FROM THE FRONT

"Nothing can be done without hope and confidence."
HELEN KELLER AMERICAN AUTHOR AND ACTIVIST

Some earnings grew by millions

EARNINGS FROM PAGE 1

In 2024, Sullivan, who received $4,175,425, and Banker, who received $4,166,189, had worked at Yale for nearly 39 years and for 27 years, respectively.

James Finkelstein, a professor emeritus of public policy at George Mason University, said in a Wednesday phone interview that the people who manage Ivy League schools' endowments "are paid extremely well because their market value is really determined in the private sector."

He said that jobs in the private sector, such as managing a hedge fund, require the "same skill set" but pay much more.

The University reports the compensation of its highest-paid officers and employees in a Form 990, reserved for organizations that are income tax-exempt. Yale's most recent available tax filings report on the fiscal year that ran from July 2024 and June 2025. While Yale files taxes by fiscal year, the University must disclose compensation for the calendar year that ended during or with the fiscal year. The 2024-25 filings report compensation from the 2024 calendar year.

Yale is obligated to report in their tax filings the compensation of "current officers, directors and trustees" as well as up to 20 "key employees" whose reportable compensation exceeds $150,000 and its five highest paid other employees whose reportable compensation exceeds $100,000, according to the Internal Revenue Service.

Mendelsohn's salary is consistent with the salaries of chief investment officers and equivalent positions at peer universities, tax filings show. In 2024, the president of the Princeton University Investment Company earned $4,722,776, the chief investment officer of the Harvard Management Company earned $5,125,560 and the CEO of Columbia's Investment Management Company earned $5,382,553.

Yale's by-laws state that the Committee on Compensation, a subgroup of the Yale Corporation, "will review the recommendations of the President on compensation of the Officers and will make recommendations to the Corporation on the compensation of those individuals."

According to notes in Yale's tax 2024-25 tax filings, the compensation committee voted on the Chief Investment Officer's compensation after considering both the president's recommendation and the officer's performance, along with the performance of the Yale endowment over certain periods. It noted that the committee considers compensation received by similarly qualified individuals in comparable roles at other organizations.

Yale's endowment saw an 11.1 percent return in the 2024-25 fiscal year, around the average endowment growth of its Ivy League peers. In the 2023-24 fiscal year, it returned 5.7 percent.

Salovey's tenure as Yale President ended on June 30, 2024. His compensation for the 2024 calendar year, as recorded in Yale's Form 990 for the 2024-25 fiscal year, overlapped with his presidential tenure for six months. His 2024 compensation of $4,019,357 included $1.5 million labelled as "Bonus & incentive compensation" and surpassed his 2023 compensation of $2,453,342 by over $1.5 million.

The Form 990 for the 2024-25 fiscal year also reported the compensation of Yale School of Medicine Dean Nancy Brown '81, which totaled $1,256,259 in 2024.

According to the form, the compensation of the dean of the School of Medicine was recommended by the president to the compensation committee, which also reviewed the dean's performance and looked at compensation of individuals in similar roles.

In 2024, Yale employed 12,058 staff members across the University, according to its website.

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Ellie Park
The compensation of Yale Investments' leaders led the pack of administrative earnings, with the Chief Investment Officer receiving over $5 million in 2024 and compensation for the office's managing director jumping by nearly $3 million that year.



Braden Mathis / Staff Photographer
The committee charged with developing recommendations on grading will take longer than expected to finalize its guidance, Yale College Dean Pericles Lewis told the News.

Juniors would not be subject to new rules

GRADES FROM PAGE 1

Some undergraduates told the News earlier this month that they were concerned that potential policies to address grade inflation would foster unnecessary competition and harm student mental health.

Yale's timeline on addressing grade inflation would be essentially one year behind Harvard's. This February, a Harvard committee on undergraduate grading released its recommendations — including a policy to cap A grades at 20 percent for each course, allowing for up to four additional A's per class. The policy is set to go into effect in fall 2027 after a May faculty vote.

YCC President Alex William Chen '28 and Vice President Michelle Jimenez '28 are the only two student members on the Committee on Teaching, Learning and Advising, which is mainly composed of faculty members and administrators. When asked for his position on grade inflation, Chen said he would be willing to give more input once the initial report is released. Jimenez did not immediately respond to a request for comment on grade inflation.

The YCC has not taken an official position on grade inflation, according to Sonnenfeld and Julian Berkowitz-Sklar '28, who are the directors of the YCC academic policy committee.

"I think that Alex and Michelle, their goal is to expand campus resources rather than to be a direct advocate in terms of grade inflation," YCC Finance Coordinator Brent Wang '29 said.

While YCC's top leaders have remained silent on grade inflation, Chief of Staff Brendan Kaminski '28 wrote in a text message to the News that the YCC is monitoring the issue and encouraged students to share their perspectives in their fall survey.

Meanwhile, Johnson said he thinks grade inflation is "more of an administration and faculty-handled matter" rather than one handled by student government.

"There isn't really one universal opinion from our constituents that we can channel into policy recommendations for admin or faculty," he said.

Berkowitz-Sklar wrote in an email to the News that the YCC does not have an official stance on grade inflation. He expressed concern that grade deflation policies, particularly those imposing caps on A and A-minus grades, could discourage students from taking challenging courses, exploring unfamiliar academic subjects and participating in extracurricular activities.

Rather than relying on comparative grading policies, Berkowitz-Sklar added, potential reforms should prioritize transparent grading practices and direct feedback between professors and students.

"Despite current inflation, the workload at Yale remains high, and students are working tirelessly throughout all hours of the day and night," Berkowitz-Sklar wrote. "Concerns over GPA may prevent students from dedicating meaningful time to pursuits outside the classroom."

In an April report, the Committee on Trust in Higher Education wrote that "decades of inflation and compression have rendered the college grading system almost meaningless" and recommended a "college-wide standard" like a 3.0 mean GPA.

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New Zealand granted legal personhood to river in 2017

RIVERS FROM PAGE 1

in motion and seeing where there is resistance, seeing where there is acceptance, is part of my role as the researcher," they said.

When Sindoni arrived in New Zealand, their biggest question was about the logistics of legal personhood after the 2017 Te Awa Tupua Act.

"It all seems really great on paper, but, like, where's the mess? What's changing? Where is power being redistributed?" Sindoni said.

Many of Sindoni's interviewees noted that before the Te Awa Tupua Act, consulting Indigenous leaders in decisions about the Whanganui River was often a "checkbox exercise," they said. Now, the Whanganui Iwi can contribute more to the consultation process.

Sindoni added in a follow-up email to the News that speaking for the river is a "complex process that rests in the sovereignty of the Tribe."

David Cordero-Heredia, a visiting professor at the Yale School of the Environment who is familiar with Sindoni's research, wrote in an email to the News that the Whanganui River "provides a very important example."

"The deeper lesson is that legal systems should be willing to listen to Indigenous legal traditions and worldviews and, where appropriate, develop new legal institutions that reflect relationships of responsibility, reciprocity, and respect between human communities and the natural world," Cordero-Heredia wrote.

The personhood of the Whanganui River can complicate legal procedures, but Sindoni noted that the ideal of efficiency can also be reconsidered.

"Instead of just a court being the ultimate arbiter, or a policy to follow, there's this kind of web of relationships that take more time," Sindoni said. "We also have to be more willing for things to take more time, to be patient, to sit with inefficiency."

Throughout their time in New Zealand, Sindoni said, they met many people in this "web of relationships," from talking with Iwi leaders to attending a meeting for a multimillion dollar port remodeling project.

Sindoni said before the meeting, engineers had read the Te Awa Tupua legislation to keep in mind the personhood of the river.

"Seeing that received well, and knowing that the engineers wanted to be guided by that, was just a very different paradigm," they said. "People really wanted to take that seriously."

Gerald Torres, Sindoni's doctoral advisor and a professor of environmental justice and of law, wrote in an email to the News that "there is rarely an easy answer when it comes to integrating different ways of knowing," but that Sindoni's research could help policymakers worldwide draw insight from the Whanganui River's legal personhood.

Several other rights of nature movements have occurred across the globe. In 2016, Colombia granted legal personhood to the Atrato River, and in 2019, voters in Toledo, Ohio, passed a Lake Erie Bill of Rights — soon overturned in court.

Sindoni said they are curious how people's relationship to the Whanganui River will continue to develop in New Zealand, and how similar worldwide movements will progress.

"The process of colonization was hundreds of years," they said. "Of course it's going to take more than 10 years for us to figure out how to break those systems."

Sindoni said they plan to publish a book about their research in the near future.

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Shyam Suva / Contributing Photographer
Eight years after the New Zealand government granted the Whanganui River legal personhood, Raffaele Sindoni ENV '23 '28 headed to the country to examine the ramifications of that decision and the tension between Indigenous and Western frameworks.