FROM THE FRONT

"Her eyes and words are so icy, oh, but she burns / Like rum on a fire"
CHERRY WINE HOZIER

Likely letters were intended to increase yield rate

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ents toward "more personalized recruitment efforts that can benefit all regular decision students." The shift is set to be budget-neutral, according to Quinlan.

In past years, likely letters were rolled out before regular decisions were released in the spring. Dunn said they did not use likely letters for applicants in Yale's winter round of restrictive early action since students applying early are more likely to matriculate.

Dunn said it is standard practice in the admissions office not to share exact data or yield figures for subgroups, like demographics or whether a student received a likely letter. Of the 2,328 students Yale admitted to the class of 2030, 1,652 matriculated — a rate of 70.9 percent.

On a 2021 episode of the Yale admissions podcast, admissions officers said they have traditionally offered around 200 letters to the candidates they deem most likely to receive offers from other elite universities.

"The yield rate on students who had received a likely letter has consistently been lower than the overall regular decision yield rate over the years," Dunn said.

Dunn said the decision was driven in part by the growing volume of applications and the larger size of Yale's incoming class.

The admissions office is now exploring an online portal that would allow admitted students to browse profiles of current students who have opted in to connecting with them, according to Dunn. He said rather than segmenting admitted students based on their background or interests, the portal would let all prospective students seek out current undergraduates they would be interested in connecting with.

"I think that this small shift in our recruitment strategy will enable the admissions office to provide more admitted students with opportunities to connect with current Yalies as they make their college decision," Quinlan wrote in an email.

Dunn said one of the most valuable aspects of the likely letter program was the opportunity for recipients to connect with a current undergraduate, giving prospective students a consistent point of contact as they considered their college options.

"We survey admitted students every summer, including students who've chosen Yale and students who haven't chosen Yale, and we ask them for insights about what helped to make their decision," Dunn said. "What comes up over and over and over again from students who are choosing Yale is that the community is what really stood out to them, the friendliness of the Yale students."



Kalina Sabala Montes / Photography Editor
Undergraduate admissions officers said they eliminated the program because it had little impact on yield rate. Officers and recruitment coordinators will focus on pitching Yale to a wider pool of students accepted in the regular decision round.

The likely letters have also been used to recruit elite students in science fields, through programs such as Yale Engineering and Science Scholars used to attract applicants with scientific research experience. While the program will continue, Dunn said the scholars will be notified with the rest of the admitted students pool.

The yield rate in 2023 for YES Scholars — before they started receiving guaranteed summer research funding that year — was around 35 percent.

The early action application deadline for Yale is Nov. 1.

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Trump tax hike is costing Yale $247 million annually

BUDGET FROM PAGE 1

research support—a crucial funding source—prompted the university to establish three-year budget reduction targets, enabling schools and units to adapt gradually to new financial constraints," Chatas and Strobel said in the statement.

Budget cuts announced last year included a 5 percent reduction in non-salary expenses, a 1 percent cut to the salary pool for faculty, managerial and professional staff and a reduction in graduate school enrollment.

In the College, budget cuts included a 7.5 percent decrease in staffing, reductions to financial aid for summer opportunities and the contract non-renewals of several instructional faculty.

Revenue from grants and contracts — both public and private — continued a downward trend from last year, falling $9 million, or 0.7 percent.

Yale spokesperson Karen Peart wrote in a statement to the News, on behalf of University Chief Financial Officer Katrina Spencer and deans of several schools the News contacted for comment, that "some areas of the university will feel more financial strain than others."

"This is primarily because areas of the university are funded differently," Peart wrote, noting that sources for schools' budgets include endowment income, patient care, grants and tuition. "The university has consistently provided support to deans and other leaders across campus as units explored workload redistribution and operations strategies and we will continue to do so."

The budget notes the School of Music receives the highest share of its income from Yale's endowment returns, at 98 percent, while endowment investment income revenue accounts for only 7 percent of the School of Medicine's income.



Martin Peralta / Head Photography Editor
Schools faced budgetary headwinds as they pitched fiscal year 2027 budgets to administrators. Despite what top officials called "significant financial pressures," the University achieved 78 percent of the cuts it aims to make in the next three years.

Endowment tax payment accounts for 12.4 percent of the School of Music's planned spending in the next fiscal year, while that expense accounts for less than 1 percent of the School of Medicine's spending.

The Jackson School of Global Affairs, Divinity School, Law School and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences also receive over 50 percent of their respective incomes from endowment returns, according to the new budget.

The School of Public Health receives more money from grant and contract revenue, as does the School of Medicine, which also receives money from medical services.

Evan Yionoulis '82 DRA '85, the dean of the David Geffen School of Drama, wrote in an email to the News that her school's "program chairs and department heads have thoughtfully and prudently made difficult cuts to the budget with an eye to preserving jobs and maintaining the excellence of the student educational experience."

The tax is responsible for 6.1 percent of the School of Drama's expenses this year, $2.9 million of $47.7 million, according to the new budget.

This year's budget includes a line-item "tax reserve charge," which represents the estimated cost to support the heightened 8 percent rate, according to the budget book. Last year, the 1.4 percent endowment tax was recorded "as a reduction in endowment income in the external revenue" and not its own line-item.

Income from Yale's endowment is the largest source of revenue for the University, bringing in $2.33 billion for the 2027 budget from a $44 billion endowment. Endowment spending is determined by a long-term rate approved by the Yale Corporation and a smoothing rule to account for variations in endowment performance.

Last year, a quarter of endowment spending went to teaching and research, 19 percent went to facilities and operations and 18 percent went to financial aid, according to the budget. "General support" and "Other Specific Purposes" account for the rest of endowment spending.

The budget for fiscal year 2027 has a total external revenue of $6.732 billion.

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'Significant number' of staff took retirement incentive

LIBRARY FROM PAGE 1

den for a Wednesday tour. "The Arts Library director has moved into my department. Now the Arts Library is directed by our film archive person."

Calpino said the changes happened over the summer.

According to Patricia Carey, a Yale Library spokesperson, a "significant number of staff" accepted the University's early retirement offer last year, "which afforded additional opportunities for us to rethink what we do and how we do it."

The retirement incentive program, which was announced last September, allowed employees of a certain age and experience to receive a healthcare subsidy and compensation package if they chose to leave their positions.

"Like all departments at the University, Yale Library is working within the budget parameters and targets set by University leadership last year in response to the increased endowment tax," Carey wrote in a Thursday email to the News.

New positions at the library are still opening up, according to Carey, but before they are posted roles are now reviewed by the Yale Library leadership team "in the context of budget and mission."

"Each position that opens up provides an opportunity to look at the whole organization and consider how the position can best support us in anticipating and innovating in response to users' needs," Carey wrote.

Gary Burcheski, the library's strategy analyst for collection services, operations and shelving, said the budget cuts have not significantly affected the library as a whole.

"What gets impacted sometimes would be staff processing the material, but we haven't really seen that drop off at all," Burcheski said, adding that some of the library's budgets are from "endowments and things that are very specific" which were not affected.

Calpino said she does not think library functions have changed.

"They're all still within Yale. No positions were cut. I don't think that was even on the table." Calpino said, "All the libraries are still there. They'll all still be open. They're all staffed."

Yale Library has more than 500 staff members, according to its website.

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Abby Ahuero / Contributing Photographer
Yale Library has consolidated operations and tightened job posting procedures after a "significant number of staff" took the University's retirement incentive last year, according to a Yale Library spokesperson.