

# My Response to the Yale Daily News Article on the Yale Political Union Debate with Governor Jindal

*By Brian Cashin, Fall of 2017 President of the Yale Political Union*

The recent Yale Daily News article about the Yale Political Union debate with Governor Bobby Jindal exhibits overt disregard for fact and the standards of journalism and seemingly endeavors to veil the bright progress achieved by the Yale Political Union during the autumn of 2017.

Governor Bobby Jindal stayed at the New York Hilton Midtown hotel on the night of the September 5<sup>th</sup> Yale Political Union debate for \$444.39, the only hotel stay entailed by his travel arrangements. The “luxury St. Regis hotel” was in no way involved in Governor Jindal’s travel arrangements, as this article indicates via anonymous hearsay sources. The relevant section from Governor Jindal’s official travel itinerary for that trip is included below. **Both Governor Jindal himself and the Washington Speakers Bureau can attest to the accuracy of this itinerary and of these details.**

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**11:45 PM EDT** Arrive at New York Hilton Midtown  
Location: 1335 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, NY 10019  
Phone: 212.586.7000  
Fax: 212.315.1374  
Confirmation: 3370730747  
Room Type: Non-Smoking / King Bed  
Billing: All charges master billed to WSB.  
Notes: Late arrival confirmed.

**Wednesday, September 6, 2017**

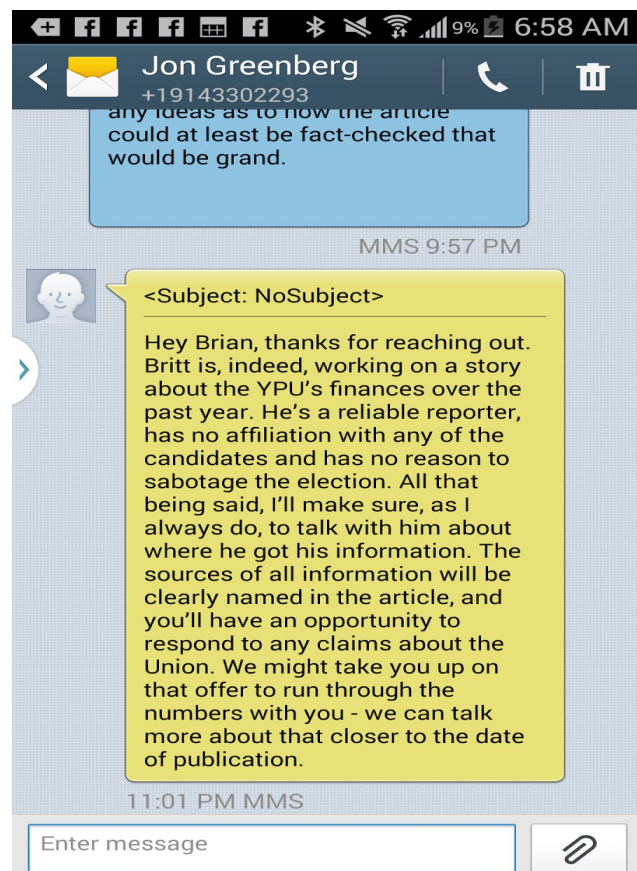
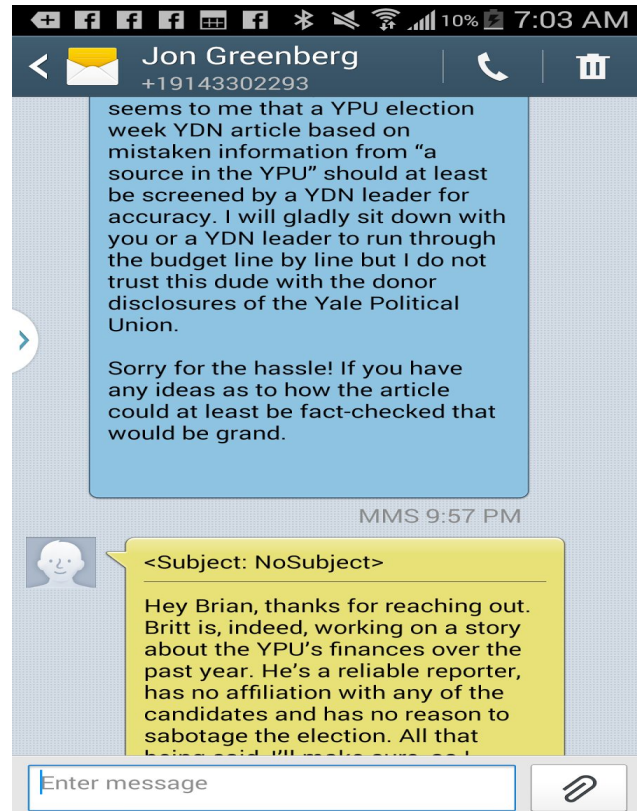
**10:00 AM EDT** Ground Transportation - New York Hilton Midtown to Personal Meeting to LGA Airport  
Car Service: International Limousine Service  
Telephone: 202.388.6800 x218  
Confirmation: 600876\*2 / Arranged by WSB/KSS  
Pickup notes: Met by driver with a name sign in car window that reads 'BOBBY'

**1:00 PM EDT** Commercial Air Travel  
Delta (DL) Flight 705  
Locator: GWPOW4  
Seat: 2B (First)

Adobe Acrobat Reader interface shows the document title 'Official Itinerary of Governor Jindal's Visit to Yale.pdf' and various toolbars. The right sidebar includes 'Export PDF' and 'Adobe Export PDF' options.

Immediately upon receiving the list of claims of this article as questions from YDN reporter Britton O'Daly (on December 5<sup>th</sup>), I welcomed Britton's superior, YDN News Editor Jonathan Greenberg, to conduct whatever line by line evaluation of the Yale Political Union budget records that he or the leadership of the Yale Daily News wished such as to debunk whatever was being claimed in this article. Jon acknowledged the invitation and said that it would be considered. No action was taken by the leadership of the Yale Daily News to make such a budgetary evaluation. Jon also promised that "The sources of all information will be clearly named in the article," yet this article features anonymous attacks. Screenshots of this conversation are included to the right.

At no point between Jon Greenberg responding to say that the YDN would consider the invitation to fully review the Yale Political Union budget on that evening of December 5th and the morning of January 19th upon which this article was published, when I contacted the Editor-in-Chief of the YDN in response to seeing this article online, was I contacted by any staff member of the Yale Daily News other than Britton O'Daly.



The budget figures used in this article are taken out of context such that a misrepresentation of the Yale Political Union's Fall of 2017 financial situation is presented. This article asserts that "a temporary \$13,477 budget deficit" was created by Governor Jindal's visit. The article does not list from where this figure was retrieved, but it is absolutely certain that this figure did not take note of the Accounts Receivable of the Yale Political Union, money that was definitely already set to arrive in the Yale Political Union checking account before the conclusion of the Fall of 2017 semester, including significant sources of semesterly income such as membership dues and incoming grant funding. Contrary to what is suggested in this article, funding from sources like the Intercollegiate Studies Institute and the Elm Institute was promised to the Yale Political Union before the Fall of 2017 semester even began. These funding grants were then received in the second half of the Fall of 2017 semester. This article seems to imply that such funding grants were secured in response to pressure by the executive board, which is untrue.

Yale Political Union revenue last semester exceeded spending, hence the Yale Political Union Fall of 2017 budget surplus. It was a semester during which the Yale Political Union expanded both its membership and its financial savings while simultaneously lowering membership dues. On top of its bank savings, the Yale Political Union possesses an endowment with a market value as of this month of \$311,570.74, which now stands larger than at any previous moment in the 84 year history of the Yale Political Union.

The speaking fee for Governor Jindal was approved by the Spring of 2017 YPU executive board on the afternoon of Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017; it was not "unexpected" as this article suggests.

private car to stay — according to what three members of last semester's YPU executive board heard from their President during

If the anonymous sources of this article can actually substantiate any of their claims, they should go on the record and do so.

Every on the record source listed in this article attests that their quotes were used inappropriately, and YDN Reporter Britton O'Daly took a quote from an explicitly off the record interview and published it in the article.

# Jindal visit created divisive YPU budget deficit

BRITTON O'DALY | 12:45 AM, JAN 19, 2018

STAFF REPORTER

The title of this article does not shed light upon the actual outcome of the story described in this article; namely, a budget surplus for the Yale Political Union Fall of 2017 semester, and the tone of this article does not seem to be impartial.

The Fall of 2017 semester of the Yale Political Union was a time of optimism and much achievement. Teamwork carried the Union to new heights of its vision and mission, and does so still.

Sincerely,

Brian Cashin

*Fall of 2017 President of the Yale Political Union*