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Lindsie Rank
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November 16, 2020

Dear Lindsie Rank,

I am writing on behalf of Brown University in response to your letter dated November 10 sent to the Office of the President.

The concerns in your letter seem to be based on generalizations in a document cited by your organization with no direct connection to or knowledge of Brown's policies. It is a false premise that, if a campus does not "state explicitly" that they "don't" engage in certain actions to limit expression, the inference should somehow, and without basis, be that they must have policies and practices that impose such limitations. This is not a reasonable inference, and the document cited is not based on any understanding of Brown's open relationship with student journalists or other news media.

As one example, Brown has no student media policy, and therefore no so-called limitations on journalistic freedoms in any such policy to address. Brown also has no policies limiting engagement with the news media by members of the campus community, though certainly not all community members speak on behalf of the University.

Working together with our community members, we preserve the rights of student and employees to their privacy while they live, work and learn in private or personal spaces (much like any homeowner or business safeguards access to their own homes or their constituents' personal spaces).

The claims in the letter, and the documents it cites, are not an accurate representation of Brown's values or its consistent and sustained support for freedom of expression.

Regards,

Cass Cliatt
Vice President for Communications