FROM THE FRONT

"Already we are boldly launched upon the deep; but soon we shall be lost in its unshored, harbourless immensities."
MOBY-DICK HERMAN MELVILLE

Yale spent $310,000 on lobbying in year's first quarter

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provisions or bills they engaged with, according to the Lobbying Disclosure Act. In its report, Yale did not disclose whether it advocated for or against various bills or provisions.

Richard Jacob, Yale's chief lobbyist, and a University spokesperson did not immediately respond to request for comment.

According to the disclosures, Yale lobbied a variety of House of Representatives and Senate committees that are considering the Financial Accountability in Research, or FAIR, model for their fiscal year 2027 budgets. The FAIR model, which calls for increased transparency about the federal funding of research administrative costs, has not yet been introduced in Congress.

In an interview last month, Yale President Maurie McInnis said the new model was among the University's lobbying priorities, and she spent some time in Washington, D.C. advocating for it.

Yale also lobbied for "provisions related to research security and graduate education of military personnel" in a bill authorizing funding for the Department of Defense, the disclosure says.

Three graduate student military fellowships at Yale will end after this year, Yale's veteran and military affairs liaison told the News. In February, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth announced that the Pentagon would cut ties with universities he considers "woke."

"Yale continues to maintain that the university makes a significant contribution to the education of military officers and Senior Service College Fellows should be able to choose Yale," Holly Hermes, Yale's military and veterans affairs liaison, wrote to the News at the time.

The University continued lobbying related to provisions of the DETERRENT Act, a bill in the House focused on increasing the requirements for universities to disclose donations from foreign sources.

Republicans, including Trump, have long suggested that universities might be influenced by foreign entities, especially China, through donations and research funding.

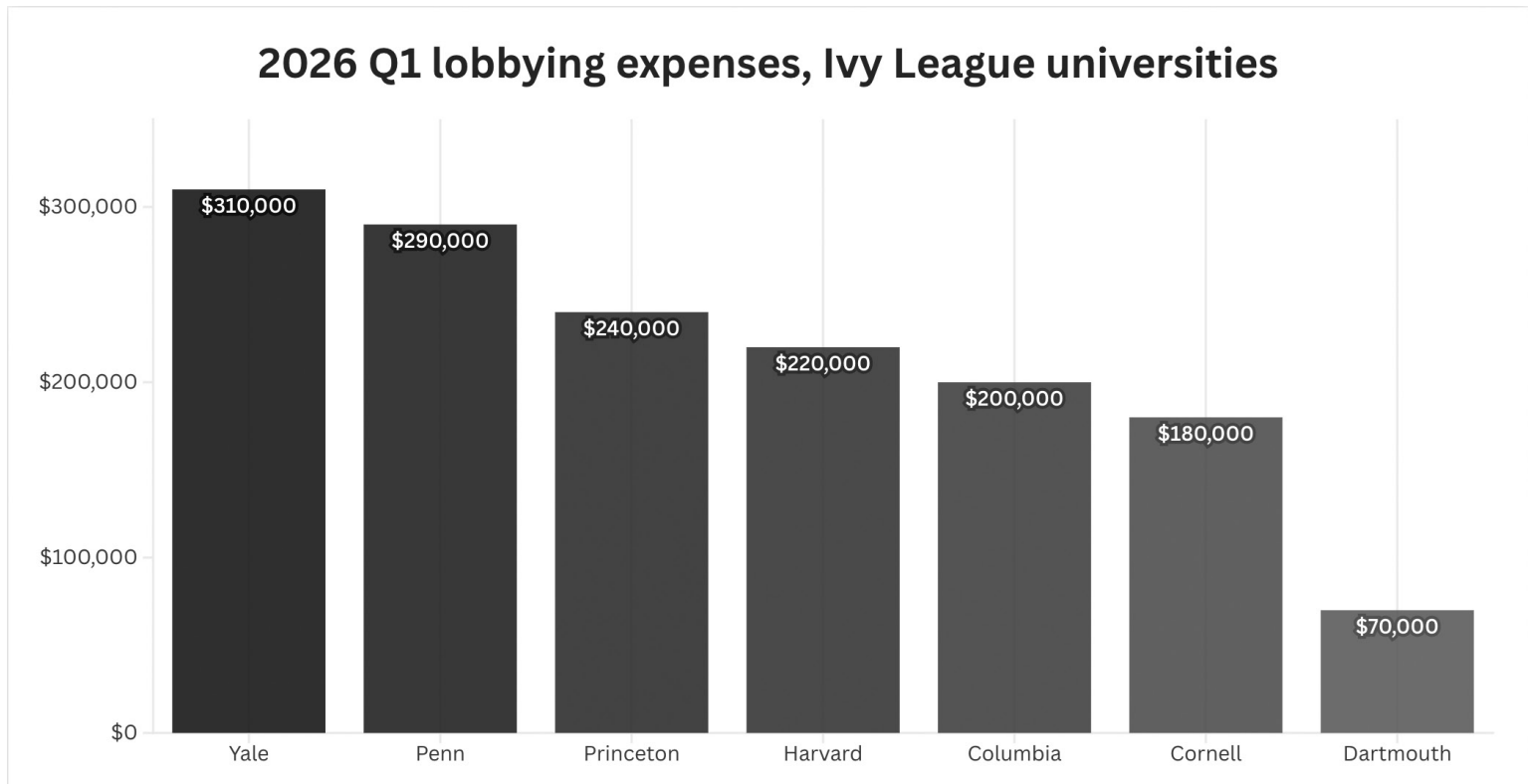
In an interview earlier this year, McInnis said Yale has "a number of measures in place" to prevent "concerns" related to donations from foreign sources. She cited Yale offices and committees that work to ensure there are no perceived or actual risks related to foreign funding.

"Most of our funding has come from our own alumni who just happen to be international and live in other places," McInnis said.

In October, a Yale spokesperson did not directly answer whether Yale supports or opposes the DETERRENT Act.

Yale continued advocacy from previous quarters on one of Trump's artificial intelligence initiatives, National Institutes of Health research funding, a bill on compensation for student athletes and loan caps for graduate students.

Ivy League schools spent $1.51 million in total on lobbying from January to March.



Source: Lobbying Disclosure Act (LDA) Reports • Graph: Aiden Zhou, Data Editor
Brown University's filing has not appeared in the public database as of Monday, Apr. 20.

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Ex-police chief in court over embezzlement

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website. The site indicates that the most recent update to the case's online record was made early Saturday morning. The case is pending, and Jacobson is scheduled for his next court date on June 2, according to the website.

In February, Jacobson was arrested and charged with stealing $81,500 from the New Haven Police Department's Narcotic Enforcement Program Fund, which paid confidential informants, and $4,000 from the New Haven Police Activity League Fund between 2024 and 2026.

The application for his arrest warrant described Jacobson's gambling habit and indicated that he gambled more than $4 million on two sports betting sites between Jan. 1, 2025 and Jan. 5, 2026.

Jacobson resigned from his role as police chief in early January, hours before Mayor Justin Elicker announced in a press conference that he had appropriated money from a fund dedicated to the department's confidential informants program. When confronted by three assistant chiefs, Jacobson admitted to stealing $10,000 from the fund, Elicker said.

In the weeks after Jacobson's resignation and arrest, community members expressed shock at what Elicker said was a "betrayal of public trust."

"I felt for Chief Jacobson, because of what he's done in New Haven and what he's built for the last number of years," Tirzah Kemp, the director of New Haven's Department of Community Resilience, said in a January interview with the News. "So, I think it took everyone a couple days to really wrap our heads around it."

According to the application for his arrest warrant, Jacobson was the only person with control over the Narcotic Enforcement Program Fund, which is used to make controlled drug purchases and pay people who offer the police department tips for narcotics investigations.

"No one is above the law and that includes the chief of police," Mayor Justin Elicker said in a statement to the New Haven Independent. "It is important that former Chief Karl Jacobson is held accountable for his actions and that the criminal justice process takes its course."

In March, Elicker nominated David Zannelli, the former assistant chief of police, to serve as the department's permanent chief.

Reeti Malhotra contributed reporting.

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Chen, Jimenez prevail

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who ran alongside me in an incredible manner and gave it his all. He was able to change the minds of many people and inspire them to participate in this election."

Jimenez said in an interview with the News that although she was disappointed that her running mate, Walker, did not win the election, she is "obviously really honored that the student body had trusted me to take on this role."

"It's gonna take meetings to figure out our vision, sitting down and trying to synthesize, talking about what each of us really wants to get out of the role and how we can compromise and work together," Jimenez said, referring to her plan for working with Chen. "I think we did run on a lot of similar issues. At the bottom of it, we both agree there's a lot of issues, and so I think we're just gonna work together to problem solve through different perspectives."

Jimenez said that she is most looking forward to working closely with the YCC senators to improve efficiency.

Walker, who ran for president with Jimenez, said he felt relieved when he saw the results of the election because he trusts Chen and Jimenez "to fight for the respect we deserve from Yale."

"We had maybe had competing visions for how to best advocate for students and stakeholders of this institution," Walker said. "But all of us, all of the candidates, were united in the same fight. It's always been us versus admin and the small group of decision-makers that continuously disrespects students and workers in New Haven."

This year's candidates criticized administrators' cuts to student funding programs as the University tightens its budget in anticipation of an endowment tax hike set to cost Yale an additional $300 million per year. Candidates called for more transparency from administrators about budget cuts.

Oriana Dunker '29 was elected to be next year's events director.

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Chapel St. now goes two ways downtown

BY TAJRIAN KHAN AND NELLIE KENNEY
STAFF REPORTERS

A portion of Chapel Street is opening to two-way traffic on Tuesday morning after decades of carrying traffic in one direction only.

The part of the street being converted stretches from Chapel Street's intersection with York Street to its intersection with College Street at the edge of the New Haven Green.

Last week, the Department of Public Works milled and repaved the road. With new road markings added on Monday evening, the street is set to open to two-way traffic on Tuesday morning. The city hopes to eventually convert the whole street to two-way, according to a press release by the mayor's office last Monday.

"Restoring this portion of Chapel Street to two-way traffic will help improve circulation downtown, make it easier for residents and visitors to access local businesses and destinations, and support a more accessible and connected downtown for everyone," Mayor Justin Elicker said in the press release.

In 1959, the city unveiled plans to convert downtown streets — including parts of Elm Street, Wall Street, College Street and Chapel Street — to one-way only, according to the News' coverage from the time. Those plans were met with resistance from local business owners, who worried that the change might harm their businesses, the News reported.

Ward 1 Alder Elias Theodore '27, who represents a downtown district that includes much of Yale's campus, said he is "excited" for the change.

"This conversion has been in the works for multiple years, and all research suggests that two-way streets improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety," he added.

Theodore said he hopes that after an initial period of adjustment, "people are going to be comfortable." Meanwhile, city staff and police will help direct traffic along those blocks of Chapel Street, he said.

Chapel Street is part of New Haven's "High Injury Network," which identifies the city streets responsible for the most injuries and fatalities, according to an informational flyer provided by the city's transportation, traffic and parking director, Haley Simpson. Two-way streets should reduce turning conflicts at busy intersections and encourage slower driving, the flyer said.

The conversion was part of the city's larger Safe Routes for All project, according to the press release from the mayor's office. That project is supported by a variety of funding, including an $11 million federal grant from the Biden administration's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the press release said.

Urban Studies Professor Jacob Koch '10 walked the length of Chapel Street with students from his class "Greening the City—Urban Forestry, Urbanism and the Climate Crisis." In an email to the News, he wrote that because the street bisects various parts of the city, it embodies "much of New Haven's urban character along a single street." He added that he was "excited about anything that will truly make streets safer for all users."

The key to that, Koch wrote, is "not just the physical changes" but also "combining that with enforcement and public information."

"It might be hectic the first week or so, but then people will get used to it," Taylor Ikehara, an employee at Atticus Bookstore Cafe on Chapel Street, said. "When they started construction on State Street, it was confusing at first, but after a week it was fine," he added, pointing to the City's ongoing State Street reconstruction project.

Montana Dickerson '27, an urban studies major, wrote to the News that as a driver, she's "thrilled about reduced downtown congestion," but as a pedestrian, she worries "about the adjustment for New Haven residents used to looking only one way before crossing Chapel Street."

Dickerson added that she thinks the change is a "necessary precursor for the full realization" of the Downtown for All legislation, which Elicker signed into law in December. The legislation amended zoning laws in order to allow for increased housing density in downtown New Haven.

"With denser housing will come more traffic and thus the need to increase circulation throughout the city," Dickerson wrote.

Jhan Setthachayanon '26, another urban studies major, wrote that he thinks that the conversion is a "valid change" despite possible "short term frustrations due to unfamiliarity and old habits."

Setthachayanon added that the conversion represents the beginning of a "culture change."

"No longer is the car solely prioritized in Downtown, but we now recognize the importance of considering other vulnerable road users, like pedestrians and bikers," he wrote in a text message to the News.

On Monday afternoon, Yale's Office of New Haven Affairs emailed community members about the planned change and urged drivers to "follow updated lane markings and signals and remain alert for pedestrians and turning vehicles."

"We encourage everyone to use extra caution and allow time to adjust to the new traffic pattern," the message said.

Chapel Street was one of the original streets laid out in New Haven's nine-square grid plan of 1638.

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