

YCC tables \$5,000 proposal to fund Adobe Creative Cloud

BY ASHER BOISKIN
STAFF REPORTER

The Yale College Council Senate voted Sunday to table a proposal to allocate \$5,000 from the Senate budget to reimburse students for Adobe Creative Cloud licenses, delaying action until next week.

Senators and YCC officials raised concerns about the proposal's scope, funding and compliance with the student government's constitution.

YCC Vice President Jalen Bradley '27 suggested President Donald Trump's higher education policy as the reason why the Council has yet to adopt a budget, which had been finalized at this point last year. Bradley did not elaborate on that explanation in the meeting.

The proposal, introduced by Saybrook Senator Brendan Kaminski '28, would fund roughly 142 Adobe Creative Cloud licenses for students with demonstrated need. It comes after Yale Information Technology Services announced in July the end of free Adobe access for students, faculty and staff.

Now, the University is subsidizing the cost of Adobe licenses for students at \$35.05.

“Through conversations with students involved in design-oriented majors and organizations, many have concluded that this is a financial barrier to peer creativity,” Kaminski said.

Under the new proposal, students, club leaders and organizations could apply for reimbursements by submitting a NetID, proof of purchase

and a brief explanation of their need for the software. Applications would be reviewed by the council's financial policy team.

“The free subscription allows students to express their creativity and learn valuable tools used in creative workspaces,” Alexis Lam '27, whose testimony was included in the proposal, said. “It has become the lifeline for my personal and professional projects.”

Eugene Covington '28, the YCC's finance co-director, raised the possibility that the bill might conflict with budgetary rules, noting that using student activity fees to subsidize independent organizations could constitute a misuse.

Article 14 of the YCC constitution directs the YCC to use its budget — which largely comes from the student activity fee — to serve “the student body in all external budgets” rather than organizations. Kaminski's bill, which allows “campus organization representatives” and “organizations seeking reimbursement” to apply for financial assistance, may violate that provision.

“Organizations with their own tax recognition and membership restrictions could benefit from these stipends, which might indirectly support their operating expenses rather than addressing individual student needs,” Covington said.

Bradley, the vice president, said uncertainty surrounding the YCC's budget for the school year complicates the council's ability to



BAALA SHAKYA / PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The Yale College Council Senate delayed a vote to fund Adobe licenses, formerly free for Yale students.

act on the proposal. He pointed to “what’s going on in D.C. with the president and progressive higher education and schools like Yale.”

The Trump administration has taken a hard line with elite universities but has not targeted Yale with funding cuts that most other Ivy League schools have experienced.

The tax and spending bill enacted in July increased the tax on endowment gains to 8 percent for the richest universities, such as Yale.

“The budget would usually be passed by now,” Bradley said. “Yale doesn’t know the budget that they’re giving to the YCC yet.”

Bradley said that he and YCC

president Andrew Boanoh '27 are meeting with Yale administrators this week and that he looks forward to revisiting Kaminski's proposal.

Last year, the YCC budget was \$929,609.

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Yale Law clinic helps ex-officials file brief backing Harvard



BAALA SHAKYA / PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Yale's rule of law clinic filed a legal brief on behalf of 21 ex-government officials in Harvard's suit against the Trump administration.

BY BAALA SHAKYA AND HENRY LIU
STAFF REPORTERS

A Yale Law School clinic is representing a group of former high-ranking government officials legally backing Harvard's lawsuit against President Donald Trump's executive order barring international students from studying there.

The bipartisan group of former top cabinet officials argues that Trump's proclamation violates constitutional principles by targeting individuals without due process, according to the amicus brief filed on their behalf by Yale's Peter Gruber Rule of Law Clinic on Aug. 28.

“It is the Administration's damaging actions — not Harvard's — that threaten U.S. national secu-

urity,” the brief states. “In an age where technological dominance determines national security, keeping the doors of our leading universities open to international students is vital to protecting America's national security.”

Following Harvard's lawsuit against Trump's order to bar international students, federal judge Allison D. Burroughs issued a

preliminary injunction blocking the proclamation, which is being appealed by the Trump administration in the Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. Harvard has continued to enroll international students as the case moves forward.

Harold Hongju Koh, a professor and former dean of the Law School, is one of the lawyers representing the former officials in their legal backing of Harvard. In a press release, Koh wrote that Harvard's lawsuit against the Department of Homeland Security would be critical “not just for Harvard, but for every American university and their international students who help make it a global beacon,” arguing that the executive branch cannot act arbitrarily to punish disfavored institutions.

The brief was filed on behalf of 21 ex-government officials, including former CIA Director Michael Hayden, former Senator and U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, former U.N. Ambassador John Danforth DIV '63 LAW '63 and former Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines.

While the 21 individuals are represented by Koh and law student members of the Peter Gruber Rule of Law Clinic, the brief states that it “does not purport to state the views of Yale Law School or Yale University.”

In June, Yale University backed Harvard in a separate lawsuit against the Trump administration's cuts to federal research funding.

Together, the former officials argue that the Trump administration's June 4 executive order banning Harvard's international

students is a retaliatory and unlawful attack on higher education that undermines both American constitutional structure and national security.

The brief emphasizes that international students are critical to American technological leadership and security, citing international students' contributions to the American defense industry and the opportunities they provide for the United States to extend “soft power” over different countries.

The 21 officials further contend that the administration's ban “directly benefits America's adversaries and strategic competitors” by driving top students to attend universities in other countries out of “profound fear, concern, and confusion.”

“Yale must step up for Harvard, because we and our clients believe that it is illegal for the Executive Branch to punish a leading university and its students through repeated extrajudicial sanctions, simply because it disapproves of how the university exercises its academic freedom,” Fred Halbhauer LAW '25 and Brady Worthington LAW '27, two law students who helped file the brief, wrote in a joint statement to the News.

Per the press release from the Rule of Law clinic, two-thirds of the former officials backing Harvard in the amicus brief were either appointed by or served in Republican administrations.

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‘Why Yale?’ admissions question rephrased

BY FABEHA JAHRA
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The undergraduate admissions office rephrased the classic “Why Yale?” supplemental essay prompt on its application this year.

“Reflect on how your interests, values, and/or experiences have drawn you to Yale,” the new question reads — a change from the previous question, “What is it about Yale that has led you to apply?”

The change is intended to push applicants to tell their own stories rather than repeat what they know about Yale, Mark Dunn '07, a senior admissions administrator, wrote to the News.

The other Yale-specific supplemental questions will be the same

ones asked in the last two admissions cycles, Dunn wrote.

Hannah Mendlowitz '12, another senior admissions administrator, said that the admissions office rephrased the “Why Yale?” question to clarify what admissions officers are looking for in applicants' responses to that particular prompt.

“Our goal is to make the questions as clear as possible so that applicants understand what we are asking them and the type of responses that make for a successful Yale supplement,” she wrote to the News.

Carlos Cedano '29, a first year who applied to Yale last year, told the News the old “Why Yale?” prompt helped him conduct

deeper research on the University and reflect on how he could contribute to its community.

“The Yale supplemental questions encouraged me to talk about myself and learn more about Yale in the process,” Cedano wrote.

Cedano advised future applicants to use the new “Why Yale?” prompt to “show your personality and passions by demonstrating that you would truly benefit from an interdisciplinary education.”

“Just be yourself and answer honestly,” he added.

Applicants must respond to the “Why Yale?” question in 125 words or fewer.

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YULIN ZHEN / PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The new prompt will encourage applicants to reflect on their interests, values and experiences rather than writing about the University, two admissions officers said.