



# UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL OF STUDENTS

## 2009 – 2010 Annual Agenda

### UCS Overall Goals for UCS

1. **Organizational Review** - As the University identifies strategies to reduce Brown's deficit, UCS will work to keep students involved and informed. Student voice is highly critical to ensure Brown remains focused on serving and supporting students effectively.
2. **NEASC Report** - The New England Association of Schools and Colleges' final report will comment on Brown's status as a University-College, and influence Brown's future development. UCS will ensure Brown stays committed to maintaining the undergraduate experience.
3. **Providence Tax on Students** - Last spring the mayor proposed legislation that would place a head tax on all college students in Providence. UCS will work with student leaders at Brown, alumni, and other Providence schools to create a coordinated response to the proposed tax and keep the Brown Community informed.
4. **University Committees** - Formalize communications between UCS and University committees.

### UCS Highlights 2008-2009

1. Successfully lobbied the University to switch from Brown Webmail to Gmail.
2. Improved the dining experience by putting meal credit balances on Banner and increasing the availability of nutritional information in the dining halls.
3. Worked with student leaders from Brown, RISD, Johnson and Wales, and Providence College to meet with mayor and speak out against the proposed Providence tax on students.
4. Passed resolutions in support of Real Food @ Brown, the creation of Fall Weekend, the increase of Student Activities funding, and more. Student Activities resolution resulted in a \$34,000 increase in funding.
5. Created a new categorization to recognize and support Club Sports.

### UCS Committee Goals

#### Academic and Administrative Affairs

- Improve advising via:
  - Working toward the implementation of an "Advisor Review"
  - Redefining what is desired from academic advising with student input.
- Clearly define the writing requirement at Brown and what is expected to fulfill it.
- Work toward posting course syllabi online beginning Fall 2010.
- Make an unofficial transcript available to students on Banner.
- Reintroduce teaching awards given out based on a student vote.

## Student Activities

- Continue to advocate for full university support for Club Sports.
- Ensure the implementation of the Student Activities Endowment Fund, including raising the first \$100,000.
- Provide support for service groups that fundraise for off-campus organizations.
- Increase contact between Student Activities Committee and student groups, by monthly forums.

## Admissions and Student Services

- Conduct an audit of all Brown study and lounge spaces to prioritize improvements.
- Advocate for a University committee to review orientation and work to improve first-year and transfer orientation.
- Work with CIS to bring a computing and printing cluster to Pembroke Campus and more computer kiosks around campus.
- Continue to monitor the major transitions in Brown's student services, from Cable to IPTV and from Brown Webmail to Gmail.
- Create a website that helps students navigate campus services conveniently and easily.
- Update and improve Student Services information sheets in campus restrooms to reflect changes and improvements in Brown's student services.
- Continue to publicize and enhance lesser known campus services, including Bear Bargains, the off-campus apartment listing, SafeRide On-Call, and more.
- Increase transparency and improve advising for Financial Aid.

## Campus Life

- Expand the hours of the V-Dub so that students can eat breakfast between 9:30 and 11:00 AM.
- Have nutritional information posted online for all eateries.
- Improve the process of living off-campus, both in terms of getting permission and of obtaining information and guidance.
- Explore alternatives to ResLife's current apartment fee structure.
- Increase the amount of outdoor tables for eating and studying by at least 50%.
- Gather feedback about food items and encourage Dining Services to make specific improvements.

## Communications

- Use social media as a new venue for keeping the student body informed.
- Provide feedback on Brown's new student events calendar and actively encourage its use once it goes active.
- Research and make recommendations concerning the coming changes in Brown's website, ensuring that student input is considered during the development.
- Conduct polls and surveys to gather feedback on undergraduate priorities.
- Organize "study break" events at which students can directly interact with administrators and members of UCS.

**Feedback?** E-mail [UCS@brown.edu](mailto:UCS@brown.edu)

**Join us.** 7:30 PM, Every Wednesday, Location posted on website

**Student Activities?** E-mail [Brady\\_Wyrtzen@Brown.edu](mailto:Brady_Wyrtzen@Brown.edu)

**More information:** [students.brown.edu/ucs](http://students.brown.edu/ucs)