

Sounds About Right: Yale's Administrators Outnumber Its Undergraduate Enrollment

Alex Parker - Nov 14, 2021



(AP Photo/Jessica Hill)

If you're wondering about the state of bureaucratic bloat in America — and, particularly, in education — look no further than Yale University. As noted on the school's "By the Numbers" [Facts page](#), the student and faculty count compare thusly:

Undergraduate Students: 4,664

Faculty Members: 4,962

And according to the [Yale Daily News](#):

Administrators: 5,066

By contrast, the metrics at [Auburn University](#):

Undergraduate students: 24,505

Faculty: 1,426

Administrative/Professional: 2,446

“Over the last two decades,” Yale’s paper [reports](#), “the number of managerial and professional staff...has risen three times faster than the undergraduate student body.” And eight faculty members are speaking out. They insist, per YDN, the administration’s size “imposes unnecessary costs, interferes with students’ lives and faculty’s teaching, spreads the burden of leadership and adds excessive regulation.”

In an email to the outlet, Professor of English Leslie Brisman proposed a solution: Get rid of one deanship or vice presidency each year. Leslie’s noticed that hasn’t quite occurred: “[I]t has seemed to me that [President Peter Salovey] has created one upper-level administrative position a month.” Some blame cross-country campus bloat on Washington.

According to a [report](#) from the American Council on Education, in 2013 and 2014 alone, the United States Department of Education added new rules and regulations on 10 new issue sets, including grants, loans and campus crimes. The report further details that, according to data from the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, “the number of federal requirements placed on colleges and universities grew by 56 percent between 1997 and 2012.”

But University of Colorado Law Professor Paul Campos [considers](#) that excuse hogwash. As stated by YDN, he surmises “the main driver has been the desire of administrators to accumulate power and influence within their institutions.” More from Yale Political Science Professor James Scott: “One [cause] is the tremendous increase in revenue generated by these universities that more or less has to be spent. This means that as revenues go up, there has to be found ways to spend them. And one of the most natural ways to increase spending is to increase administration, the size of it and the compensation of the top administrators in particular.”

David Bromwich, who teaches English at the school, blames administrative obesity on academic ego: Yale is striving to establish itself as a mecca of research and an “innovative corporate entity.” “The swollen self-image requires expanded oversight, and administrators are the overseers.” But Assistant Dean of Student Affairs Hanna Peck has a defense for the desk-worker dilation: “Students have

consistently requested more mental health support on campus and we are thrilled to be able to provide it.”

Sounds right.

Of course, Yale is a private institution; but it strikes me as indicative of what’s happening in education broadly.

Some occupational additions, of course, are compliments of our enlightened state.

As I [covered](#) this week, Southern Illinois University — which has declared itself a completely “[antiracist](#)” organization — employs a Chief Diversity Officer and Vice President for Antiracism, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. The best I can tell, schools aren’t exactly focused on traditional academics:

<https://redstate.com/alexparker/2021/11/14/sounds-about-right-yales-administrators-outnumber-its-entire-undergraduate-enrollment-n475400>