

While the national conversation about higher education finances and costs is important, it's regrettable that a witness in today's hearing offered so many misrepresentations about Brown's students, employees and efforts to provide an exceptional educational experience and conduct high-impact research.

As Brown has grown over recent decades in both the number of students we teach and the volume and impact of its research, our staff has expanded to support these important goals. In the last 15 years, we have worked responsibly to build a staff infrastructure that enables us to generate medical treatments and scientific breakthroughs that lead to real solutions for real patients and real people. We also added staffing to prepare students for successful lives and careers, which is important to students and families. Brown's staff members are vital — behind every research breakthrough and student success story, non-faculty staff are a quiet force making those accomplishments possible.

As context for just a few of the misrepresentations:

-- Brown's financial aid program is among the most robust in the nation. We meet 100% of each undergraduate student's demonstrated financial need. We cover full tuition for families earning \$125,000 or less with typical assets. And students from families making less than \$60,000 a year with typical assets receive scholarships that cover all expenses — tuition, room, board, books and other expenses. We have no loans in our financial aid, so students who receive aid can graduate debt free.

-- Brown enrolls exceptionally talented students from all socioeconomic backgrounds. We have been a leader in expanding recruitment, outreach and support for first-generation students, those from rural areas, and students from low-income families.

-- We continue to see a false "one administrator for every two students at Brown" claim. Th claim inaccurately uses our undergraduate population only and ignores the presence of the 4,000 graduate and medical students who comprise more than one third of our student body. Our staff numbers should be understood in the context of the fact that Brown is a major research university that supports both undergraduate and graduate education and research. We're not an undergraduate college.

-- As Brown has transitioned from a successful liberal arts college to a leading research institution in recent decades, our staff growth has come in support of that effort. Our research output doubled from 2014 to 2024, and in that period, 35% of our growth in staff positions has been for jobs in research and research services.

-- In that same period, Brown's undergraduate enrollment increased 18%, graduate student enrollment increased 59% and medical student enrollment increased 30%. Our staff members play key roles in supporting the experience of all of those students.

-- Claims that administrative staff growth does not support the academic experience for students misrepresent the reality. For new positions focused on administrative/management roles, the overwhelming number of new jobs have been located in Brown's academic units — schools, colleges, academic departments as well as research centers and institutes — rather than in central administrative offices.

-- During a flash flood situation in the 2023-24 academic year, a Brown residence hall was impacted by significant flooding in Providence when excess storm water breached lower-level entry points. Like organizations and residents across the country, our physical infrastructure is not immune to the full impacts of severe weather events.

-- As part of our sustainability strategic plan, Brown has been working toward a goal to reduce red meat consumption in dining halls by 25% by 2025. We continue to offer red meat choices along with other dining choices with a lesser environmental impact. This is not a financial measure.

-- Despite continued public reporting framing a student conduct situation as a free speech issue, it absolutely was not. Our review centered on investigating whether improper use of non-public Brown data or non-public data systems violated law or policy; whether deliberate targeting of individual employees violated law or policy; and whether violations to Brown's misrepresentation or name use policies took place. As Brown's student conduct procedures make abundantly clear, students are not presumed to be responsible for alleged violations unless so found through the appropriate conduct proceedings. Brown proceeded in complete accordance with free expression guarantees and appropriate procedural safeguards under University policies and applicable law.