

Minutes of the Brown University Community Council (BUCC) Meeting
Wednesday, September 19, 2012
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Members: President Paxson, Provost Schlissel, Russell Carey, Margaret Klawunn, Marisa Quinn, Kim Roskiewicz, Bill Twaddell, James Baird, Richard Bungiro, Anne Fausto-Sterling, Linford Fisher, Catherine Kerr, Brad Marston, Alexander Krotow, Alexander Sherry, Anthony White, Matteo Riondato, Julia Heneghan, Catharine Beattie, Sean DeBobes, Connie Livingston, and Dan DiPrete were in attendance. Thomas Lewis, Eric Suuberg, Elizabeth Taylor, Michael Roh, Melina Packer, Beverly Larson, Jill Rossi, David Sherry, Rebekah Eckstein, and Anita Louise Schell-Lambert were unable to attend.

The minutes of the April 24, 2012 meeting were approved.

President Paxson began the discussion of the strategic planning process by reviewing the planning retreat in August in which members of the senior administration and faculty participated. The retreat resulted in the development of a set of broad goals based on Brown's core values and areas of strength intended to inform the planning process. Provost Schlissel continued the discussion with an overview of the planning goals and the six committees (Faculty Recruitment, Career Development, and Retention; Financial Aid; Educational Innovation; Doctoral Education; Online Teaching and Learning; and Reimagining the Brown Campus and Community) being formed to address them. Each committee will discuss its preliminary findings and ideas with the President and Provost by early December, followed by prioritized recommendations by the end of the spring semester. The work of the committees will be collaborative and include outreach to and involvement of the larger Brown community.

Provost Schlissel and Katherine Bergeron, Dean of the College, gave an update on online education initiatives. Last January, the Provost formed an Ad Hoc Committee on Online Education, chaired by Dean Bergeron. The Committee was charged with gaining perspective on the rapidly changing landscape of online education, considering Brown's efforts to date, and making recommendations for the future. At the conclusion of its work the Committee submitted a report that included the following recommendations: support faculty in finding technology-based solutions and new styles of teaching to address known curricular challenges; investigate the current infrastructure for foreign language instruction; evaluate the organization of staff and resources that support the use of instructional technology; develop a small number of credit-bearing courses, to be offered during summer session, either entirely online or in a hybrid format; establish an institutional partnership with Coursera on a trial basis; and support some number of upper-level seminars that would design and produce original and innovative online courses and course materials.

The next meeting of the Brown University Community Council will be held on Tuesday, October 16, 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