FROM THE FRONT

"Whatever you do, don't fall asleep."
A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET WES CRAVEN

Yale lobbyists outspent Ivy peers in most recent quarter

LOBBYING FROM PAGE 1

Curricular Practical Training (CPT), Optional Practical Training (OPT), and H-1B visa application fees."

According to Jacob, Yale is working with peer institutions and university advocacy groups to "seek a reversal of these policy changes."

The Department of Homeland Security in July finalized a rule to establish a fixed term of admission to the United States for some student visa holders. A group of 16 Senate Democrats sponsored a resolution blocking and condemning the effort, which Jacob and Yale's Director of Federal Relations Sarah Shapiro advocated for, according to Jacob and Yale's lobbying disclosure.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement sought in August to limit curricular and optional practical training, two programs that allow students on visas to pursue summer or post-graduate work in the United States.

Since President Donald Trump returned to the White House, his administration has unleashed a multifront effort to change higher education policy, raising taxes on university endowment returns, imperiling federal grants and seeking to eliminate diversity initiatives.

After Trump's re-election in 2024, Yale President Maurie McInnis planned a lobbying push and announced plans for an office in Washington, which Jacob said has since opened.

While the University has avoided direct federal funding cuts, the endowment tax has forced budget cuts across Yale and the University has faced investigations into diversity policies. Several of its schools are currently under Department of Justice investigation for discrimination in their admissions processes.

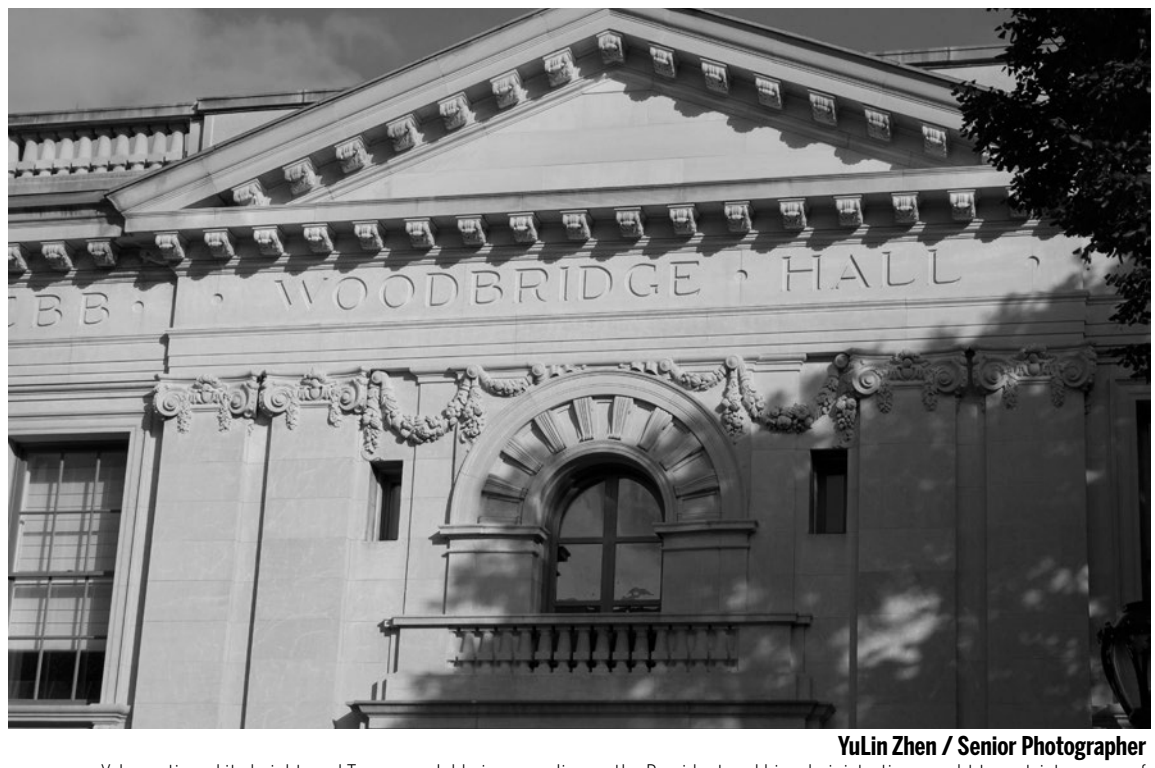
In the most recent quarter, Yale continued to lobby on a Republican-sponsored foreign funding bill, the DETERRENT Act, which would tighten restrictions and strengthen disclosure requirements on donations to universities from abroad. The University's lobbyists have opposed the act because they say provisions in the bill would limit cooperation between Yale and foreign researchers and universities.

Other lobbying focuses include quantum research, funding for medical research and grant management. In July, the University authored a public comment opposing a White House push to give political appointees the authority to approve or cancel grants. Hundreds of Yale students, researchers and professors posted comments of their own.

While the rule was set to take effect in October, Congress on Sept. 1 passed a continuing resolution which prohibited the rule from taking effect until Dec. 11. McInnis has expressed concerns about the new rule and the state of federal funding of higher education in interviews and public addresses.

The rule could potentially take effect in just over a month, but Jacob wrote that Yale, peer institutions and higher education associations are working on a "permanent solution."

McInnis said in September that lowering the 8 percent endowment tax is "off the table" as a lobbying focus. Jacob wrote that he anticipates the Treasury Department will "issue a proposed implementing regulation this winter" on the tax, and that Yale and peer schools plan to submit public comments.



YuLin Zhen / Senior Photographer
Yale continued its heightened Trump-era lobbying spending as the President and his administration sought to restrict a range of international student programs over the summer. Yale paced the Ivy League in lobbying spending this past quarter.

Shapiro and Jacob also lobbied on education of military personnel. Earlier this year, the Department of Defense included Yale in a list of schools that were "woke" and therefore ineligible to partner with the department for military fellowships. Three military fellowships were subsequently cancelled.

In March, shortly after the Pentagon announced that Yale was ineligible to host active duty fellows, a Yale official reached out to the Defense Department to schedule a meeting between Sean O'Keefe, a deputy under secretary at the Pentagon, and Holly Hermes, Yale's military affairs liaison, according to an email obtained through a public records request.

Hermes and O'Keefe met virtually on March 12, according to the emails, to discuss "the university's perspective on the scope and contributions of Yale's relationship with the armed services." Hermes told the News in April that a senior Pentagon official informed her that three military fellows slots — two Army fellows and one Marine Corps fellow — would be terminated.

In 2024, Yale spent $600,000 on lobbying.

Contact
LEO NYBERG *at*
leo.nyberg@yale.edu.

Salary was lowest among Ivies

MCINNIS FROM PAGE 1

zation and related organizations," according to the Form 990.

Robert Kelchen, the head of the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at the University of Tennessee, said in a phone interview that the figure is "middle of the pack among private universities."

"There are frequent complaints from faculty or students about how much administrators get paid," he said. "But they're also running a multi-billion dollar enterprise. And they are always on call. And as the last few years have shown, they have to go to hostile audiences pretty regularly."

Cantwell said some university presidents have direct pay, while others have salary "plus a bunch of perks," such as housing allowances and cars, or are paid "a base salary and then additional compensation based on predefined performance metrics."

Benjamin Ginsberg, a political science professor at Johns Hopkins, said in a phone interview that presidents typically will have "deferred compensation of various sorts," and could be "invited to serve on the boards of corporations for which they're paid stipends."

"The president of a medium-sized corporation makes more than that, a partner at a major law firm makes more than that. Her salary is not out of line with her position," Ginsberg said, referring to McInnis.

McInnis did not respond to questions about her current compensation. In response to the inquiry, University spokesperson Karen Peart referred to a document about the Yale Corporation Compensation Committee, which is responsible for recommending the President's compensation each year, including both salary and benefits.

"In doing so it will review the President's compensation in light of his performance; and review compensation information of other University presidents and leaders of comparably situated or otherwise comparable organizations," the document reads.

According to the most recently filed Form 990, McInnis was the 13th highest paid individual at Yale from July 2024 to June 2025, with University Provost Scott Strobel, School of Medicine Dean Nancy Brown and several of Yale's investment and finance officers receiving higher salaries.

"The president is not always the highest paid employee at a university," Cantwell said.

Cantwell said that at a place like Yale, directors of university-affiliated medical centers and senior physicians in university hospitals are sometimes paid more than presidents, often reflecting "the amount of money and compensation that's normal in the healthcare industry."

"You also see high levels of compensation at very prominent private universities in endowment management and things like that," he added.

Cantwell, who researches the political economy of higher education, said that while a university president's high pay can be a source of outrage, better metrics exist for evaluating a president.

"People get pretty worked up about the high numbers that they see for executive pay in higher education, and I get it, you know, they can be eye-popping numbers," he said. "But it's a complicated and demanding job."

Cantwell said evaluating presidents based on their approachability, openness to the community and engagement with stakeholders are better ways of assessing a president than their nominal salary.

Ginsberg, the author of the 2013 book "Fall of the Faculty: The Rise of the All-Administrative University and Why it Matters," said the problem of administrative costs in higher education is not an individual president's pay, but rather the "enormous administrative bloat" adding unnecessary layers of bureaucrats.

"The salary of a particular president is less important than the fact that we just have too many administrators spending too much money, drawing too much of the salary," Ginsberg said. "I don't begrudge this particular individual a reasonable salary. It's that Yale, like everyone else, has too many of them."

According to the Office of Institutional Research, Yale's managerial and professional workforce grew from 3,308 employees in fall 2000 to 6,274 in fall 2024.

At a September event at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C., McInnis said that Yale is undergoing an "operational efficiency exercise" and taking steps to address an April faculty report's recommendation to "streamline bureaucracy."

Abraham Pierson, the first rector of Yale College, received an annual sum of 120 pounds for his role, according to the College's founding charter.

Contact
ARIA LYNN-SKOV *at*
aria.lynn-skov@yale.edu.



Garrett Curtis / Photography Editor
Yale President Maurie McInnis' salary in the first year of her role, which was included in the University's most recent tax disclosures, was generally in line with other private university presidents' compensations, according to higher education experts.

Long-shot Democrat pledges to sue Yale

MAYOR FROM PAGE 1

sue the state for school money. What if we make the banks sue us for their money? What if everybody's suing everybody? What then?" he asked.

Taubes' clients have included around a dozen New Haveners who have sued the city, often related to alleged police misconduct. He currently represents Ward 21 Alder Troy Streater, who is suing the city for $100 million after he spent 23 years in prison based on evidence which witnesses have said was coerced. Streater declined to comment on Taubes's mayoral run.

"I like situations that are like David versus Goliath, where it's the individual, typically a human, against a large institution that is just running roughshod over them," Taubes said in a phone interview last month, describing the cases he takes on in his legal practice.

As mayor, Taubes said, he would sue Yale, Connecticut and the federal government. Suing Yale would be a more effective way to get money from the University than voluntary payments, he said.

"New Haven needs to try and sue again and get more money — as simple as that, really," he said.

In March, Yale and New Haven reached a deal that will see the University give the city around $230 million over the next seven years. That deal followed decades of clashes between town and gown over the University's longstanding tax exemption.

Taubes acknowledged that Yale has generally prevailed in legal battles over the exemption, but said that the city is "due for a win."

"A gift is a debt with better manners," Taubes said of the recent voluntary payment deal, a dynamic which he said leads to "political stagnation."

In a Tuesday phone interview, Elicker contested Taubes's characterization.

"In no way does Yale increasing their payment to the city tie our hands in what we advocate for," he said, pointing to the increase in Yale's yearly payment — from around $12 million in 2020 to around $30 million this year — as evidence of the city's "tough" negotiating.

Elicker added that he appreciated the "compliment" of Taubes' description of him as a "good mayor."

"In the world I live in," he said, "good means good and bad means bad."

Taubes said he hopes to put much of the money raised through his proposed lawsuits toward New Haven's public schools, which he said are a top priority.

He also proposed firing all but two members of the city's staff, shutting down streets around Yale's campus as punishment for student jaywalking and building a casino on the site of the defunct English Station Power Plant.

These proposals, he said, are not satirical.

In a comment reported by the New Haven Register in September, Elicker said he anticipates "lively dialogue" with Taubes and that he takes "every candidate seriously."

This mayoral run is not Taubes's first bid for elected office. In 2014, while still in law school, he ran for a seat in the Connecticut House of Representatives. He received about 43 percent of the vote in that election but was defeated by the Republican incumbent. In 2020, Taubes ran for State Senate as a petitioning candidate. He received 795 votes, around 2 percent of the total votes cast in that election.

In 2019, Taubes assisted former New Haven Mayor Toni Harp ARC '78 in a reelection campaign which pitted her against Elicker. After Elicker defeated Harp in the Democratic primary, Taubes helped to launch a political action committee to support Harp's candidacy in the general election. He also offered her pointers ahead of a debate, Harp said in a phone interview.

Harp described Taubes as an "extraordinary human being."

"He uses his talents to help people who don't have access to those talents," she said. Using his law degree, Taubes "could have made a lot of money," she said, lauding his choice to stay in New Haven and work on civil rights cases.

In a text message to the News, Patricia Rossi, a co-president of the Connecticut League of Women Voters said she encouraged voters to ask Taubes about the "point of his campaign" — and to ask Elicker as well.

Both Elicker and former Republican mayoral candidate Steve Orosco, who challenged Elicker last year, have previously compared themselves to David in contrast to Goliath.

Contact
NELLIE KENNEY *at*
nellie.kenney@yale.edu.