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October 31, 2008

To: Members of the Brown Community
From: Provost David Kertzer

The past two months have created great economic challenges for Brown and for many of our students and their families. While the new financial aid policies we put in place for the current year, as well as this year's \$70 million budget for undergraduate scholarship aid, enabled us to assist students with demonstrated financial need at the start of this term, we are concerned that events of the past two months have created new challenges and anxieties. I am writing to announce a series of steps that Brown is taking to address these issues in the coming weeks.

Ordinarily, students with a fall term unpaid balance of \$1000 or more would not be allowed to pre-register for the spring semester in November. We are going to waive that requirement this year. Students will be able to pre-register regardless of their balances. Students with unpaid fall term balances of \$5,000 or more would not normally be permitted to return to campus for the spring semester. On a one-time basis we have raised the level of the outstanding balance for fall term charges to \$7,500. Late fees will continue to accrue on any outstanding balance, regardless of pre-registration or enrollment status. This policy applies to undergraduates, graduate students and medical students.

It is important for families to know that financing options are available, even if they did not qualify for university aid at the start of the academic year. The deadline for financial aid for the spring term for families who have yet to apply for financial aid has been extended to December 1, 2008. Information regarding federal loan programs and other options, as well as details on how to apply, are available via the Office of Financial Aid web site at www.financialaid.brown.edu. The Office of Financial Aid is available to provide advice on financing options to both aided and non-aided families. Please visit their web site or feel free to contact them via e-mail or phone: Financial_Aid@Brown.edu or 401-863-2721.

The Office of Financial Aid has increased the number of available counselors to assist students and families and to discuss available financing options. During the week of November 17 (the week when the spring term bill is mailed) the Office of Financial Aid will have

extended office hours (to 7:00 pm) to further assist families with specific questions and concerns regarding their balance. Families are strongly encouraged to seek advice as early as possible prior to the January 1 payment due date in order to avoid late penalty charges and enrollment issues.

These steps are in place to assist families with the 2008-09 academic year. Families are strongly encouraged to plan early for the 2009-10 academic year and the Financial Aid office staff stand ready to advise all interested families on the range of available options.

We recognize the economic difficulties that many of our students and their families are facing and want to do all that we can to be helpful in these challenging times.