

**Science Chairs' Council**  
**Summary of Meeting, October 13, 2009**

**Attending:**

*Chairs:* Thomas Pollard, Rick Prum, Mitchell Smooke, Abraham Silberschatz, Douglas Stone, Jeff Kenney, David Bercovici

*Provosts:* Timothy O'Connor, Lloyd Suttle

*Guests:* Justine Levin-Allerhand, Lauragene Lyons, Laura Cruickshank, Rafi Taherian

**1. Fundraising for FAS sciences**

Justine Levin-Allerhand, the Director of Development for Science and Engineering, and Lauragene Lyons, the Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations for the Sciences and Humanities, gave a presentation and answered questions about fundraising for the FAS sciences.

The science & engineering team in the Development Office now has 7 staff members, including 5 new positions since 2007. As a result of this growth, the Development Office has been able to explore many more opportunities for University priorities in research and education, and work more closely with faculty than in the past to reach these goals. A concern was raised by one faculty member that in the past Yale didn't allow faculty to talk to potential funders (without great oversight by the development staff). With the growth in staff and some change in the approach by the Development Office, the situation is now somewhat improved.

A goal of the development staff is to align potential donors with institutional priorities including faculty research. They are highly reliant on faculty and departments to learn about things for which they should seek funding.

The development office writes, or helps write, a significant number of proposals each year for foundations and corporations. The number of proposals to foundations has increased from 100 to 150 between 2006 and 2009, although the number to corporations has been nearly constant. At present, foundations generally do not fund endowments for graduate or postdoctoral fellowships, but may fund current use fellowships. Most science funders are interested in funding for specific research projects. They also do not generally fund "bricks and mortar" projects, but there are some exceptions.

The current 7-yr (2004-11) development campaign is on pace to reach its \$3.5B goal, and has raised \$100M for FAS science & engineering. In the past year, funding for science and engineering has increased by 50% over prior years.

It was suggested that Yale development host or facilitate more science events for select alumni, since this approach has been successful for other schools. It was also suggested that development offer fundraising training for faculty.

## **2. Dining facilities on/near Science Hill**

The University Planner Laura Cruickshank and the Executive Director of Yale Dining Services Rafi Taherian joined us to discuss plans and options for dining facilities on/near Science Hill. A large fraction of the science and engineering faculty feel the current options are inadequate.

A planned dining facility in Sterling Chemistry Lab would be similar to dining facilities in residential colleges, with multiple food options, and lots of room for tables and seating. While it would likely meet most needs, it will not exist until after 2016. Donaldson Commons (SOM) will remain open until it is torn down for the new residential colleges, but there would be a period when neither Donaldson nor the SCL dining facility would exist.

In the short term, there exist detailed, but not final, plans to reintroduce food service on the 12th floor of KBT. The plan is for a "marketplace" similar to Gourmet Heaven, with lots of packaged food, hot soup, and microwave ovens to heat food that is packaged or cooked elsewhere. There is no plan to reintroduce a kitchen in KBT, so no food would be prepared there. The same fare, but no hot food, would also be available on the ground floor lobby of KBT. This struck some of the chairs as inadequate. The combination of limited food options and the hassle of dealing with slow elevators to get to the 12th floor would likely limit its success. The planners were urged to consider a plan that incorporates the food carts along Prospect and Sachem Streets, which have become very popular in recent years, but lack convenient nearby seating and tables, and convenient places to set up the carts. Such a plan would be less expensive than other options.

None of the above options would qualify as a "faculty club", which some faculty are interested in, as a place to bring guests for lunch, or have drinks after work. This would be more upscale, perhaps with waiters and a bar. It was pointed out that most faculty clubs are heavily subsidized, and many are not considered successful. The Chairs encouraged the planners to identify the successful models of faculty clubs (e.g., Caltech's Athenaeum), so that they could be considered for Yale. It was suggested that the "carriage house" on Sachem Street be converted into a faculty club/restaurant/bar.

*Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 10, 12pm - KBT 1202*