

Impact of the current financial environment

October 10, 2008

To Undergraduate Students:

Members of the Brown community understandably have concerns about the potential and real impacts that the crisis of the financial markets will have not only on the United States and the world, but on individuals and families. As a follow up to President Simmons' message to the Brown Community on Wednesday regarding the impact of the current climate on the University (<http://www.brown.edu/Administration/President/letters/2008-2009/2008-financial.html>), we are writing to provide information about educational and support resources available to you at Brown that can be helpful depending on how the situation is affecting you or your family, friends, and community.

CAMPUS SUPPORT AND RESOURCES:

If the national and global economic situation is very directly affecting you and your family, and you would like to talk to someone about the ways it may impact your educational plans, you can speak with deans in the Office of the Dean of the College or in the Office of Student Life. There is a dean of the day available every day from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Office of Student Life (20 Benevolent Street across from Keeney Quad, 863-3145); the deans in the Office of the Dean of the College are available daily from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (second floor University hall, 863-9800).

Psychological Services' staff members are available to provide personal support, and you may make an appointment to talk with someone by calling 863-3476; Psychological Services is located on the fifth floor of the J. Walter Wilson Student Services Building.

If you would like to speak to one of the University Chaplains about your concerns, the Office of the Chaplains and Religious Life is located on the fourth floor of the J. Walter Wilson Student Services Building (863-2344). For emergency situations, there is some limited, short-term emergency funding available through the Chaplain's Office. Anyone in need of confidential assistance should contact the Chaplains for an appointment.

If your family's financial status has changed significantly, you may consult with the Office of Financial Aid (second floor J. Walter Wilson, 863-2721). The Office of Financial Aid can assist you and your family in identifying options available to assist in paying your student account.

If you are worried about how the financial market is affecting job prospects, the Career Development Center can assist with your planning. The Center, located at 167 Angell Street across from the Bookstore (863-3326), has walk-in hours every day during which you may speak with a career counselor.

We are ready to assist you and your families during these challenging times.

Best wishes for a successful fall semester.

Katherine Bergeron
Dean of the College

Margaret Klawunn
Vice President for Campus Life and Student Services