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Attachments:

Corporation Athletics Decision Talking Points_06.04.20.pdf

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From: Office of President Christina Paxson <president@brown.edu>
Date: Thu, Jun 4, 2020 at 1:05 PM
Subject: Update from President Paxson re: Athletics
To: Office of President Christina Paxson <president@brown.edu>

Members of the Corporation,

We are continuing to manage the communications and interactions with students, families and alumni regarding athletics and the recent decision to transition eleven varsity teams to club status. I wanted to provide you with a few updates below and also invite you to a **call on this topic on Tuesday, June 9th from 5:00 to 6:00 pm EDT (Zoom information below, and the Corporation Office will also send out a meeting invitation).**

- We are planning a letter from me to the Brown community on Friday that will address (among other things) the issue of diversity in Brown varsity sports. This is such a difficult time for the nation, and emotions are understandably running very high. The conflation of the athletics announcement with current events on race is unfortunate. One thing the letter will say is that the plan for athletics leaves diversity (racial/ethnic and well as socioeconomic) virtually

unchanged. My goal is to increase diversity among all of our teams, but this change will not in any way harm varsity athletics on diversity grounds. The letter will also include some updates on how the teams that are transitioning to club status will continue to be supported.

- In the coming days Athletics Director Jack Hayes will have Zoom meetings with each of the teams in the athletics department, and he is personally calling all of the affected students. In addition, Jack and I will host a series of Zoom webinars in the coming weeks for all athletics alumni and students, to discuss the issues and provide more information about the decision-making process.
- I am aware that many of you are receiving copious communications on this topic. As you know, you can refer anyone or any group who contacts you to Jack. He is in the best position to explain our decision and make sure that students are getting the support and advice that they need as we move forward. I don't think it's wise for members of the Corporation to engage in email exchanges or phone calls with people you don't know personally. Emails may be passed around on social media, and what you say on phone calls with people you don't know may be mis-characterized. For conversations you may wish to have with people you know, we have prepared the attached set of talking points which hopefully you will find to be helpful.

I look forward to speaking with many of you on this topic further on Tuesday, June 9th.

Best,

Chris

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**Corporation Update Call re: Athletics
Tuesday, June 9, 2020
5:00 - 6:00 PM EDT**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://brown.zoom.us/j/92805027441>

Meeting ID: 928 0502 7441

Password: 809569

By phone:

877 853 5247 US Toll-free

877 369 0926 US Toll-free

Find your local number: <https://brown.zoom.us/u/aKv1pslim>