

Purpose of BUAC

The purpose of the Brown University Activities Council (BUAC) is to, consistently with the University's other goals, better the environment for student groups at Brown.

To that end, BUAC shall:

- Serve as the official voice of undergraduate student organizations at Brown to UCS, UFB, the SAO, and the University administration, independent of those entities.
- Advocate for student group needs and priorities in future planning and policy development efforts.
- Provide an annual recommendation on how much to increase the Student Activities Fee, if at all.
- Work to ensure existing policies and procedures best serve student organizations.
- Serve as the advisory board to the Student Activities Office.
- Foster and facilitate collaboration, communication, and cooperation among student groups.
- Advocate for student group representation on committees, when such representation is appropriate, and appoint said representatives.
- Oversee those processes, activities, and events affecting student groups evaluated as needing such oversight by the governing body.
- Support all student groups with logistical and administrative information about how best to affect change at the University.

Structure of BUAC

The **General Body** of BUAC shall consist of all Category III student groups on campus. For the purposes of general body decision-making, each group shall have one vote, reported by the group's primary contact, or an authorized proxy.

The **Steering Committee** of BUAC shall consist of **9** members, each of whom must also be a member of at least one Category III group. 5 persons on the steering committee shall be representative of student group categories; the remaining 4 shall be "at-large." Category representatives shall be selected by the groups in the category that they will represent - each group in the category will have one vote for category representative. At-large representatives will be the winners of a rank-order-ballot election held at a general body meeting - each group will be afforded one ballot. Steering committee terms shall be January-December. The UCS Student Activities Chair shall be an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Steering Committee.

The steering committee is responsible for defining the 5 categories of groups and their members. Groups can request a re-categorization from the steering committee. In all re-categorizations, the steering committee must balance the interest of individual groups with parity between categories.

Steering Committee Meetings:

- Minutes from steering committee meetings shall be made readily available.
- Primary contacts (or proxies) shall be afforded the opportunity to speak at meetings.
- Primary contacts (or proxies) shall be afforded the opportunity to bring proposals for review without prior notification.
- Meetings shall be held at minimum once every three weeks.
- The Steering Committee can determine the manner in which minutes are recorded and meetings are chaired.

General Body Meetings:

- General body meetings shall be open.
- Quorum shall be considered met when 1/2 of all category III groups have at least one representative in attendance.
- General body meetings shall be held at least once per semester.
- The Steering Committee shall determine the manner in which general body meetings are chaired and the manner in which minutes are kept.
- All primary contacts (or proxies) have the right to speak on all issues and to bring proposals at general body meetings.

Powers of the Steering Committee

To fulfill its purpose, BUAC shall have the following powers:

- All decisions of the steering committee are subject to review/reversal by the general body.
- Student groups have the right to send at least their primary contact (or an authorized proxy) to steering committee meetings.
- At steering committee meetings, the steering committee can review proposals per the section on Proposal Review, defer to the general body with or without a recommendation, or table for further discussion.
- The steering committee shall determine the manner in which any appointments given BUAC are to be filled:
 - i. UFB representation must be decided by the general body.

- ii. Available positions must be advertised to the entire general body, and applications must be open for all.
- iii. The Steering Committee can reserve the right to make appointments itself.
- iv. Groups must be afforded the opportunity to endorse candidates.

Proposal Review

Groups affected by and a party to a particular proposal shall have the opportunity to speak to it at steering committee meetings, and should be notified when such proposals are set to be discussed.

The default position for a proposal is no position; this categorization will only change with a vote to endorse or object.

Proposals brought before BUAC have 3 standard outcomes:

Endorsed:

The proposal is seen as in the interest of the majority of student groups on campus. As such, actions taken by BUAC include but are not limited to

- potentially create committee
- use of BUAC name
- potentially help lobby
- provide administrative support

No position:

The proposal is not seen as in the interest of the majority of student groups on campus. As such, actions taken by BUAC include but are not limited to

- provide administrative support and logistical aid
- don't allow use of name, BUT don't condemn actions

Declined:

The proposal is seen as a detriment to the majority of student groups on campus. As such, actions taken by BUAC include but are not limited to

- potentially speak/lobby against the proposal
- use of BUAC name in opposition to proposal
- provide administrative information

The Steering Committee cannot render this judgment on *student* proposals.

Amendments

Amendments can be proposed by any group, or by the steering committee at a general body meeting.

Amendments must be approved by a 2/3 vote of the general body present.

Approval

The Constitution shall be considered approved if 2/3 of the groups present at the first general meeting approve it.