

Minutes of the Brown University Community Council (BUCC) Meeting
Tuesday, March 20, 2012
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Members: President Simmons, Provost Schlissel, Russell Carey, Karen Davis, Margaret Klawunn, Dick Spies, James Baird, Corey Brettschneider, Anne Fausto-Sterling, Brad Marston, Kiri Miller, Alexander Sherry, Anne-Caroline Sieffert, Sean DeBobes, Beverly Larson, Jill Rossi David Sherry, and Daniel Harrop were in attendance. Joan Wernig Sorensen, Melani Cammett, Thomas Lewis, Eric Suuberg, Corey Walker, Ralanda Nelson, Michael Roh, Michelle Site, Michael Stewart, Melina Packer, Matteo Riondato, Audrey Butcher, Catharine Beattie, Connie Livingston, Rebekah Eckstein, and Anita Louise Schell-Lambert were unable to attend.

The minutes of the February 28, 2012 meeting were approved.

Beppie Huidekoper, Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration, began the discussion of financial aid for undergraduate students with a review of total student charges for the past eleven years. Total student charges consist of tuition, room, board, and other mandatory fees such as the health services fee. Ms. Huidekoper then reviewed the total student charges at the University's peer institutions. Brown's total student charges will increase by 3.5% for AY'13 as compared to Dartmouth's 4.8%, Stanford's 3.1% increase and Yale's 4.9% increase. The tuition rate at Brown will have increased 4.4% per year on average between AY'02 and AY'13. During the same period, Brown will have increased its financial aid budget by 9.4% per year on average which has resulted in a net tuition increase of 3.7% per year. Jim Tilton, Director of Financial Aid, continued the discussion by giving an overview of how financial aid is determined: estimated cost of attendance less parent and student contributions equals need. Next Mr. Tilton compared the need-blind policies, parent contribution, and loan policies among the Ivy League. Brown is need-blind for US citizens and permanent residents and is need aware for international and resumed undergraduate education students. At Brown there are no parent contributions for those with incomes less than \$60,000 and student loans are based on parent incomes.

Alex Mechanick and Anthony White, members of Brown for Financial Aid, presented the group's proposal that Brown implement need-blind for all undergraduate students, that it allow all students to re-apply for financial aid and appeal decisions, and that it lower the average loan burden for students to \$15,000 and lower the annual work-study expectations by \$1,000. Administrators at the meeting were supportive of the goal for Brown to be completely need-blind but pointed to the budget constraints of the University.

A commitment was made by the administrators to continue discussion with Brown for Financial Aid. Financial Aid will be on the agenda of a BUCC meeting next semester.

Matt Breuer, Micah Swann, Jessica Fields, and Jenny Li presented a proposal for the creation of a Brown Sustainability Strategic Plan. The proposal recommends that a University committee comprised of faculty, staff, administrators, and students be created and tasked with drafting the Plan. The proposal includes possible areas for the committee to address, including resource management, food, academic integration, community coordination and outreach, and evaluation. The Council recommended that the Provost establish a committee that advises on sustainability.

The next meeting of the Brown University Community Council will be held on April 24, 2012 from 4:00 – 5:30 pm in the Kasper Multipurpose Room, Stephen Robert '62 Campus Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Pincince, Secretary of the Brown University Community Council