

**Minutes of the Brown University Community Council (BUCC) Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 8, 2016**  
**4:00 – 5:30 p.m.**

Members: President Paxson, Provost Locke, Mary Grace Almandrez, Russell Carey, Beverly Ledbetter, Reid Cooper, Susan Harvey, Daniel Kim, Jennifer Lambe, Evelyn Lincoln, Kurt Teichert, Manuel Contreras, Sazzy Gourley, Cameron Johnson, Grace Stokan, Eve Dewan, Aislinn Rowan, Liz Rubin, Jovian Yu, Fernando Betancourt, Kelly Garrett, Aixa Kidd, Brendan McNally, Linda Welsh, Daniel Harrop, James Gardner, and Emily Maranjian were in attendance. Cass Cliatt, Paula McNamara, Vesna Mitrovic, Don Operario, Anita Shukla, Lily Cohen, Sveta Milusheva, Leora Johnson, and Milisa Galazzi were unable to attend.

The minutes of the February 16, 2016 meeting were approved.

Cathie Axe, Director of Student and Employee Accessibility Services (SEAS), Karol Gaitan, Coordinator, SEAS, and Cliff Resnick, Director of Planning, Facilities Management gave a presentation on Disability and Access at Brown. Cathie Axe began by reviewing the definition of disability which transitioned from a medical to a social model in the mid-seventies. A disability is defined as a physical or mental impairment that limits a major life activity. Services for students, faculty and staff members with disabilities are provided by many offices at Brown and are coordinated through SEAS. Karol Gaitan next discussed the current issues that SEAS is handling: growth in demand for services; changing programs such as flipped classrooms; concussions; exam support accommodation support; and emotional support animals.

Ms. Axe spoke about how certain technologies create access while others create barriers. She stressed the importance of Brown sourcing accessible products and designing accessible web sites. The University has identified a vendor to provide captioning for all videos. The Digital Accessibility Working Group is identifying and addressing barriers to digital access.

Cliff Resnick reviewed the physical accessibility of Brown. The topography, weather, wayfinding, and integration with Providence impact access to the campus. The overall age of the buildings and houses influences building access. Facilities Management is committed to keeping the lifts, automatic openers, and elevators in working condition. Ms. Axe played a clip from a video developed by students as a Pathology to Power class project. The video highlights the inaccessibility of Wilson Hall – both access into and movement within the building.

Ms. Axe outlined several initiatives aimed at increasing access on and around campus: the accessibility map, the SEAS shuttle, the hearing loop in 85 Waterman St., and the Campus Access Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee sets University accessibility standards for construction, provides input into renovations and new construction, and manages an annual budget for American with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements.

Mr. Resnick discussed the accessibility projects scheduled for this summer. The lift in Manning Chapel is being replaced by an elevator. The existing elevator in Andrews Hall will be replaced by a larger one. The Robert Campus Center terrace will be made accessible from the inside.

Ms. Axe concluded the presentation by speaking about inclusion: holding events in accessible spaces, providing support accommodations and services, implementing universal design, and expanding Disabilities Studies. She encouraged thinking of disability as an area of diversity.

Members of the BUCC and audience asked about the process for receiving accommodations and the types of accommodations available. There was discussion about the roles and responsibilities of students and faculty with regard to accommodation requests.

The next meeting of the Brown University Community Council will be held on Thursday, April 21, 2016 from 4:00 – 5:30 pm in the Stephen Robert '62 Campus Center, Kasper Multipurpose Room.

Respectfully submitted,  
Catherine Pincince, Secretary of the Brown University Community Council

**Brown University Community Council**


**Tuesday, March 8, 2016**

**4:00 – 5:30 pm**

**Stephen Robert '62 Campus Center, Kasper Multipurpose Room**

**Agenda**

1. Approval of Minutes of February 16, 2016 Meeting
2. Discussion: Disability and Access at Brown  
*Cathie Axe, Karol Gaitan, Cliff Resnick*
3. Open Time for University Community Members to Present Broad Campus Issues to the Council



# Disability and Access at Brown

Catherine Axe and Karol Gaitan, SEAS  
Clifford Resnick, Facilities Management

# Disability Defined

- Medical vs. Social Model
- Physical or mental impairment that limits a major life activity
- Learning disabilities, ADHD, psychological conditions (bi-polar, depression), medical conditions (diabetes, cancer, severe food allergies), mobility impairments (including injuries), visual impairments, hearing impairments
- Most disabilities are invisible
- Over 1300 working with SEAS (mostly students but also faculty and staff)

# Current Access Issues

- Growth in demand for services
- Changing programs – online, overseas, low residency, flipped classroom
- Concussions
- Exam accommodation support
- Emotional Support Animals

# Technology

- Creates access – Assistive technology
- Creates barriers
- **Purchase/use accessible products**
- Design accessible web sites
- University wide captioning process
- Digital Accessibility Working Group (DAWG)
- **Web and Technology Accessibility Policy and Guidelines**

# Physical Access

- **Getting around campus**
  - Topography
  - Weather
  - **Wayfinding**
  - Campus is integrated with Providence
- **Building access**
  - Age of the campus/historical buildings and houses
  - *Wilson Hall*
- **Maintaining lifts, automatic openers, elevators in working condition**



# Increasing Access

- [Accessibility Map](#) (building ranking system)
- **SEAS Shuttle**
- Hearing Loop in 85 Waterman
- Campus Access Advisory Committee (CAAC)
  - Set University accessibility standards for construction
  - Input into Renovations/New constructions
  - Annual \$100,000 budget for ADA improvements

# Increasing Access - Projects

- **Incorporated into all significant renovations:**
  - Keeney Quad – Elevators, accessible & single use restrooms
  - John Hay Library – Accessible entrance, reading room, restrooms
  - Campus Center – Accessible entrance, elevator, restrooms
- **Work this summer:**
  - Manning Chapel – Elevator, restrooms
  - Andrews House – Elevator replacement
  - Campus Center – Terrace access

# Inclusion

- Hold open events in accessible spaces
- Support Accommodations/Services
- Move beyond accommodations - Universal Design
- Expand Disability Studies – Pathology to Power
- Accessibility benefits everyone
- **Disability as diversity!**