

Committee on trust unsure of priorities

BY BAALA SHAKYA
STAFF REPORTER

A committee of professors formed by University President Maurie McInnis in the spring to determine causes of declining trust in higher education — and propose solutions to regain it — is not yet sure what to focus on, its co-chairs said in an interview.

In April, McInnis announced the creation of the Committee on Trust in Higher Education — one

of her most visible efforts yet to address declining public confidence in elite universities. McInnis previously told the News that addressing declining trust in educational institutions would be a priority during her presidency.

“We’re thinking about the question of trust in higher education in a few different ways — questions of trust between students and faculty, trust between students, faculty and administration, questions about cost and wealth and

access,” committee co-chair and history professor Beverly Gage ’94 said. “I think our biggest challenge as a committee is going to be making some choices in the end about which of these really seem to be the major priority.”

The committee spent the summer conducting background research and holding preliminary conversations on “trust in faculty and trust in classrooms,” according to co-chairs Gage and Julia Adams, a sociology professor.

Moving forward, the group plans to meet weekly, host public and private events, and join student organization meetings to solicit student feedback, which Gage and Adams said will shape the committee’s priorities.

According to Adams, McInnis encouraged the group “to think big and to think adventurously.” She said the committee’s approach to its work is characterized by “maximum open-

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Police union talks thaw

BY REETI MALHOTRA
STAFF REPORTER

After more than two years of fraught negotiations, a new contract between the University and Yale Police Department union seems to be on the horizon.

The Yale Police Benevolent Association, or YPBA, has been pursuing collective bargaining action for a new contract with Yale since February 2023. In June, relations between the union and the University hit a new low after all 51 union members voted to authorize a strike in response to Yale negotiators’ refusal to schedule additional negotiation sessions. No strike has occurred.

Just three months later, the circumstances are vastly different.

“We’re close,” YPBA President Mike Hall said in a phone interview on Thursday. “There are still a few issues that need to be ironed out. I’m confident that the University and the YPBA can work these out together and resolve our issues and get this contract.”

Hall declined to describe the outstanding issues.

Joe Sarno, Yale’s head of union management relations, wrote in a statement to the News on Thursday that the University’s negotiations with the police union were ongoing.

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

‘ENJOY THE GRIND’

Coach wanted a winning culture. What went wrong?

BY JONAS LOESEL
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Yale’s head women’s basketball coach mused last October about an ambitious hope for the upcoming season, something that would turn the page on two rough years: She wanted the team to win ten of its 13 games against opponents outside of the Ivy League.

“Everybody wants to feel the upward momentum, the upward trajectory that we’re building,” head coach Dalila Eshe said, apparently sitting in a car during a Zoom interview for a local radio show.

Instead, the team had its second-worst record in at least 40 years. It won just one non-conference game, its first one, and went on to lose the next 12. The Bulldogs struggled to a seventh-place finish in the Ivy League.

The team has floundered while the men’s basketball program has emerged in recent years as the crown jewel of Yale sports and an Ivy League powerhouse. The 2024-25 season marked the women’s team’s third one under Eshe and the third consecutive season of declining performance for the once-competitive Bulldogs.

After posting a 16-11 overall record and third place in Ivy League regular season play in the 2021-22 season, the team has progressively slipped to 13-14 in the 2022-23 season, 8-19 in the 2023-24 season and just four wins compared to 23 losses last season.

Interviews with five former players, as well as a former player’s parent and a basketball analyst who covers the team, revealed a picture of a team deeply troubled since Eshe’s arrival. Eshe has tried to implement — and has repeatedly discussed — an intense new culture for the team, but players chafed at the shakeup.



Courtesy of Yale Athletics

Nearly all indications suggest Eshe’s vision has backfired.

Player attrition has increased. One player parted with the team in the spring of 2024 after a dispute with Eshe; another who quit last fall said the coach’s style fell short of her predecessor’s in leaving players “space to just be.”

Those departures and others have left the Bulldogs lacking in experienced college players, a situation on track to continue this season with one senior and six first years on a 15-member roster. The team returned last month from a swing through Europe, a rare chance to bond and compete together over the summer.

When the News first emailed Eshe for comment about the team culture in April, she wrote that she has worked to build a “positive, supportive and competitive” team.

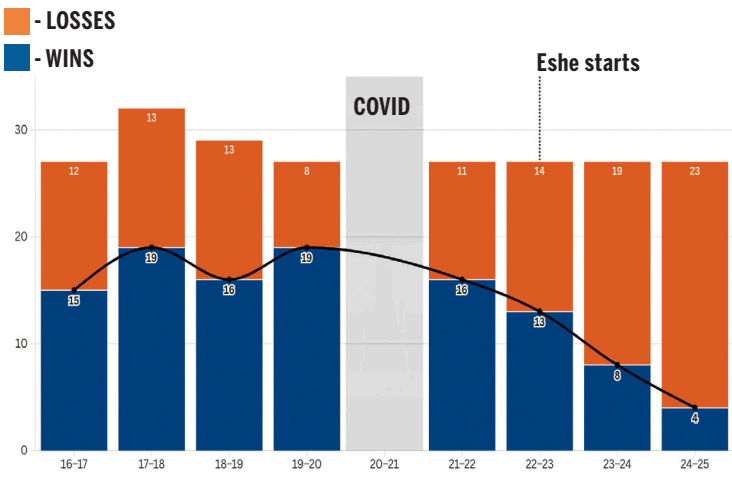
After the News contacted Eshe again this week with a list of the complaints raised about her coaching, Yale Athletics spokesperson Sam Rubin ’95 on Wednesday pro-

vided a brief statement, attributed to Eshe, that did not address the specific allegations.

“Our record may reflect where we have been, but it does not define where we are going,” the statement

read. She added that she was committed to her players’ success and to creating “a culture of excellence that will transform this program into one of consistent competitiveness and pride.”

WIN-LOSS RATIO, 2016-2025



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Yale formally bans doxxing

BY BAALA SHAKYA
STAFF REPORTER

Yale has adopted an anti-doxxing policy, formally prohibiting the public release of private personal information intended to intimidate, threaten or retaliate against members of the Yale community.

The move came over the summer after months of advocacy by student leaders, who argued that Yale lagged behind peer institutions in protections against online harassment.

The policy — published online July 28, according to Kimberly Goff-Crews ’83 LAW ’86, Yale’s secretary and vice president for university life — classifies doxxing as a form of harassment.

The policy defines personal information whose release might constitute doxxing as “private information that the individual has not made public or has not authorized another person or organization to make public.”

The policy mentions examples of personal information including email addresses, phone numbers, home addresses and “personally identifying images, videos, or sound recordings.” Information related to public activity, such as speeches, publications or appearances at demonstrations, is excluded.

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Alder hopefuls share goals at debate

BY ELIJAH HUREWITZ-RAVITCH AND SABRINA THALER
STAFF REPORTERS

Three Yalies running to represent downtown New Haven on the Board of Alders squared off Wednesday evening in the sanctuary of First and Summerfield United Methodist Church.

Rhea McTiernan Huge ’27, Elias Theodore ’27 and Norah Laughter ’26 are each hoping to win the Ward 1 seat on the city’s 30-person legislative body. Standing behind podiums at Wednesday’s debate, they sought to prove to roughly 100 people assembled why they deserve it.

Topics at the debate, organized and moderated by the News, spanned the candidates’ backgrounds, policy visions and approaches to the Yale-New Haven relationship. The candidates rarely disagreed but were serious and determined — less jocular with one another than at Monday’s on-campus town hall event.

Here are five takeaways from the evening.

Candidates argue Yale can solve New Haven’s ills

In answer after answer to the problems facing the Elm City, each aldermanic hopeful brought up Yale



Chloe Edwards / Senior Photographer Editor

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INSIDE THE NEWS

Three Yale students are running to represent downtown New Haven on the Board of Alders. Learn more before Tuesday’s primary election.

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BUDGET LAB A Yale research center has become a media favorite for analyzing Trump administration policies.
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FLOODING As sea level rise compounds flooding risk in New Haven, local leaders and scientists continue to push mitigation efforts regardless of federal cuts.
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