FROM THE FRONT

"There is a light and it never goes out"
THE SMITHS THERE IS A LIGHT THAT NEVER GOES OUT

Yale to limit courses between 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

SCHEDULE FROM PAGE 1

decrease from more than 100 to just 30. In light of the recent developments, some professors expressed a range of emotions, from concern to ambivalence to confusion.

"Our current schedule offers over 100 different meeting blocks during the week, many of which are partially overlapping, underusing classroom space, and complicating students' schedules," the administrators' email reads. "This schedule is decades old, makes poor use of classrooms, and has not kept pace with the number of courses now available to the student body, which has grown substantially in recent years."

The email was sent on Jan. 30 and signed by Dean Jeffrey Brock of the School of Engineering & Applied Science, Dean Lynn Cooley of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Dean Steven Wilkinson of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and Dean Pericles Lewis of Yale College.

In the new scheduling system, no more than 60 percent of any program's or department's courses can be scheduled between 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., a period which, according to the email, has "peak demand for classrooms."

Daily language courses will gain the option to meet at 8:20 a.m., 2:35 p.m., 4 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m. and 8 p.m., in addition to the current class times of 9:25 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., according to the website of the University Registrar's Office. Departments will no longer be able to schedule daily 11:35 a.m. language classes. In the fall, 50-minute lecture courses will also be permitted to meet at 8:20 a.m.

Lewis said the changes were made partially in response to challenges regularly experienced by first-year students, who often face trouble simultaneously completing their language requirements and taking introductory courses required for their majors. He added that undergraduates would no longer be permitted to schedule overlapping classes, a revision of a policy adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The 11:35 slot is the most popular slot for lecture courses, which are often prerequisites for other majors and so on," Lewis said in an interview on Thursday. "And in the past, we've found a lot of conflict between that and the four-day or five-day-a-week language classes, which students also often are taking their first year."

Lewis added that using the same classrooms for longer periods of the day is "good for environmental reasons" because there will be "less heating and cooling of rooms." He continued that the changes are "good for instruction quality, because we're not having to use as many marginal rooms that are sort of crummy" or "windowless."

Wilkinson also wrote in an email to the News that Yale's "peer schools use far fewer time slots, which is one indicator that things needed simplifying."

The administrators' email to faculty also said that the new schedule guarantees at least a 15-minute break between all blocks and that the College has been in "close contact" with professional school deans to "encourage alignment" and "ease cross-school registration." At least 75 percent of courses in most professional schools will now align with the College's blocks, the email said.

The changes were made following recommendations provided by the Course of Study Committee during the 2024-25 academic year and were discussed at Yale College faculty meetings in May and December 2025, according to the email. The committee consists of professors, administrators and two undergraduates, according to its website.

Wilkinson also wrote in an email to the News that "maybe (my estimate) 100 people" attended the second faculty meeting on Dec. 4, "at which many instructional and ladder faculty provided input on the changes."

Language instructors, who will no longer be able to teach courses between 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m, expressed mixed reactions to the changes.

"The language faculty in French have had a variety of concerns, including how the new patterns will impact the complexity of course scheduling, their back-to-back teaching schedules, classroom availability, small class sizes, and student preferences," Constance Sherak, the director of the program in French, wrote in an email to the News. "Students may not choose to take French (or another language) based on the new patterns because they could conflict with afternoon commitments."

Sherak added that the scheduling requirements present a new "logistical concern" for faculty members who have to drop off or pick up their children in the early morning and late afternoon hours, during which they may now have to teach.

Modern Greek, which is a small language program, will be unaffected by the timetable changes, according to Maria Kaliambou, the director of undergraduate studies for the program in Hellenic Studies.

Kaliambou wrote in an email to the News that "these changes are particularly burdensome for larger language programs."

Korean language faculty opted to include the 2:35 p.m. slot in their teaching schedules and to exclude the 8:20 a.m. timeslot "because this is generally too early for students," according to Angela Lee-Smith, the coordinator of the Korean language program.

"Overall, the Korean Program faculty are pleased that this adjustment will allow us to offer students a more balanced and diverse set of course meeting times across the curriculum," Lee-Smith wrote in an email to the News. She also noted that 50 percent of Korean language courses will now be offered from the 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. "peak-demand" period, down from the current 67.5 percent.

English professor Heather Klemann also wrote in an email to the News that she is relieved that students will have more time to travel between classes. She currently teaches on York Street and worries that her "poor students" coming from Science Hill would injure themselves on the ice trying to make it on time.

"Students shouldn't have to leave classes early or arrive late because they didn't have enough time between classes that meet back-to-back--I'm glad the university did something about it," Klemann wrote.

Yale offered its first Filipino language courses in the fall semester.

Contact **OLIVIA CYRUS** *at olivia.cyrus@yale.edu,* **OLIVIA WOO** *at olivia.woo@yale.edu and* **JAEHA JANG** *at jaeha.jang@yale.edu.*

First woman to headline since 2014



Logan Dinkins / Staff Photographer

SPRING FLING FROM PAGE 1

EDM — all genres that Yale students had expressed interest in, according to a survey conducted by the committee last September.

"Our priority for this year was building a lineup that appeals to the diverse music tastes of Yale's student body," Mateo Felix '27, the talent chair of the Spring Fling Committee, said. "We do a survey at the beginning of every year, and pop is always the genre that people feel most excited about, so this year, to be able to finally meet that expectation has been a really incredible journey."

Last year's headliner was originally announced as NLE Choppa before he cancelled just over two weeks before the festival due to personal health issues. Ultimately, the Spring Fling committee chose Ken Carson as the replacement.

At this year's festival, Aluna, a British singer-songwriter and DJ, is slated to be the first performer in the lineup.

A former member of the duo AlunaGeorge, Aluna has collaborated with KAYTRANADA, Chris Lake and Diplo. In 2023, Aluna began a music label spotlighting the talent of Black, female and LGBTQ artists in the music industry.

Following Aluna, rapper and singer Sheck Wes will take the stage. Wes is best known for his 2018 single "Mo Bamba" and has since released music with J. Cole, Travis Scott and Don Toliver.

Committee members said they were especially proud to feature Larsson in the lineup because she has grown as an artist and cultural sensation over the last few months.

"We were very excited to have someone who's been such a main pop voice throughout our lives," Lelah Shapiro '27, hospitality and operations chair of the Spring Fling Committee, said. "Something that really stood out to us is how engaging and captivating her performances are in terms of fan engagement and her general stage presence."

Sophie Peetz '28, the committee's creative and marketing strategy chair, said she was looking forward to promoting Spring Fling "not specifically around one artist, but rather the vibe we are trying to curate — more of a dance, party vibe."

In response to the live announcement, the crowd at Toad's erupted into roaring cheers.

"Spring Fling did an amazing job combining three different popular genres of music and managed to incorporate everyone's preference very well," Ayannah Obas '27 said. "I'm really excited, and I'm already planning my outfit."

Committee chairs met over the summer to brainstorm potential artists. When the school year began, they presented their pitches to the rest of the Spring Fling Committee and allowed the rest of the members to weigh in.

When evaluating musicians, the committee takes into account cultural relevance, listenership statistics and videos of live performances to gauge if the artist will be a good fit, members said. And they prioritize getting the artist confirmed as early as possible, as the date of Spring Fling is popular for college spring music festivals.

Once the artists are secured, however, the work does not end. Last year, the festival had to be briefly paused due to poor weather conditions. In order to ensure the festival continues, a contingency plan is in place.

"We always have a backup plan in place to ensure everyone can really enjoy this experience," Jalen Freeman '27, the production chair of the Spring Fling committee, said. In the event of extreme weather, Spring Fling could be moved indoors to the Lanman Center in Payne Whitney Gymnasium.

Before the lineup of professional performers, the winners of the Spring Fling's annual Battle of the Bands will warm up the crowd. On April 11, student music groups will perform for an audience of their peers, who will decide which bands they would like to open the festival.

Contact **GEMARD GUERY** *at gemard.guery@yale.edu.*

20 years after police scandal and reforms, city taps auditor again

POLICE FROM PAGE 1

"pretty abusive towards city residents," John DeStefano, who served as mayor of New Haven from 1994 to 2014, said in a phone interview on Tuesday. "It was a narcotics unit issue, and it was made worse because it was driven by the leader of the narcotics unit, White."

In 2006, an unidentified undercover state law enforcement officer contacted the FBI after White approached the officer and "suggested that they engage in illegal activity," FBI special agent James McGoey wrote in a 53-page affidavit which he filed under seal in 2007.

On Jan. 31, 2007, the FBI planted around $27,500 in cash in the back of a rental car, the affidavit says. The same undercover employee reportedly told White that he had heard from an informant that the car belonged to a drug dealer and contained a large sum of money.

White decided to steal the money and stage his theft as a break-in, according to McGoey's affidavit, which cites audio footage of White collected by the undercover officer. According to the affidavit, he took the entire amount from the car, shared about half with the undercover employee and wrote "estupido" on the emptied money bag in an attempt to divert suspicion.

In March of 2007, Kasperzyk stole $1,000 while searching a New Haven home and split the money with Silva, the News reported in 2008.

That same month, the FBI raided the New Haven Police Department's headquarters and arrested White and Kasperzyk. White pleaded guilty to bribery and theft of government property. Kasperzyk pleaded guilty to felony and a misdemeanor, and Silva pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor, the News reported at the time.

After the arrests, the narcotics unit was temporarily disbanded. At the same time, New Haven hired the Police Executive Research Forum, a nonprofit organization focused on policing practices, to examine the department. The organization's 127-page report, which the city received in November of 2007, encouraged the department to embrace a "new vision."

The report suggested establishing a written performance evaluation system, internal audit system and mandated ethics trainings.

It also included a list of suggestions specific to the confidential informant program, including that the department establish a designated position responsible for overseeing and distributing confidential funds, rotate narcotics unit personnel and conduct an annual audit of informant files, including payments made to informants.

The report concluded that the existing approach, which did not routinely follow "strict policies and procedures," broke down when senior officers and supervisors were not "good role models."

DeStefano said in a phone interview that regularly rotating narcotics personnel was a "hard lesson" of the thefts. In 2009, the News reported that the department had adopted 90 percent of the report's recommendations, including organizational and procedural changes.

DeStefano suggested that the officers became too immersed "in the atmosphere" of the unit and so became "unmoored from values they once had."

"I don't think Billy White started out as anything other than a good cop. He just became something else or made some choices that were something else. So to me it is this issue that starts with training and accountability," DeStefano said.

The narcotics unit was revamped in 2008 at the report's urging. The confidential informant policy was "updated" the same year, Officer Christian Bruckhart, the police department's spokesperson, wrote to the News.

Bruckhart pointed to further changes in police department policy since the White, Kasperzyk and Silva cases, including mandatory body camera usage and recording policies for interviews. The department has required officers to wear body cameras since 2017, five years before they became mandatory for all Connecticut officers.

In recent years, the confidential informants fund has been overseen by the department's assistant chief of investigations, a role which Jacobson held from 2019 to 2022. Jacobson continued to oversee the fund after he became chief in 2022, officials have said.

In a Wednesday interview, Mayor Justin Elicker suggested both policy and culture reforms.

"We need to make absolutely sure that public dollars are always audited, especially when there's cash available, and that there's better systems in place to make absolutely sure that people are following the rules and abiding by the law," he said.

At a press conference at police headquarters last Thursday, Elicker and Acting Police Chief David Zannelli announced a set of new guardrails under a temporary order to restart the informants program's operations, which had been paused last month after the allegations against Jacobson came to light.

When confronted by his assistant chiefs about his theft of funds, Jacobson said that he had spent "too much gambling," according to an affidavit in the application for his arrest warrant. He had turned to gambling after fixing his alcohol addiction, Jacobson reportedly said. The affidavit said that Jacobson had wagered over $4 million across two online gambling platforms last year.

Elicker added that it was important to "reiterate to people that are in the city, that we have support for people that are suffering from addiction." He pointed to the city's employee assistance program and added that the city has discussed other ways to "identify problems before they become more significant."

Elicker announced on Friday that the city plans to pay $87,000 to the Police Executive Research Forum to analyze the department's practices and draft a report with recommendations.

Elijah Hurewitz-Ravitch contributed reporting.

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



Reeti Malhotra / Contributing Photographer