



The Compelling Interests of 2016 for the Open Harvard College Grant

34S-14

Sponsored by

Shaiba Rather, Cabot '17, President

Danny Banks, Dunster '17, Vice President

Vote by Roll Call

Passed 2/15/16

Yes: 37

No: 0

Abstentions: 0

Anna Wechsler, Adams '18: Yes

Jazil Waris, Adams '18: Yes

Scott Ely, Adams '18: Yes

Cameron Khansarinia, Cabot '18: Yes

Chris Cruz, Cabot '17: Yes

Jacob Steinberg-Otter, Cabot '16: Absent (Full Meeting)

Shaiba Rather, Cabot '17: Yes

Jack Kelley, Crimson Yard '19: Absent (Full Meeting)

Leah Stewart, Crimson Yard '19: Yes

Nicholas Whittaker, Crimson Yard '19: Yes

Taylor Li, Currier '18: Absent (Full Meeting)

Yasmin Satchee, Currier '18: Yes

Ziyad (Ziko) McLean, Currier '18: Yes

Laila Smith, Dudley '17: Yes

Danny Banks, Dunster '17: Yes

Ju Hyun (Alice) Lee, Dunster '18: Absent (Full Meeting)

Mika S. Esquivel, Dunster '18: Yes

David Frankle, Eliot '18: Yes

Stephen Cho, Eliot '18: Yes

Taylor Marquis, Eliot '18: Yes

Ashrithaa Anurudran, Elm Yard '19: Absent (Single Vote)

Evan Bonsall, Elm Yard '19: Yes

Victor Agbafé, Elm Yard '19: Yes

Catherine Zhang, Ivy Yard '19: Absent (Full Meeting)

Dennis Kim, Ivy Yard '19: Absent (Single Vote)

Scott Xiao, Ivy Yard '19: Absent (Full Meeting)

Diana Im, Kirkland '17: Yes

Laura Chang, Kirkland '18: Yes

Parth Thakker, Kirkland '18: Yes

Isaac Inkeles, Leverett '16: Absent (Full Meeting)

Jullian Duran, Leverett '18: Absent (Full Meeting)

Oliver Kim, Leverett '16: Yes

Berkeley Brown, Lowell '18: Absent (Single Vote)

Mac Schumer, Lowell '17: Absent (Full Meeting)

Samarth Gupta, Lowell '18: Yes

Al Corvah, Mather '18: Yes

Eduardo Gonzalez, Mather '18: Yes

Yehong Zhu, Mather '18: Yes

Alex Popovski, Oak Yard '19: Absent (Full Meeting)

Nicholas Boucher, Oak Yard '19: Yes

Oluwalani Oisaghie, Oak Yard '19: Yes

Meriton Ibrahim, Pfoho '18: Yes

Neel Mehta, Pfoho '18: Yes

William Greenlaw, Pfoho '17: Yes

Brett Biebelberg, Quincy '16: Yes

Kevin Hornbeck, Quincy '16: Yes

Wyatt Robertson, Quincy '18: Yes



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Daniel Levine, Winthrop '17: Yes
Madeleine Stern, Winthrop '18: Yes

Vimal Konduri, Winthrop '17: Yes

The President and Vice President of the Undergraduate Council and its Representatives General find it a compelling interest of the year 2016 to address mental health at Harvard College. Recent demand for peer counseling spaces in the Quad,¹ calls for a more racially diverse set of professional as well as nonprofessional resources,² and efforts to destigmatize the act of seeking help³ have elevated mental health to the forefront of campus discourse. The Undergraduate Council will partially devote its Open Harvard College Grant to the mental health initiatives of Harvard College students in an effort to improve existing resources and reprioritize mental health at Harvard College.

The President and Vice President of the Undergraduate Council and its Representatives General find it a compelling interest of the year 2016 to address race relations at Harvard College. The recent Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Report,⁴ student rallies in response to heightened racial tensions across America,⁵ and concerns over funding inequities along racial lines amongst student organizations⁶ have recentered discourse around race relations at Harvard. The undergraduate community ought to foster open dialogue and build community celebrating racial diversity at Harvard College. The Undergraduate Council, in an effort to empower both student organizations and individuals, will partially devote its Open Harvard College Grant to the initiatives of the undergraduate students that address race relations and racial tensions at Harvard College.

The President and Vice President of the Undergraduate Council and its Representatives General find it a compelling interest of the year 2016 to address sexual assault and harassment at Harvard College. Over the past year, the undergraduate student body

¹ Narayanan, Menaka. "New Initiative Brings Mental Health Resources to the Quad." *The Harvard Crimson*. 02 Feb. 2016. Print.

² Lessin, Kara. "Support Minority Students: Diversify Counseling and Mental Health Services." *The Harvard Crimson*. 11 Dec. 2015. Print.

³ Hiatt, Nathaniel. "Students Talk Campus Mental Health Stigma With Coakley." *The Harvard Crimson*. 29 Oct. 2015. Print.

⁴ Harvard College Working Group on Diversity and Inclusion. *Report of the College Working Group on Diversity and Inclusion*. Rep. Harvard University, Nov. 2015. Web.

⁵ Bernhard, Meg. "Students Rally in Support of Black Activists at Peer Schools." *The Harvard Crimson*. 19 Nov. 2015. Print.

⁶ Cunningham, Jalin. "Khurana Fields Criticisms on College Diversity." *The Harvard Crimson*. 11 Dec. 2015. Print.



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has called through protest and petition for stronger preventative measures,⁷ a bystander intervention program,⁸ the adoption of an affirmative consent policy,⁹ and the inclusion of students in decisionmaking.¹⁰ The students of Harvard College are exposed to a tragic level of sexual assault and harassment endangering their welfare and the safety of our community. Thus, the Undergraduate Council will partially devote its Open Harvard College Grant to enhance preventative measures to reduce sexual assault and harassment of Harvard College students.

The President and Vice President of the Undergraduate Council and its Representatives General find it a compelling interest of the year 2016 to address social spaces at Harvard College. Undergraduates have continuously expressed concern over a lack of inclusive and accessible spaces for social life.¹¹ In the past year, the College and its students have dedicated time and resources to creatively enhancing social life.¹² The imbalance of resources on campus makes it particularly difficult for students to access their own social spaces. The Undergraduate Council will partially devote its Open Harvard College Grant to empower the student body to host inclusive social events.

⁷ Frederick, Sidni M. "Petition Signing." *The Harvard Crimson*. 20 Nov. 2015. Print.

⁸ Ortiz, Andrea. "This Is Not About Final Clubs." *The Harvard Crimson*. 5 Nov. 2015. Print.

⁹ The Crimson Editorial Board. "A Step Forward Against Sexual Assault." *The Harvard Crimson*. 8 Feb. 2016. Print.

¹⁰ Cunningham, Jalin. "The Back of the UC Ballot." *The Harvard Crimson*. 19 Nov. 2015. Print.

¹¹ Delwiche, Noah. "Students Host Closed Forum on 'Changing Social Scene'". *The Harvard Crimson*. 3 Nov. 2015. Print.

¹² Lorch, Kristina. "Women's Groups Host Party To Promote Inclusive Social Space." *The Harvard Crimson*. 13 Oct. 2015. Print.