

Brown University Community Council

Special Public Meeting (Virtual)

Thursday, April 25, 2024

4:00 – 5:00 PM EST

Meeting Minutes

Present: Christina H. Paxson, William Acevedo, Louis Boyang, David Buchta, Mary Jo Callan, Cass Cliatt, Ruth Colwill, Vilma Cortez, Frank Doyle, Susan Duffy, Eric Estes, Aiyah Josiah-Faeduwor, Nicholas Greene, Leon Hilton, Dawn King, Beverly Ledbetter, Aliya LeeKong, Ainsley Lesure, Kevin Logiudice, Ken Mak, Jennifer Maloney, Farha Mithila, Daniel Newgarden, Caroline O’Brien, Esha Patel, Kermshlise Picard, Ma. Irene Quilantang, Elliott Rebello, Neil Safier, Mina Sarmas, Robert Sobol, Alex Vidmar, Stephanie Zielinski, Sydney Menzin

Absent: Nicole Bonelli, Sylvia Carey-Butler, Max Clermont, Kayla Rosen

President Christina H. Paxson begins the special BUCC meeting, welcoming Council members. The President recaps the previous BUCC meeting on April 16, 2024, during which two BUCC members introduced two motions for consideration by the Council, one concerned with divestment and one concerned with charges against student protestors who were arrested for trespass in University Hall. These motions were not on the agenda for last Tuesday’s meeting, and nothing had been distributed about them in advance. President Paxson says, according to the BUCC bylaws, the Council should not be voting on these motions even today; the bylaws say that motions and materials must be proposed in writing at least 14 days in advance of the meeting. However, President Paxson says that because this is a special circumstance and we are heading towards the end of the semester, she decided to schedule this very special time-limited (one-hour) meeting to consider the two motions. These two motions, along with related background information, were circulated to BUCC members on Monday, April 22, 2024. We’re following the practices that were developed since the beginning of the pandemic for faculty meetings, which means that this meeting is being held virtually, given concerns that people would not be able to attend in-person at this time close to the end of the semester. President Paxson notes that the Council will use Google Forms to vote (Yes, No, Abstain) anonymously, starting with a “test vote” to make sure everyone is comfortable with the process.

Two BUCC members bring up questions related to procedural matters and meeting format. The Council moves forward with the meeting following the procedure outlined by President Paxson. President Paxson moves forward with the first motion: At the last BUCC meeting on April 16, 2024 it was moved and seconded to vote on the resolution for discussion of divestment from the Israeli occupation at the next Brown Corporation meeting. The motion reads: “*Be it resolved* that the Brown University Community Council recommends that students conducting activism for

divestment be allowed to present a case for and resolution for divestment from the Israeli occupation of Palestinian Territory to the Brown Corporation at its next meeting.” President Paxson opens the floor for questions or comments related to the motion. She clarifies that this is not a discussion about whether Brown University should divest, but whether the students should have an opportunity to present to the Corporation.

A friendly amendment is proposed to specify the number of students recommended to present to the Corporation on the topic of divestment to be “five”. The motion is approved (26-1-4).

The Council votes on the updated motion, which reads: *Be it resolved* that the Brown University Community Council recommends that a group of five students conducting activism for divestment be allowed to present a case for and resolution for divestment from the Israeli occupation of Palestinian Territory to the Brown Corporation at its next meeting.

The motion is approved (17-13-1).

Next President Paxson presents the second motion: *Be it resolved* that the Brown University Community Council recommends that Brown University drops any and all charges against students arrested during the 12/11/23 sit-in calling on the Corporation to consider a divestment proposal. President Paxson opens the floor for questions or comments related to the motion.

The Council votes on this motion. The motion is approved (17-9-5).

President Paxson thanks members of the Council for their commitment to the thoughtful consideration of issues of concern for the Brown community, and for their advice.

The meeting concludes.