

Minutes of the Brown University Community Council (BUCC) Meeting
Tuesday, November 28, 2017
4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Members: President Paxson, Provost Locke, Russell Carey, Cass Cliatt, Eric Estes, Kayla Rosen, Rachel Cassidy, Jennifer Lambe, Evelyn Lincoln, Matthew McGarrell, Anita Shukla, Kurt Teichert, Shipra Vaishnava, Ryan Anderson, Anuj Krishnamurthy, Doria Charlson, Robert Kashow, Aislinn Rowan, Kelly Garrett, Leora Johnson, Aixa Kidd, Michelle Nuey, Linda Welsh, Lauren Allister, Daniel Harrop, James Gardner, and Emily Maranjian, were in attendance. Beverly Ledbetter, Sarah Besky, Jee Won Kang, Alexis Rodriguez-Camacho, Chelse-Amoy Steele, Michael Danielewicz, Amanda Liu, and Shayna Kessel were unable to attend.

The minutes of the October 24, 2017 meeting were approved.

Al Dahlberg, Assistant Vice President, Government and Community Relations and Steve Gerencser, Assistant Director of Government Relations, led a discussion on higher education provisions in the tax reform legislation, and the potential impact on the University. It is estimated that the proposed 1.4% excise tax on endowments would cost Brown between \$3.3 million and \$6.6 million. An elimination of the tax exemption for graduate students would increase their tax obligations by a total of up to \$27 million annually. The elimination of the tax exemption for educational assistance provided to employees and their dependents would impose new taxes of millions of dollars on employees who receive these benefits. The University has been working with universities, associations, and the Congressional delegation in Rhode Island to advocate for the removal of the provisions. Corporation members, alumni, and friends have been contacting Congress to express their concerns as well. President Paxson and Provost Locke expressed their commitment to minimizing the damage to students and employees should any of the provisions become law.

President Paxson concluded the meeting by providing updates. The FY17 Financial Report highlights the impact of Brown's work in medicine, public health and brain science. Future reports will feature Brown's strengths in other areas. The BrownPromise initiative, launched in the fall, aims at eliminating loans from all undergraduate financial aid packages. If the initial goal of \$30 million is raised by the end of December, loans will be eliminated from undergraduate financial aid packages for returning and incoming students beginning in the 2018-19 academic year. To fully support the initiative the University needs to raise in total \$100 million in endowed funds and an additional \$20 million in current-use funds through the Brown Annual Fund to cover costs while pledges are being paid. The final wave of administrators moving to South Street Landing will happen this weekend with the move of the office of Advancement.

The next meeting of the Brown University Community Council will be held on Tuesday, February 13, 2018 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

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Stephen Robert '62 Campus Center, Kasper Multipurpose Room

Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes of October 24, 2017 Meeting
2. Update and Discussion on Higher Education Provisions in Tax Reform Legislation
*Update from **Al Dahlberg, Assistant Vice President, Government and Community Relations** and **Steve Gerencser, Assistant Director of Government Relations** followed by Open Discussion*
3. Updates from the President
President Paxson
4. Open Time for University Community Members to Present Broad Campus Issues to the Council