President’s Staff Advisory Council

2018

Report to President Paxson
Mission Statement

The mission of the President's Staff Advisory Council is to facilitate active and direct communication between University staff and senior administration, and to provide a forum for input and discussion of issues important to the staff and the University.

President Paxson’s Charge

President Paxson has charged SAC with helping to improve the overall culture of Brown. She detailed four concentrations under culture for SAC to assist with the following:

- Collaboration
- Communication / Elevate
- Inclusion
- Transparency

Collaboration

SAC has worked to improve collaboration across the University by helping to bridge the gap between Staff, Faculty, and Students. Several initiatives were created and executed during the year to advance this collaboration among the cross-sections of Brown’s population.

- **Staff Summer Reading Program:** SAC and the Office of the Provost held the 2nd annual Staff Summer Reading Program in August 2017. This program mimics the first year undergraduate summer reading program. Staff are invited to read the same book and attend workshops based on the book. This program encourages interaction between Staff and Students to build a better community. This will take place for the third year in a row in August 2018.

- **Faculty in Focus:** In partnership with the Office of the Provost and modeled on “By Faculty for Faculty” and the Staff Summer Reading program, this series is designed to cultivate community at Brown and offers an opportunity for Staff to hear from Brown faculty about their scholarship. Faculty in Focus gives Staff a chance to learn about Brown's innovative research and how it affects growth and change within and outside the academic community. Speakers have included:
  - Provost Richard Locke
  - Stefanie Tellex, Joukowsky Family Assistant Professor of Computer Science
  - Tricia Rose, Chancellor's Professor of Africana Studies, Associate Dean of the Faculty for Special Initiatives, Director of the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America
  - Brandon Marshall, Associate Professor of Epidemiology, School of Public Health

- **Brown Staff Help Students:** During the week of August 28th, SAC setup a Professional Clothing drive to address the issue that 35% of students are not participating in networking/recruiting events because students don’t have the proper attire. The “Build Your Wardrobe” event was held on September 5th from 8:30 - 2 pm @ the CareerLAB for students to come by and take professional clothes so they feel confident in participating in events that can lead to exciting opportunities for their Life After Brown.
Communicate / Elevate

SAC has worked to improve and elevate communication around the campus. SAC has invited many key personnel within the Brown community to speak with SAC throughout the year. The key points from these discussions are shared out to the Brown community through the SAC monthly newsletter. Topics and speakers were chosen based on feedback from the Brown community through the 2016 SAC survey and email communication. Recent speakers have included:

- Elizabeth Gentry, Assistant Vice President, Business and Financial Services - Discussed the new shuttle system and crosswalk safety in the Jewelry District.
- Ruthy Rosenberg, University Ombudsperson - Discussed conflict management and facilitating conversation.
- Carleia Lighty, Director, Transportation and Brown Card Services - Discussed parking improvements and concerns.
- Shontay Delalue, Vice President for Institutional Equity and Diversity - Discussed changes in Institutional Equity and Diversity and upcoming initiatives.
- Joseph Meisel, Deputy Provost - Gave information about the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) accreditation process and meeting with the review committee.

Inclusion

SAC has worked to improve inclusion within the University. A few initiatives were created to help bring awareness throughout the community on several topics centered around inclusion. SAC also helped promote many other initiatives throughout the University including several volunteer opportunities, various programs presented by HR, and Institutional Equity and Diversity initiatives. A few highlights from SAC’s work in inclusion are:

- **BEARtalks**: BEARtalks (Brown Education and Awareness Roundtable Talks) are meant to provide educational space for all Brown Staff members to develop their awareness and knowledge on diversity, inclusions and equity topics. BEARtalks hope to build Brown’s community and enhance understanding of current events and issues that staff may face.
  - Introduction to Conflict Management by Ruthy Rosenberg, Ombudsperson
  - Public Safety @ Brown by Paul J. Shanley, MPA, Deputy Chief of Police
  - Cultivating Compassion in the Workplace by Wendy McRae-Owoeye
- **Parent Networking Group**: In 2018, SAC developed and launched a new program that brings parents, guardians, foster and adoptive parents together with the goal to provide a welcoming environment where everyone feels heard, encouraged and accepted. Expectant, new, and seasoned parents can get support, ideas, and recommendations to help navigate through the everyday challenges of parenthood. Since the launch, the Parent Networking Group has been very successful as there has been a steady increase in participation, by approximately 33% in each meeting.
- **SAC on BrownEngage**: SAC has now fully transitioned its volunteer opportunities to operate on BrownEngage to communicate to the Brown community. 58 staff members have contributed their time to great volunteer initiatives sponsored by SAC.
Transparency

SAC received over seventy-five communications from Staff throughout the past year. These communications involved several important issues that concern staff. Our goal was to receive official statements from upper administration and deliver them to the Staff in a timely manner. Facilitating direct communication between Staff and senior administration on these concerns assists with transparency throughout the University.

SAC Members

2017-2018 Term
Drake Douglas - Community Director - Residential Life
Kathleen Gerlach - Manager - Brown Institute for Brain Science
Heather Ganinillo - Registered Nurse - Health Services
Shaira Kochubaeva - Assistant Director of Intl. Partnerships & Initiatives - Global Engagement
Emily Nolan - Associate Director for Employer Relations - Center for Careers & Life after Brown
Josephine Okunola - Financial Aid Coordinator/Counselor - Warren Alpert Medical School
Purvang Patel - Department Manager - Dept. of Molecular Biology, Cell Biology, & Biochemistry
Sam Sumeracki - Admission & Enrollment Specialist - School of Professional Studies
Andrew Sutherland - Admission & Enrollment Specialist - School of Professional Studies
Beth Travers - Laboratory Manager - School of Engineering
Holly Tran - Research Assistant - Dept. of Molecular Biology, Cell Biology, & Biochemistry

2018-2019 Term
Geeta Chogule - Program Coordinator - Dept. of Molecular Biology, Cell Biology, & Biochemistry
Laura Dobler - Financial & Outreach Coordinator - Department of Computer Science
Eric Ferrara - Communications & Outreach Coordinator - Department of Chemistry
Tara Greenwood - Administrative Coordinator - Student & Employee Accessibility Services
A, Catherine Hanni - Manager - Egyptology & Assyriology
Joel Hernandez - Administrative Assistant - School of Public Health
Liisa Laine - Project Coordinator - Facilities Management
Jose Mendoza - Administrative Coordinator - Department of French Studies
Grace Young - Faculty Appointment Manager - Office of the Dean of the Faculty

2018 Co-Chairs
Jessica Pontarelli - Senior Communications Coordinator - Department of Physics
Michael Leitao - Systems Analyst - Transportation and Brown Card Office

2017 Chair
Michele Calnan - Events Manager - Facilities Management

Advisors
Barbara Chernow - Executive Vice President for Finance & Administration
Kimberly Roskiewicz - Assistant to the President