FROM THE FRONT

"If I can make it there, / I'll make it anywhere."
NEW YORK, NEW YORK FRANK SINATRA

No upcoming budget cuts, Lewis says

BUDGET FROM PAGE 1

"I don't anticipate any major changes one way or the other," Lewis said.

He also said he will meet with the Yale College Council Senate on Oct. 11, which could provide input on student priorities.

Lewis said the College prioritized expanding financial aid during the academic year while making savings elsewhere. The College's new financial aid thresholds mean that about one-third of first-year students do not pay tuition, according to Lewis.

Lewis said the College's new financial aid thresholds for families earning less than $100,000 or $200,000 are universal for students in those income groups. He said the new policy also communicates that Yale is affordable to prospective students.

He emphasized that the College has prioritized financial aid despite budget constraints.

"We've managed to maintain and enhance our commitment to financial aid this year, even in the face of the new endowment tax, which has made resources very constrained," Lewis said.

The College's financial decisions have also involved changes to summer funding support. Lewis said the College wanted to ensure that students could receive funding for one summer, while allowing students to request support for additional summers through fellowships and other programs.

"We're very happy and we like to be able to support summer, but we, you know, you just have to make choices between different priorities," Lewis said. "And so we figured that with one summer guaranteed and one summer that you can apply for additional support, most students will still get two summers if they want two summers."

The 2026-27 term bill for Yale undergraduate students is $94,100, with $72,500 in tuition and the rest in housing and food.

Contact
ANAYAH ACCILIEN *at*
anayah.accilien@yale.edu.



Martín Peralta / Head Photography Editor
After introducing cost-cutting measures last year, Yale College Dean Pericles Lewis said in a Tuesday interview that he does not foresee major budget cuts in the next few months.

Tax hike caused enrollment cuts

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from teaching to research, faculty members said.

"I'm not expecting it to be wonderful," Vaneeta Dayal, the chair of the linguistics department, said. "Graduate students cost money. So I'm not denying that, not denying the need to cut, because it's coming from necessity."

Administrators have estimated that the new law, which increased the tax on Yale's endowment income from 1.4 percent to 8 percent, would cost the University $300 million annually.

Zoltán Szabó, the chair of the philosophy department, wrote in an email to the News that although the current impact of reductions in graduate student enrollment is "moderate" in his department, he expects that negative effects will manifest in the upcoming years.

"Next year things will be harder, and after that - starting in 2028 and hopefully ending around 2031 - there will be questions about how to find qualified teaching fellows for some of our undergraduate classes," Szabó wrote.

Szabó added that the philosophy department usually aimed to enroll five new doctoral students per year. But the department will admit no doctoral students this year, he said — the combined effect of budget cuts and higher acceptance rates in 2023 and 2024.

The linguistics department was charged with reducing the total enrollment of its six-year doctoral program from 24 to 21 students over the course of three years, Dayal said. In the last admissions cycle, however, the linguistics department did not reduce its enrollment, she said.

Dayal described the admissions process as a "little bit of a dance because there's a deadline issue." Departments need to account for the possibility that applicants do not accept their admissions offers, and as a result, the GSAS permitted the linguistics department to make an additional offer last year, she said.

"I am not dissatisfied with the communication with the graduate school at all, but the opposite," Dayal said.

Instead, she said, her concern about the cuts was that a 12 percent enrollment decrease for all humanities and social sciences departments would disproportionately impact smaller programs.

Dayal said that the linguistics department would lose "critical mass" if its incoming class went from four to two students in order to reach 21 total enrollment in the program within three years.

Some humanities programs have not experienced cuts to their graduate school enrollments, however. John Peters, the chair of the film and media studies department, wrote in an email to the News that his program has not cut "slots for admitting new doctoral students."

Pierre Saint-Amand, the acting chair of the French department, wrote a similar message.

"We actually didn't suffer any cuts to our enrollments in French last year. There hasn't been any change to our 'quota,'" he wrote in an email to the News. "The job market for French has been in steady decline for a number of years now, and we have adjusted our acceptance numbers accordingly."

Enrollment decreases in STEM departments, on the other hand, have been complicated by the precarious position of federal grants.

According to a January statement from University spokesperson Karen Peart, the disparity between the percent enrollment decreases for humanities and social sciences and for STEM programs came from the nature of those programs' funding. While humanities and social sciences are funded entirely by the University endowment returns, Peart said, STEM funding comes from federal and private grants as well.

David Vasseur, chair of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, wrote in an email to the News that his program "did experience a cut that is consistent with the average across science departments."

He wrote that beyond funding cuts from GSAS, changes in federal funding "drastically reduced" the department's ability to cover the stipends of graduate students.

Patrick Holland, the chemistry department's director of undergraduate students, wrote in a Monday email to the News that his department accepted "roughly half" as many students as usual in 2025. However, that was not because of the schoolwide 5 percent enrollment cut but due to inflation and uncertainty in federal funding, he wrote.

"It is true that the GSAS cut the number of allowed graduate student admissions for the Chemistry Department like they did for other departments," he wrote. "Chemistry's admissions numbers were constrained not by an artificial cap from GSAS, rather we limited our number because of funding uncertainty."

Funding from Yale and the federal government has been "flat," while the costs of salaries, stipends and equipment have increased, Holland explained.

Holland wrote that current impacts to the reduction in chemistry graduate students are "already being felt." He wrote that given graduate students' role as "the primary researchers in our departments, having fewer graduate students means less research being done."

Yale enrolled its first graduate students in 1847.

Contact
SARA AGRAWAL *at*
sara.agrawal@yale.edu.

Nearly 200 students sign letter against settlement

LETTER FROM PAGE 1

ers in medicine and science, promoting curiosity and critical inquiry in an inclusive environment enriched by diversity."

Manu Sundaresan MED '33 and Kyle Gavulic MED '29, who organized and drafted the letter, said it was shared with administrators in an email. Medical school leadership has acknowledged receipt of the letter, but McInnis has yet to respond, according to Sundaresan and Gavulic.

In an email to the News, Brown affirmed the School of Medicine's commitment to its admissions standards.

"Yale School of Medicine (YSM) is committed to its mission and to recruiting outstanding students through a rigorous admissions process, as outlined in Monday's community-wide 'Beyond Sterling Hall,'" the dean wrote, referring to a Monday statement on admissions. "YSM holds regular town halls where I have the opportunity to hear directly from participants and answer questions, and I had a town hall with students on admissions this week."

In May, the Department of Justice issued a letter of findings accusing the medical school of discriminating in its admissions processes, favoring Black and Hispanic applicants over white and Asian ones. Its letter cited median medical exam scores and GPAs of applicants broken down by race.

The Tuesday letter sent to Yale administrators rejects the accusations leveled by the Justice Department and urges Yale to defend holistic admissions.

"The accusation of a Title VI violation levelled by the DOJ reveals more about the political priorities of this administration than unlawful misconduct in admissions processes at the School of Medicine," the letter reads, arguing that the federal government has used previous discrimination allegations to pressure other Ivy League universities into settlements.

"As a whole, the investigation indicates a misconception of holistic admissions, the role of GPAs and MCAT scores within such admissions, and the processes involved in selecting future physician leaders," the letter continues.

Chelesa Fearce MED '27, a student who signed the letter, said her personal experience has led her to believe in the importance of diversity in medical schools and the broader medical industry.

"I have seen firsthand the impact that I, as a black woman, have had on my patients because I share an identity with them," Fearce wrote in an email. "At a time when marginalized communities are increasingly disheartened, disowned, and discriminated against, I believe wholeheartedly that Yale should stand steadfast in its commitment to diversity and inclusion."

The Tuesday letter argues that "long-entrenched and well-documented inequalities in our public and higher educational institutions" both limit opportunities to become physicians and "may have produced the raw data animating" the Justice Department's May letter of findings.

"It is the responsibility of Yale's independent admissions committees—composed of leadership, faculty, and students—to determine whether applicants align with both the standards of admission and the goals of our institution, including inclusion and diversity," it reads. "The School of Medicine's commitment to holistic admissions, then, follows from its commitment to improving the health of all people."

The letter further raises concerns about student privacy regarding Yale's ongoing negotiations with the Justice Department. The department said that it received "applicant-level admissions data" from Yale in its May letter of findings.

Students claimed in the Tuesday letter that they had not been informed by the administration about how their privacy and personal information was being protected amid the ongoing federal negotiations.

A spokesperson for the University did not immediately respond to a request for comment on privacy concerns.

Adam Littleton MED '28 said the issue compelled him to add his name to the letter.

"I signed because I'm an underrepresented minority student at the YSM whose own admissions data was handed to the Department of Justice," Littleton wrote in an email to the News.

Littleton cited the letter's rejection of the Justice Department's findings as another reason why he signed it.

"The DOJ's report doesn't read like a good-faith evaluation of medical school admissions. It is clearly a document written to support harmful political narratives, I think the letter does a good job of articulating that," he wrote. "No student here should have to wonder whether their school regrets admitting them because of political pressure, and right now some of us do."

Students in the class of 2029 admitted to Yale's doctor of medicine program had a median cumulative GPA of 3.94, according to the school's website.

Contact
GILLIAN PEIHE FENG
at peihe.feng@yale.edu.



Tim Tai
A letter signed by 184 medical school students decried federal accusations of discrimination leveled against the school and urged the University to defend holistic admissions practices.