

**A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR BROWN UNIVERSITY
TO END THE ENFORCEMENT OF PREREQUISITES ON BANNER**

Sponsored by: the Academic and Administrative Affairs Committee

Co-sponsored by: Clay Wertheimer '10, Michael MacCombie '11, and Ryan Lester '11

1. WHEREAS, Brown's unique climate and educational mission were designed to give students the responsibility of conceiving and forming their own academic experience,¹ and
 2. WHEREAS, removing students' ability to determine and pursue their own paths counters this philosophy that is the hallmark of the undergraduate experience at Brown,² and
 3. WHEREAS, the fact that prerequisites have not been regularly enforced at Brown since the institution of the New Curriculum is a testament to this university's enduring commitment to the principles of liberty embodied in that Curriculum, and
 4. WHEREAS, the existence (as distinct from enforcement) of prerequisites is useful, so that they may serve as guides to students, who may be better informed when conscientiously following the course that best fits their own needs and capabilities, and
 5. WHEREAS, students should be encouraged to speak with a professor to determine whether or not the student has the necessary skills to succeed in his or her course instead of being deterred by an electronic obstacle, and
 6. WHEREAS, professors are often burdened by the necessity of sorting through override requests and the difficulty of manually granting permission; and
 7. WHEREAS, 47 percent of respondents in this month's University-wide poll of undergraduate students indicated that prerequisites have had a negative impact on their academic experience at Brown, compared with slightly more than one percent who said it had a positive effect;³⁴
1. BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Undergraduate Council of Students (UCS) disapproves the enforcement of course prerequisites on Banner; and
 2. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UCS requests that the Faculty Executive Committee and the University Registrar take the necessary steps to end Banner's enforcement of prerequisites; and
 3. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UCS requests that the Dean of the Faculty oversee and enforce a departmental reevaluation of each course's prerequisite recommendations prior to the printing of the course bulletin for Fall 2009; and
 4. BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that UCS requests a formal response to this resolution from the Faculty Executive Committee and the Dean of the Faculty no later than January 31, 2009.

¹ http://www.brown.edu/Administration/Dean_of_the_College/curriculum/

² http://brown.edu/Administration/Dean_of_the_College/tue/downloads/Task_Force_Final_Report.pdf

³ UCS Fall 2008 Poll, running from Nov. 6 to Nov. 13, 2008, with 1,029 respondents

⁴ Additionally, statistics from the Registrar show that registration for Math 9, a common prerequisite course, has increased significantly from an average of 160 over the past 8 years to 240.