

President Richard Levin  
Woodbridge Hall  
December 2, 2004

Dear President Levin,

As students at an exciting and active university, we must often choose between equally appealing opportunities. A student's decision to take one class, for example, means that the student cannot take another class that meets at the same time. A student's decision to attend a particular Master's Tea may mean that the student will not be able to participate in a college intramural game. However, we believe that there are some experiences that are so important, so mutually enhancing, and so essential to Yale's mission that students should not have to choose between them. For example, a student should not have to decide between continuing to attend Yale and working for a non-profit organization during the summer. A student should not have to decide between participating in extracurricular activities and graduating without crippling debt. Attached you will find a series of similar choices that students believe they should not have to make. Yet students are often told by the financial aid office that everyone must make such decisions. We are told, essentially, that deciding to attend Yale is inconsistent with wishing to participate in a supportive, diverse academic environment.

We do not believe that this is true, and we call on you, as the President of the University, to reform the system of financial aid so that students can both attend Yale and participate in the rich social and academic life it offers. You received a proposal for a financial aid platform from the Undergraduate Organizing Committee. The proposal grew out of a canvass in which we spoke with four hundred Yale students about financial aid. In light of the broad support for this effort, we would like to meet with you to discuss the platform further. We request a meeting before Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 17, 2005. There is no better way of honoring Dr. King's legacy than by continuing the fight for equal opportunity.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

The Undergraduate Organizing Committee

Please contact:  
Rebecca Livengood  
(203) 687-8266  
livengood@yale.edu