

Brown University Community Council

Public Meeting

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

4:00 – 5:30 PM EST

Meeting Minutes

Present (In-person & *Virtual*): Christina H. Paxson, Scott AnderBois, David Buchta, Mary Jo Callan, *Max Clermont*, Ruth Colwill, Vilma Cortez, Weston de Lomba, Frank Doyle, Miled Faiza, Lindsay Garcia, Samdeet Khan, *Surya Khatri*, Ainsley LeSure, Kevin Logiudice, Ken Mak, Akashleena Mallick, Jennifer Maloney, Calista Manuzzo, Sydney Menzin, Daniel Newgarden, Caroline O'Brien, Jessica Pesce, Ranna Rozenfeld, Matthew Rutz, *Irene Sudac*, Robert Sobol, Jacinda Townsend, Leah VanWey, Stephanie Zielinski

Absent: Nicole Bonelli, Louis Boyang, Cass Cliatt, Niyanta Nepal, Esha Patel, Kayla Rosen

President Christina H. Paxson welcomes meeting attendees and begins the meeting by inviting Brown University Community Council (BUCC) members and community members in the audience to introduce themselves. Next, a motion is put forward to approve the minutes from the BUCC meetings held on April 16, 2024 and April 25, 2024. The motion is seconded and passes.

President Paxson then provides an overview of the conversation the BUCC had during an executive session in September. During this meeting BUCC members expressed interest in learning more about AI in teaching and learning, research, and business practices. As a result, Provost Francis J. Doyle III will present on this topic today, followed by discussion. President Paxson notes that if any community members want to address the Council there will be time at the end to do so.

President Paxson delivers her President's Report. This includes an overview of the BUCC – its charge, operations, and membership; updates about the recent launch of the BrownConnect+ platform to engage current students and alumni in networking and mentorship opportunities, and spotlights on two new spaces for teaching, learning, and community-building: Andrews House (Cogut Institute for the Humanities) and new space for the Office of Military-Affiliated Student in Alumnae Hall.

President Paxson then speaks about the FY25 strategic planning priorities, including an assessment of Brown's DIAP, which is about 10 years old. Upon the hiring of a new Vice President for the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity, the focus for this administrator will be to help determine what comes next to strengthen the campus community and academic environment. President Paxson speaks about University strategies to maintain Brown's commitment to broad student access. These efforts address key levers along the admission

pipeline, including enhanced outreach and recruitment strategies across a range of backgrounds. Specific strategies include a communications campaign to promote Brown's welcoming environment for all students, with messages from current students; targeted outreach to schools, students, and guidance counselors to demystify the admission process; expanding the QuestBridge Match program for low-income students; leveraging the alumni network to support recruitment and matriculation efforts; creating regionally-based admissions positions to focus on local recruitment, and more. President Paxson notes that fundraising efforts are underway to support these initiatives, and Brown will be monitoring and assessing these strategies along the way to determine which are most effective. There are a few comments from Council members expressing support for these strategies. Council members ask questions, including about financial aid matching and if Brown has any data about why students accepted to Brown decided to go to other schools. Interim Vice President for the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity Patricia Poitevien, who is present at the meeting, adds that external factors, such as the FAFSA process, can also impact students' admissions decisions related to financial aid. President Paxson thanks the Council for their questions and turns the conversation over to Provost Doyle.

Provost Doyle presents on "AI@Brown: A Distinctive Approach". He reviews the vision statement for AI at Brown and the key pillars that frame the University's approach to AI. Provost Doyle comments that the intention is to bring together the entire University to engage with AI; there are efforts underway to incorporate AI across disciplines. He notes that over 70 faculty are doing research related to AI. Provost Doyle shares that Brown is working on a prototype of an AI Sandbox (data firewall) for the secure handling of information using AI at Brown. Additionally, Michael Littman, University Professor of Computer Science and Division Director for Information and Intelligent Systems, National Science Foundation, has been announced as the new Associate Provost for AI. He will play an important role to shape AI-related priorities and opportunities; coordinate and enhance AI-related research across campus; advise and support operational units in adoption and use of AI; and engage with public and private stakeholders to strengthen Brown's impact.

Provost Doyle next highlights the partnership between the Provost's Office and the Sheridan Center to support the use of AI for educational objectives: providing guidance, learning opportunities for instructors and students, technology support, and building bridges across disciplines to discuss how to use AI. The Provost Lecture Series: Conversation on AI and Our Data-Driven Society, in partnership with Data Science Institute, has served to engage community members in conversations about the impact of AI on teaching, learning, and research. These events have provided an opportunity for Brown community members to learn together, across diverse disciplines. Looking ahead, Provost Doyle shares that Brown will leverage the talent and culture at the University to teach about AI, contribute to research on AI and AI governance, and spark public discourse and offer intellectual leadership on AI. The floor is open for questions.

Council members ask questions related to integrating AI into teaching and learning; the environmental impact of AI; and AI in the context of global policy issues. In response to Council member comments, Provost Doyle notes that next there will be a focus on University-wide guidance for using AI across disciplines. Following questions related to AI at Brown, President Paxson opens the floor for any questions from community members; there are none.

The meeting adjourns. The next meeting will take place on Thursday, February 27, 2025.