

Yale Divinity School Student Government
General Body Meeting Minutes
October 8th, 2024

Check-In: (Name, Pronouns, Role) and Student Group/Class Offerings

- Mary Elizabeth (she/her): serves as student body president
- Durante (he/him): serves as vice president and involved in YBS
- Gabriel (he/him): 1st year representative and walls committee
- Cindy (she/her): YDS contemplatives
- Odyssey (she/her): 2nd year representative and La Comunidad
- Benjamin (he/him): 3rd year representative and walls committee
- Lizzie (she/her): women's center president
- Jared (he/him): 2nd MAR representative
- Sergio (he/him): 1st MAR representative and professional studies
- Mayella (she/her): La Comunidad
- Ellen (she/her): unapologetically Jewish and co-chair of DEIB
- Milton (he/him): 3rd MDiv representative, community life committee, and divination
- Benji (he/him): 1st Andover Newton Representative, community life committee, and YBS
- Ardonna (she/her): vice president of YBS
- Rachel (any/all): representing DivOut
- Robin (she/her): Berkely representative, period pantry committee, and Anglican Fellowship
- Jacob (he/him): Roman Catholic fellowship
- Meghan (she/her): MDiv senator
- Emily (she/her): MAR senator
- Ben (he/him): 1st MDiv representative
- Hangyoon Cho (he/him): 2nd MDiv representative
- Whitney (she/her): Berkely representative and period pantry
- Charles (he/him): STM representative and funding committee
- Donnie (he/him): STM representative and food/period pantry committee
- Emily (she/her): 2nd MDiv representative and professional studies committee
- Courtney (she/her): 3rd MDiv representative, professional studies committee, and divine abilities
- Margaret (she/her): OSA student worker
- Emily (she/her): came to support
- Spencer (he/him): treasurer, reformed worship, and paraclete
- Blake (he/him): secretary and on curriculum review committee

- Kit (he/they): director of student life
- Dean Flippin (she/her): associate dean of student affairs and chair of community life committee
- Cliff (he/him): visual arts circle
- Icy (she/her): represents Knit Club
- Lauren (she/her): Lutheran student organization
- Morgan (she/her): curriculum committee

Call to order

- Mary Elizabeth calls the meeting to order at 5:35 pm

Agenda Items

- Committee report outs
 - Walls – meeting on October 22nd
 - Period/Food Pantry – met yesterday and solidified upcoming dates on drives, will meet again this Friday, October 11th
 - Professional Studies – met last week and had positive experience in student voice, will meet in three weeks
 - Curriculum – met last week and approved 6 new courses, will meet November 5th
 - Community Life – met two weeks ago and will meet on the 29th to approve new clubs
 - Faculty meeting – worked on restorative justice initiatives and teaching in New Haven-area correctional facilities
- FUN-ding committee
 - All funding has been approved this far!
 - Correction: body votes on budget requests above 4%
 - Approved Requests
 - Sages
 - La Comunidad
 - YBS
 - Horror Movie Night
 - Vespers
 - YBS Cares
 - Roman Catholic Fellowship
 - YDS Women's Center
 - YDS contemplatives
 - Anglican Fellowship
 - YDS Korean Students Association and ASA

- 2/3 of the budget available for the rest of the year
- Everyone has spent within the approved budget
- Keep up the great work!
- Upcoming Events
 - Kickball
 - October 26th, 2pm, East Rock Park
 - <https://cglink.me/2dA/r2282747>
 - Snacks provided!
 - Please do not schedule events during kickball.
 - STM student referees?
 - Potential election events
 - OSA
- GPSS Senate
 - Met last week and assigned committees
 - Meghan: advocacy, social, public relations, committee
 - Emily: external affairs, DEIB, public relations committee
 - Accessibility advocacy across Yale
 - Ellen: DEIB
 - Childcare for students with families
 - Potential interfaith event
 - Events
 - Books and coffee at Book Trader Cafe on Saturday at 10am
 - Halloween party at Gryphons (Date: TBD)
 - Meet your senator event coming soon at Gryphons (Date: TBD)
 - Sneaker ball (Date: TBD)
 - Feel free to reach out to our senators with any questions!
 - Everyone is welcome to come to the GPSS general meetings.
- For class year representatives, decide on opting into funding
 - THIS FRIDAY: Funding for the semester
 - January meeting: Funding for next semester

For the Good of the Order

- Spring registration is coming soon!
- If you would like to view meeting minutes, check YaleConnect.
- Wednesday, November 14 is the final deadline for funding requests
- Upcoming Events
 - October 10th – contemplatives are hosting an intentional lunch
 - October 22nd – OSA wellness clinic with HANDSOME DAN (free head and neck massage!) <https://cglink.me/2dA/r2272159>

- October 25th - La Comunidad documentary night
- October 25th at 7pm – YBS horror movie night
- October 30th – women's center healing circle with somatic exercise
- November 1st – YBS event at barcade
- November 1st – Center for Faith and Culture movie screening on AI and panel
- This Friday from 4-6pm: the Middle Eastern and North African cultural center opens
- Election!
 - OSA working to support students during election season
 - Panel with faculty
 - Possible embedded counselor event: coping skills course?
 - Watch party possibility?
 - Possible solution for being together in community during the election
 - Snacks!
 - Chapel services being planned with intentionality
 - Perspective student day on November 7th
 - See OSA team with any requests or ideas
- Email us with any agenda items you would like to be added
- Students right to free expression
 - Students supporting other students
 - Language is possibly unclear
 - What policies are YDS specific?
 - Messaging or signage for free speech?
 - DivOut is a space for students to decompress
 - From OSA:
 - Limits to noise and disruption
 - YDS exercises the Yale policy regarding free expression
 - Ask OSA with any questions
 - Policy is linked on the YDS website:

<https://divinity.yale.edu/academics/degree-and-certificate-requirements/academic-policies>
 - Yale Policy: <https://secretary.yale.edu/student-life/guidance-regarding-free-expression-and-peaceable-assembly-yale>