



Abby Assouad, Staff Photographer

Lewis looks at grading guidance

BY OLIVIA WOO
STAFF REPORTER

Less than two weeks after a Harvard faculty committee proposed a cap on the percentage of A grades given to undergraduates there, Yale College Dean Pericles Lewis said that Yale faculty will receive recommendations to combat grade inflation “within a year or so.”

On Feb. 6, Harvard faculty released a report proposing that professors cap the number of A grades at 20 percent of their class size, along with a new internal ranking system for determining honors and awards, the Harvard Crimson reported. The recommendations come as rising con-

centrations of both A grades and grades in the A range — including a spike during the COVID-19 pandemic — have sparked controversy at both Harvard and Yale.

“I think it’s very sensible of the Harvard faculty and leadership to be thinking about this challenge,” Lewis said in an interview last week. “I think a situation where a majority of grades are a straight A, and where the median grade is an A, obscures differences in accomplishment by the students and makes it harder to reward the best-performing students.”

The Harvard faculty recommendations come after the number of A

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Olivia Woo,
Contributing Photographer

Conservative fellow picked by McInnis

BY ARIA LYNN-SKOV AND LEO NYBERG
STAFF REPORTERS

After 22 years writing opinion columns for The New York Times, David Brooks said it took a personal call from University President Maurice McInnis for him to consider a late-stage career shift.

Now, Brooks is the inaugural presidential senior fellow of McInnis’s new program aimed at increasing intellectual diversity and addressing declining trust in universities. At Yale, Brooks — a self-proclaimed conservative and “clear never-Trumper” — will be housed at the Jackson School of Global Affairs.

In a 40-minute interview with the News at MOTW Coffee on Crown Street, against a background of lo-fi music and colorful murals, Brooks discussed his new position at Yale, the role of a modern university president and the state of higher education under President Donald Trump. Brooks said he hopes to help solve declining trust in higher education while at Yale.

“It’s a terrible time to be a university’s president because of Trump and what he’s doing,” Brooks said. “But it’s also kind of an exciting time.”

Brooks said he spoke to McInnis on the phone “months ago” about “the

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Some Yale College staff laid off



Kalina Sabala Montes, Contributing Photographer

BY OLIVIA WOO
STAFF REPORTER

A 7.5 percent decrease in Yale College staffing has resulted in “a very small handful of layoffs,” Yale College Dean Pericles Lewis said in a Thursday interview with the News.

“I can’t go into more detail than that,” the dean continued, saying he wanted to maintain his staff’s “confidentiality in their personal and professional lives.”

The comment came two weeks after Lewis said the Yale College administrative staff would shrink by around 20 people in anticipation of the tax hike that will apply

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Academic freedom push begins

BY JAEHA JANG
STAFF REPORTER

Roughly 100 faculty members gathered on Tuesday to launch a campaign that calls for Yale to add academic freedom protections to its faculty handbook.

The event, which was hosted by the Yale chapter of the American Association of University Professors in a small lecture hall in William L. Harkness Hall, served as the launch for the group’s academic freedom campaign, which demands the addition of explicit guarantees of academic freedom to the faculty handbook by the end of this semester. At the event, faculty also discussed their experiences of threats to academic freedom and wrote postcards to University President Maurice McInnis.

“Our newly launched academic freedom campaign will create

opportunities for faculty from every rank and every corner of the university to share their experiences of why academic freedom matters to them,” Daniel HoSang, an American studies professor and the president of Yale’s AAUP chapter, wrote in an email to the News.

“We are documenting examples of faculty who have faced infringements on their academic freedom in teaching, research, or public speech, and are providing channels for communicating those concerns directly to President McInnis,” he added.

The event was “closed to the press” to “ensure that faculty had a space where they could speak freely and honestly,” HoSang wrote. More than a dozen attendees leaving the lecture hall declined to answer questions about the event, with some citing that they were told

during the event that it was closed to the press.

According to the group’s website, its new campaign calls for revisions to the faculty handbook that would guarantee faculty input in future handbook revisions, explicitly define academic freedom, acknowledge that both faculty and Yale have an obligation to protect academic freedom, clarify that faculty contracts are with the University itself — not departments or programs — and protect divisions from closure without faculty consultation.

These demands, which were outlined last October as a joint initiative between the AAUP and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and School of Engineering and Applied Sciences Senate, were developed after an “extensive review of Yale’s Fac-

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City reins in police fund after theft

BY REETI MALHOTRA
STAFF REPORTER

City officials announced Thursday that the New Haven Police Department is overhauling the oversight measures for its confidential informants program, six weeks after former Police Chief Karl Jacobson allegedly admitted to stealing from the fund and abruptly resigned from his position.

Acting Police Chief David Zannelli, who took the helm of the department after Jacobson’s departure on Jan. 5, signed into effect a temporary special order

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Reeti Malhotra,
Contributing Photographer

Football coach leaves after 14 years, citing his health



Liza Kaufman, Staff Photographer

BY ELI RATNER
STAFF REPORTER

Following a historic 2025 season with the Yale football team, Head Coach Tony Reno has stepped down due to health issues.

Yale Athletics announced Tuesday morning that Reno was leaving his position as the Joel E. Smilow ’54 Head Coach of Football. Over the past 14 years, Reno has led the Bulldogs to five Ivy League championships. Under his coaching, the team has won The Game in seven of the last nine contests. His 83 career victories place him second of all time among Yale football coaches, behind only

Carm Cozza, according to a Yale Athletics press release.

“Given my current health situation, I have made the decision to step down as head coach of Yale Football,” Reno said in the press release. “From the very beginning, I spoke about honoring the proud tradition of Yale Football and fully embracing the responsibility that comes with leading this program.”

“I am incredibly proud of the foundation we laid and confident in the future of Yale Football. Serving as the head coach of this program has been the greatest honor of my life,” he added.

Immediately following the end of the 2025 season, Chun

announced that Reno would take a leave of absence for health concerns. Sean McGowan, the head coach of defense, has served as interim head coach since then. The nature of Reno’s health situation was not immediately clear.

In 2017, Reno led the Bulldogs to their first outright Ivy League victory in 37 years. Five years later, Reno was awarded the Ivy League Coach of the Year after winning the league outright once again with a dominant 8-2 record.

In the fall, Team 152 reached a new milestone. After a successful year and another dominant win against

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INSIDE THE NEWS

Democrat Christine Kim '99 won a quiet special election for the Ward 7 alder seat Tuesday evening.

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GRAFFITI Workers for Yale removed political messages painted in red in the snow on Cross Campus and Old Campus on Wednesday morning.

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A CAPELLA The Whiffenpoofs and Whim ’n Rhythm, two all-senior a capella groups, tapped their newest classes of seniors.

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