmaer on Visit to Yale
 NUS/Presented to the FAS Senate on May 19, 2016
- <u>FAS Senate Diversity and Inclusivity Report</u>/Approved by the FASS on May 19, 2016
- <u>FAS Senate College Expansion Report</u>/Approved by the FASS on March 10, 2016
- <u>FAS Senate Faculty Conduct Standards and Procedures Report</u>/Approved by the FASS on March 10, 2016
- <u>FAS Senate Review of Yale's Parental Policies</u>/Approved by the FASS on March 10, 2016

2016-2017 Emily Greenwood

- Investigation of *Canvas copyright issues*.
- Addressed labor issues and Local 34 Union contract.
- Formation of *Yale College Expansion Committee* which produced a *Report* that was sent to the administration.
- Reform of <u>Ad-hoc Committee on Faculty Conduct Standards and</u> Procedures.
- Formation of the Committee to Establish Principles on Renaming that addressed issues related to changing or not changing names.
- <u>Committee on Committees</u> *initiative to have senators participate on important committees* selected by administration (FASTAP, CESOF, Yale College Expansion Committee, Sterling Library Committee).
- <u>Diversity and Inclusivity Committee</u> had a productive meeting with relevant stakeholders, that resulted in a *dashboard on diversity matters* that is now available on the Deputy Provost's website.

 Presented panel discussion on the role of the university and academic expertise in the current political climate.

Reports issued in 2016-2017:

- 1. <u>FAS Senate Report on the Status, Pay and Condition of Non-Ladder Faculty in FAS</u> Approved by the FASS on April 9, 2017
- 2. <u>FAS Senate Report on Budget Transparency</u>/Approved by the FASS on December 8, 2016
- 3. <u>Recommendations for the Procedure for Selecting Divisional Deans in FAS</u>/Approved by the FASS on November 10, 2016

2017-2018 and 2020-2021 Matt Jacobson

- Winning a re-review of the Standards and Procedures regarding faculty misconduct, and winning an FAS-wide election as part of the approval process
- Formation of and work with the Yale Childcare Consultative Committee
- FAS-wide *forum on COVID information* (both general health info and university procedures)
- Governance Committee work on *copyright* in the digital age, which became *policy*.
- Resolution to support the *Yale Prison Education Initiative*, which affected policy.
- Ongoing work on the creation of an *Ombudsman office* (not a win, but important...)

Reports issued in 2017-2018

Report of the Peer Advisory Committee on the Creation of a University
 Ombuds Office at Yale - Approved by the FASS on May 7, 2019

- Informal report of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Senate Ad Hoc Diversity
 Committee on the
 Faculty Resources Committee (FRC) Approved by the FASS on May 7,
 2019
- Review of Progress in Restructuring the FAS Report of the FAS Senate
 Governance and Institutional Policy Committee Approved by the FASS on May 8, 2018
- <u>FAS Senate Response to the August 2017 Report of the University-Wide Ad</u>
 <u>Hoc Committee on Procedures for Resolving Faculty Misconduct</u>
 Approved by FASS on November 9, 2017

2018-2019 Bill Nordhaus

- *Standards and procedures*: Established our role and made some important changes
- Faculty excellence: A great study that showed where we were going wrong.
- *Copyright*: Established the principle that faculty own the copyright to their teaching, lectures, and recordings.

Many other initiatives were first-rate, but these served the faculty and the institution with distinction.

Reports and resolutions issued in 2018-2019

- FASS Resolution of Concern Approved by the Yale FASS on May 7, 2019
- Report of the Peer Advisory Committee on the Creation of a University
 Ombuds Office at Yale Approved by the FASS on May 7, 2019

- Informal report of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Senate Ad Hoc Diversity
 Committee on the
 Faculty Resources Committee (FRC) Approved by the FASS on May 7,
 2019
- <u>FAS Senate Research and Scholarly Excellence Report January 23, 2019 (full)</u> Approved by the FASS on December 11, 2018
- Report of the FAS Senate Ad Hoc Elections Committee Approved by the FASS on August 27, 2018

2019-2020 John Geanakoplos

- Focused on Faculty Excellence and the Faculty Role in Governance.
- Hosted Provost Strobel who accepted the findings of the Senate Faculty Excellence Report and vowed to increase *faculty size and salaries*.
- Wrote the first Yale *FAS mission statement* "To preserve, advance, and transmit knowledge through inspiring teaching, research, and art," which is aligned with the University's original mission.
- Published resolutions that *critiqued the wisdom of University Covid Financial Crisis measures* (freezing faculty hiring and salaries and pausing graduate admissions), while praising the administration's handling of the Covid health crisis.
- Enumerated five *principles for future financial crises* and explained the role of Yale Endowment Spending Rule in financial crises.
- Documented the *history of Yale's over-reaction to past financial crises* and its effects on faculty size and salaries and excellence.

- Hosted Zoom meeting with Chief Investment Officer David Swensen and 400+ faculty to discuss Yale's financial crisis and Endowment Spending Rule.
- Hosted discussion of broader Covid ramifications in New Haven and Connecticut, with New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker and Albert Ko, chair of Governor's Reopen Connecticut Board.
- Recommended Yale retain student option of grades or pass-fail.
- Hosted discussion of *academic freedom at NUS* with first Yale NUS president Pericles Lewis, leading to a published resolution.
- Hosted debate on *fossil fuel divestment* between Swensen, the chair of Yale Investment Committee David Macy, concerned faculty, and four undergraduate activists. Reached consensus on a resolution to modify Yale's ethical investment guidelines.

Reports and Resolutions issued in 2019-2020

<u>FASS Resolution on Procedures for Responding to Questions of Academic</u>
 <u>Freedom at Yale-NUS</u> - Approved by the Yale FAS Senate on December 10, 2019

- Proposed FAS Mission Statement Approved by FASS June 2020
- <u>Faculty of Arts and Sciences Senate Statement: Preserving the Future of Yale's Research and Teaching during a Financial Crises</u> Approved by the FASS on June 9, 2020
- The Yale Endowment Spending Rule Approved by the FASS on June 9, 2020
- <u>Three Lessons from Past Financial Crises at Yale</u> Approved by the FASS on June 9, 2020
- Report of the Elections Committee of March 26, 2020 Approved by the FASS on March 26, 2020

2020-2021 Matt Jacobson

Reports and Resolutions issued in 2020-2021

- <u>FAS Senate Statement of Concern RE: The Petition Process for Alumni</u>
 <u>Fellows</u> Approved by the FAS Senate on May 28, 2021
- Response to the Provost's Letter on The Report on Retirement Incentive
 Plan by the Yale Inter-school Faculty Working Group Approved by the FAS
 Senate on January 21, 2021
- Resolution to request the Provost's Office to establish a University
 Work/Life Committee Approved by the Yale FASS on January 21, 2021
- Child- and Eldercare Brief by Yale by the Yale Childcare Consultative Committee December 2020
- Report by the Inter-school Faculty Working Group on Yale's Incentive Retirement Plan - posted on November 10, 2020
- <u>Resolution to Support Yale Prison Education Initiative</u> Approved by the Yale FASS on October 15, 2020

• <u>FASS Governance Committee Report on Yale Copyright in the Digital Age</u> - Approved by the FASS September 17, 2020

2021-2022 Valerie Horsley

Reports and Resolutions issued in 2021-202

- Resolution Regarding the University's Response to the China Initiative and Policies Related to Inquiries from Federal Agencies - Approved by the Yale FASS on April 28, 2022
- Resolution on Educational Gag Orders Approved by the Yale FASS on April 28, 2022
- Resolution to Establish a University Policy that Respects Academic
 Freedom Approved by the Yale FASS on October 28, 2021
- <u>FAS Statement of Concern regarding Academic Freedom at Yale</u> Approved by the FAS Senate on October 1, 2021

2022-2023 Paul Van Tassel

- *Increase in Yale's Child Scholarship Program*, to support higher education expenses of faculty and staff, from \$16,500 to \$29,500 / yr / child (and to remain at 40% of Yale tuition going forward)
- *Increased average faculty salaries* (since 2016), as percentages of peer institutions averages, from 92% to 97% (Social Sciences) and 97% to 99% (Humanities)
- Enhanced *strategic and budgetary autonomy of FAS and SEAS*, leading to more streamlined decision making.
- Numerous gains for Instructional Faculty, including enhanced salary, professional, and family support.
- Increased *institutional support for faculty childcare* (more details to be added ...)

Reports issued in 2022-2023

- Report from the FAS-SEAS Senate Diversity Committee on Romantic
 Relationships between Faculty and Graduate Students Approved by the
 FAS-SEAS Senate on October 26, 2023
- Off the Ladder: Revisiting the Status and Condition of Instructional Faculty
 Approved by the FAS-SEAS Senate on May 18, 2023
- Results of 2021-22 Faculty Focus Groups on Endowment Spending
 Priorities Approved by the FAS-SEAS Senate on April 20, 2023

Instructional Faculty wins over the years. Sybil Alexandrov

- Access to free lunches in the Yale colleges
- Providing laptops
- Peer mentoring opportunities
- Professional development opportunities
- Salary adjustments
- Increase to course rate minimums.
- Inclusion in programs such as Scholars as Leaders and Scholars as Learners programs
- Primary investigator (PI) status for senior lectors II and senior lecturers II
- Increased funding for participation in conferences
- Child-rearing leave
- Childcare support

- Significant enhancement to the child scholarship plan for all faculty and staff
- Pilot phased retirement plan for certain term-limited faculty members.
- Expanded emeritus status.