

Please see below the newly elected senators and their statements:



**Sybil Alexandrov** (Instructional Faculty)  
Senior Lector II of Spanish  
Department of Spanish and Portuguese  
HUMANITIES

It has been an honor to serve on the FAS Senate for the last four years. This past year I was elected to the Senate Executive Council, in addition to serving on the Committee on Instructional Faculty, COVID-19 Crisis Committee and the Outreach and Nominations Committee. I have taught Spanish language at Yale for nearly twenty-four years and have been actively involved in pedagogic and other academic initiatives across departments and programs. I have a clear sense of issues pertaining to instructional faculty, who play an essential and insufficiently recognized role in the education of Yale undergraduates. The FAS Senate has been instrumental in articulating and communicating these issues to the administration and some progress has been made. This year, the Provost announced the expansion of parental benefits offered to instructional faculty, and the Dean of Humanities has opened discussion of, and has begun to seek solutions to, important issues related to instructional faculty in the Humanities. Still, the conditions of our employment and our status in the FAS do not sufficiently reflect our excellence in teaching and, more broadly, the contribution we make to the faculty's collective educational mission. If reelected, I will focus on matters that seriously impact our students and on ways to improve equity, inclusion and transparency of policy.



**Elisa Celis**  
Assistant Professor of Statistics and Data Science  
SOCIAL SCIENCES

I am thrilled to be nominated to the FAS Senate! My academic work focuses on understanding how algorithms, data, and society coevolve, and on the benefits and limitations of algorithmic interventions to address systemic forms of discrimination. As a woman of color, this work is inextricable from my service both

academically and personally, where I do my best to address such challenges through advocacy, mentorship, and public discourse. If elected, I would similarly strive to strengthen our community collectively and equitably. This includes considering ways in which recruiting, retention, promotion, parental leave, and childcare support affect all our current and future faculty members. And more broadly, working to increase transparency and accountability across the university.

I am excited by the prospect of collaborating with you about what the future of our institution could be, and working enthusiastically towards that goal.



**Alessandro Gomez**

Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science  
School of Engineering and Applied Science  
SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

I have been on the Yale faculty since 1989 and currently serve as Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science (MEMS). Over the years I have become increasingly worried about governance at Yale, with too much power in the hands of a few and an apparent lack of transparency in the decision-making process. Individually, it would be very difficult for any of us to tackle these issues, but collective tactics through the Faculty Senate may bear fruit. After my first two-year term, it is apparent that, even though small progress has been made, there is much more to be done. If elected, I plan to work on ensuring a greater participation of the faculty in critical decisions and on redressing unbalances in the economic status of the faculty within FAS and by comparison with peer institutions. I will be a forceful advocate of the needs and priorities of the faculty and will pay particular attention to those who have been all too often neglected: the instructional faculty and the faculty of the School of Engineering and Applied Science.



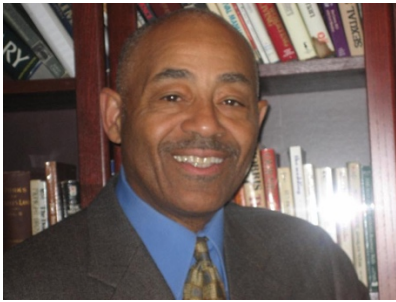
**Valerie Horsley**

Associate Professor (with tenure) of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology and Dermatology

## SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

It is an honor to be nominated to the FAS Senate for a second term. I am passionate about working with my FAS colleagues to ensure that Yale continues to make strides in the recruitment and retention of a more diverse faculty and student body, a key step to achieve a truly excellent environment for teaching and research. Specifically, I wish to continue to advocate for community-based efforts that promote belonging for all Yale community members, to encourage transparency and equity in faculty salaries, and to support Yale's diverse research endeavors in the FAS.

A little about me: my research laboratory in the Department of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology explores mechanisms of tissue repair and homeostasis in the skin. My lab team is composed of postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, and undergraduates and is funded by the National Institutes of Health. I am currently serving as DUS of MCDB and have acted as chair of MCDB's Professional Climate and Diversity Committee and Director of Graduate Admissions. I teach undergraduate and graduate students and am active in our community, currently serving as an elected official on Hamden's Legislative Council. I hope to help the FAS navigate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and envision a new community of scholars and students.



**Gerald Jaynes**

J. Whitney Griswold Professor of Economics and African American Studies  
SOCIAL SCIENCES

I am honored to have been nominated to serve on the faculty senate. If elected, I anticipate my several decades experience on the Yale Faculty will enable me to be a productive member of the senate. As an economist, I expect to provide a useful perspective and service in matters relating to budgets, faculty well-being, and the comparative excellence of the faculty. I have served as Chair of African American Studies for several terms (most recently as Acting Chair 2018-2019). Because African American Studies routinely works with over a dozen FAS departments when doing joint faculty appointments, retention, and promotions, as well as graduate student recruitment and relations, my knowledge of and experience with the FAS extends well beyond my two departments. One of my research areas concerns race and ethnic diversity a topic that will undoubtedly occupy the senate's time for several years. In this regard, I am proud to have served as Chair of the Yale President's Committee on the Recruitment and Retention of Minority and Women Faculty (1990-2) that initially recommended several of the faculty diversity policies regarding the recruitment and retention of both women and minorities that are now in place at Yale.



**H el ene Landemore, Associate/tenure**

Associate Professor (tenured) of Political Science  
SOCIAL SCIENCES

I am an Associate Professor of Political Science, with Tenure and have just completed my first two-year term on the FAS Senate. My work on the Senate so far has confirmed to me how important it is for faculty to organize as a body in order to defend their interests and those of more vulnerable stakeholders at Yale (especially non-ladder faculty). The management of the pandemic has further demonstrated that faculty inclusion in the decision-making process is essential to guaranteeing the quality and legitimacy of the University's decisions, especially difficult ones involving budget cuts and salary freezes in a time of crisis. I will continue fighting for inclusive and deliberative governance at the University level, meaningful faculty participation from the beginning to the end of decision-processes, as well as greater transparency and accountability regarding budgetary choices, salary policies, and academic plans and implementation.



**Paul North**

Professor of Germanic Languages & Literatures, Director of Undergraduate Studies  
Department of Germanic Languages & Literatures  
HUMANITIES

I would be honored to serve on the faculty senate. One of the biggest gifts the senate has given to faculty up to this point has been a growing consciousness of our real constraints – on salary parity, on hiring inclusively, on equality of participation for instructional faculty, among other things. Having been a faculty member at Yale for 12 years, I see the real difference the senate is making and I believe strongly in its consciousness-raising activities and also in the strong voice it has established with the administration. If elected, I would hope to continue to bring out facts that can help faculty do their teaching and research in the freest possible way and to negotiate improvements with deans and provosts. I am particularly interested in the university

budget and how financial decisions are made across the university. If elected I would do my best to represent the interests of faculty of every rank and status.



**Ruzica Piskac**

The Donna L. Dubinsky Associate Professor (on term) of Computer Science  
SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

I have been serving in the FAS Senate for nearly three years. It has been an amazing experience and I am honored to be nominated for another term. During those three years, I have met and interacted with an incredible group of people - the FAS senators who work tirelessly on improving the role of faculty in university governance. Being themselves members of the Yale faculty, FAS senators are aware of the problems and challenges that Yale faculty members face daily. The FAS senate is an active body and we work many hours on documenting these issues and providing guidance on how to address them. This last year has shown to us the importance of a supportive body within the faculty able to advocate for the needs of the whole.

Additionally, as a woman in STEM I am also aware of the importance of representation for under-represented groups in the Senate. Representation directly impacts our efforts to retain and recruit both students and faculty from underrepresented groups in STEM, which is especially important to commit to during these challenging times. I am asking for your support to allow me the opportunity to continue to work on improving Yale on your behalf.



**Maria Piñango**

Associate Professor of Linguistics (tenured)  
Department of Linguistics  
SOCIAL SCIENCES

In the twenty two years that I have been at Yale, I have witnessed and been part of important changes towards building an institution where each one of its members have the support they need to thrive, as scholars and as individuals. I have also witnessed changes that do not support that aim. As a member of the FAS Senate, I would be honored to work to make Yale a space that not only welcomes all, but that once here, makes all feel supported and valued as we create, innovate, and all-around dig deep in our research and pedagogical work.

About me: I arrived at Yale in 1999 as an assistant professor fresh from graduate school obtaining tenure in 2008. My research is on the brain/mind mechanisms that implement meaning through language: how humans connect language to meaning, store those connections, combine them, make them change over time. To that end, I use methods not only from linguistics and anthropology, but also from cognitive psychology and from cognitive neuroscience; a methodological approach that has allowed me to connect with colleagues from all around the University. Over the years, my committee service has also been varied and extremely enriching: Course of Study Committee, Committee on Majors (co-chair), Committee on Advancement, Placement and Enrollment (co-chair), and University-Wide Committee on Sexual Misconduct. In my own department I have had both DUS and DGS roles. Altogether this diverse set of experiences has given me an understanding of the strengths (and weaknesses) of our institution in both its academic and human facets; understanding that will directly inform my efforts as a FAS senate member.



**Larry Samuelson**

A. Douglas Melamed Professor of Economics  
SOCIAL SCIENCES

The FAS faculty is the heart of Yale University. It is important that the FAS Senate work with the University to ensure that University policies, priorities and resource allocation are focused on attracting and nurturing outstanding faculty. Has the faculty size and composition kept pace with the growing student body, the creation of new programs, and the quest to bolster our strength in various areas? What must Yale do to be competitive for the very best faculty? What can Yale do to ensure the success of the faculty it attracts? How do we build on this faculty to combine innovative research with what should be the best undergraduate education in the world? Fulfilling the potential of Yale University requires examining questions such as these, as part of a careful and constructive dialogue between the FAS Senate and the University.

Since joining the Department of Economics at Yale University in 2007, I have served on a number of university committees and have most recently served as the Director of the Cowles Foundation for Research in Economics. I would look forward to the challenge of joining the FAS Senate.



**Jason Stanley**

Professor of Philosophy  
HUMANITIES

Increasingly, here and across the world, universities have become political targets. Administrations react to this political pressure in often problematic ways, which interfere with the role universities have as central democratic institutions. I am running for Faculty Senate to join the process of deciding collectively as faculty how to face these challenges, with an eye towards preserving our academic freedom as well as our voice in decisions about our curriculum and our priorities.



**Rebecca Toseland** (Instructional Faculty)

Senior Lecturer; Director of Research Support at the Tobin Center for Economic Policy  
SOCIAL SCIENCES

I am running for the FAS Senate because I want to belong to a university that fully achieves its mission. Yale is a great institution, but there are a number of areas for improvement in our operations and culture, a fact that has become even more apparent during this exceptionally challenging year. One area is our ability to recruit and retain talented and diverse faculty and to cultivate an inclusive and administratively efficient environment that allows all faculty to flourish. Another area is our ability to support our most vulnerable community members. We are not providing adequate childcare assistance for parents. We are not providing adequate mental health resources for students. We are not providing adequate security of employment or compensation for instructional faculty. I could go on. I am a Yale College alum; I have been on the faculty since 2019; I believe in Yale. We can do better. We can achieve more. The FAS Senate is a body that is helping to make Yale a better place for us all, and it would be an honor to have the opportunity to serve on it as a Senator.



**Paul Van Tassel**

Professor of Chemical & Environmental Engineering & Biomedical Engineering  
SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

I am very excited about the possibility to serve again in the FAS Senate, a key component of University governance. During my current two-year term, I have focused primarily on issues related to science and engineering at Yale, in particular the implementation of the Yale Science Strategy (as adopted in 2018). The Senate committee I chair has hosted a successful town hall event on the priorities laid out by the Science Strategy, and will soon host another event on the more general topic of science excellence at Yale. Our committee meets with university administrators to learn of / influence important decisions, and will by year's end develop a set of recommendations for the future of science and engineering at Yale.

I tend to view many strategic university issues in terms of a balance between fundamental excellence and targeted focus. While recognizing the need to focus certain resources on targeted strengths, I strongly believe the long-term academic strength of the University depends heavily on investments in core areas / disciplines. Another guiding principle is the primacy of the graduate student experience, where I believe reform of the student funding model (to be less reliant on external grants) and enhanced focus on extracurricular opportunities (e.g. on-campus housing, support for internships etc.) could make the experience at Yale virtually unparalleled. Finally, as a City resident, I am very interested in the relationship between the University and New Haven. While recent years have seen increased demand for housing and entertainment, parts of the City face significant challenges, especially in light of the pandemic. I hope to continue working to find new ways in which Yale may contribute to, and benefit from, New Haven.