

To the Yeshiva University Student Body,

Over the past few months, the Student Council Presidents have met with the Yeshiva University Team on Matters of LGBTQ+, Roshei Yeshiva, and diverse representatives from all facets of the student body. It is our responsibility as student government leaders to “further the interests and provide for the general welfare of the Student Body, cooperate with Yeshiva University administrators and faculty in handling problems concerning the Student Body, provide for the management of student activities...and enrich the religious atmosphere on campus” (Wilf Campus Constitution) and “facilitate an active, engaged, and inclusive undergraduate campus community and strive to represent the undergraduate student voice in communication between University administration, faculty, staff, and trustees” (Beren Campus Constitution).

Our role is to facilitate conversation between students, administration, and faculty. As a function of that role, we have met with students from inside and outside the LGBTQ+ community, administrators, and Roshei Yeshiva to discuss the intricacies of having the YU Alliance as a club on campus. As a result of these discussions, we believe that abstaining from this vote and giving the decision to the administration will lead to open and direct communication between the administration and the members of the proposed YU Alliance. This will allow both parties to discuss implementing solutions that will provide support to the LGBTQ+ community at Yeshiva University.

The decision about a club focusing on LGBTQ+ matters at Yeshiva University is too complex and nuanced to be voted on by Student Council Presidents. We are not administrators, we are not rabbis, and we are not subject matter experts. While our role is to express the student voice, our role is not to determine major ideological decisions for the institution.

This decision has larger implications outside of Yeshiva University. These implications are beyond Student Council Presidents and have been considered by those who have more experience in matters of this magnitude. For these reasons, we have decided to abstain from voting on the club status of the YU Alliance.

This is not the end of the conversation; it is a commitment to continued progress in creating a stigma-free campus towards LGBTQ+ students. We are maintaining open communication between the student body and administration. We will advocate for students on campus. We will cultivate love and mutual respect in our campus community because every single person who chooses to be a part of Yeshiva University deserves to feel that they belong.

Your Student Council Presidents,

Wilf Student Councils

YSU President, Zack Greenberg
SOY President, Yoni Broth
YCSA President, Leib Wiener
SYMSSC-Wilf President, Chayim Mahgerefteh

Beren Student Councils

SCWSC President, Aleeza Katz
TAC President, Bella Adler
SYMSSC-Beren President, Miriam Schloss

SLC-Wilf Senior Co-Chair, Yossi Zimilover