

PASSED: 85 approve, 2 disapprove, 3 abstain

Resolution F23-001

Regarding Student Representation on the Yale Presidential Search Committee

Sponsor: Benjamin J. Schafer, History

Co-Sponsors: Jingjun Liu, Earth and Planetary Sciences; Charles Lomba, Physics; Jim Zhou, Computer Science; John Gonzalez, Experimental Pathology; Thomas Harris, School of the Environment; Nicola Angeli, French

Recipients: Senior Trustee Josh Bekenstein '86 BA; Board of Trustees; Presidential Search Committee; Office of the Vice President of Student Life

WHEREAS, on 31 August 2023, Yale President Peter Salovey '86 PhD announced his intention to step down from the Presidency effective July 2024; and,

WHEREAS, on 31 August 2023, Senior Trustee Josh Bekenstein '80 BA announced the creation of a Presidential Search Committee to appoint a successor to President Salovey; and,

WHEREAS, the aforementioned Presidential Search Committee is made up of eight (8) Yale alumni and four (4) faculty members but no undergraduate, graduate, or professional students; and,

WHEREAS, none of the alumni members of the aforementioned Presidential Search Committee have been students at Yale since at least 2002; and,

WHEREAS, current efforts to reach student input via two feedback forms have no guarantee of impact or consideration;¹²

WHEREAS, Yale's peer institutions have included student members and/or created student advisory committees in similar Presidential searches in recent years;³

¹ Public Form; "Provide Input to the Presidential Search Committee": <https://www.yale.edu/board-trustees/provide-input-yale-presidential-search-committee>

² Public Form; "Faculty Nominations for the Presidential Search Committee": (no longer open after September 8th, 2023) <https://www.yale.edu/board-trustees/faculty-nominations-yale-presidential-search-committee>

³ Harvard University 2022-23 Student Advisory Committee: <https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2022/09/student-committee-for-harvard-presidential-search-named/>; Harvard University 2017-18 Student Advisory Committee: <https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2017/09/members-named-to-student-advisory-committee-for-presidential-search/>; Columbia University 2022-23 Student Advisory Committee: <https://secretary.columbia.edu/news/search-committee-meets-advisory-committee-members-and-announces-results-community-wide-survey/>; Massachusetts Institute of Technology 2022 Presidential Search Committee: <https://orgchart.mit.edu/letters/announcing-mit-presidential-search-committee/>; University of Virginia 2017 Presidential Search Committee: <https://news.virginia.edu/content/uva->

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Yale Graduate Student Assembly (GSA), as an elected representative body of students in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS), in concert with our colleges in the Yale College Council (YCC) and the Yale Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS), does hereby condemn the decision of the Yale Board of Trustees to exclude students from formal participation on the Presidential Search Committee; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the GSA calls on the Board of Trustees and Senior Trustee Bekenstein to immediately remedy this decision by appointing at least one (1) undergraduate, graduate, and professional student to the Presidential Search Committee or by creating a Student Advisory Committee to the Presidential Search Committee of at least one (1) representative from each of Yale's constituent schools.

[announces-presidential-search-committee](#); Princeton University 2012-13 Presidential Search Committee: <https://www.princeton.edu/news/2012/10/15/princeton-names-presidential-search-committee>; Stanford University 2015-2016 Presidential Search Committee: <https://president.stanford.edu/presidential-search/search-committee/>; Dartmouth College 2022 Presidential Search Committee: <https://home.dartmouth.edu/news/2022/02/presidential-search-committee-members-announced>; Cornell University 2016-17 Presidential Search Committee: <https://www.cornell.edu/president-search/committee/>; University of Pennsylvania 2021-22 Presidential Search Committee: <https://almanac.upenn.edu/articles/consultative-committee-for-the-selection-of-a-president>.