



June 2, 2020
President Christina Paxon
Office of the President
Brown University
Providence, RI 02912

Dear President Paxon,

The Ivy League squash coaches are hopeful that you will reconsider demoting the Brown Squash programs from Varsity to Club Status. We are writing to you today in a joint show of support for Coach LeGassick, Coach Leanza and all the student-athletes, alumni and Friends of Brown Squash. We cannot express how much value the Brown squash programs bring not only to Ivy League squash, but the larger organization, the College Squash Association as a whole. The Brown Squash programs are an ideal representation of the what all of us strive for in providing for our student-athletes.

We understand that the University has made this decision in part, so that the current University allotment of recruiting “spots” will be distributed among fewer sports, and thereby making Brown athletics more competitive. Inherent in this statement and the action of demoting the status of the program, is the notion that Brown is not competitive in squash – We cannot stress enough, that this traditional valuation based only on Ivy League wins is not a fair assessment of the level of squash that Coach LeGassick and his players have produced for over thirty years. Further, it does not take into account the current environment of squash in the United States. Squash is the only sport where all eight Ivy League schools are highly competitive on the national stage.

A simple look at the CSA rankings will show that both Men’s and Women’s programs have been ranked in the top 16 for as long as the records go back. Numerous current Ivy coaches have formerly served as assistant coaches to Coach LeGassick, and we are all acutely aware of the incredible and unfair demands the AI requirement places on both programs. Coach LeGassick continues to maintain a competitive team despite the AI being more than ten points higher than the next highest in the Ivy League. This is a remarkable achievement.

In fact, we believe that if Brown reconsider their position, and in addition, enacted a realistic AI requirement, squash would become one of the more competitive sports for the department on the national stage. Squash does not require a huge level of support in the admissions process to

be highly successful, but it does need to be on par with their Ivy peers. One of the Universities initiatives is to maintain a higher level of competitiveness throughout the department – Squash represents that opportunity, with minimal investment in the admission process when compared to larger sports. It is the ideal sport to keep for reaching the goals set out in the review process.

We believe in Brown Squash, and we believe in all that Coach LeGassick has stood for as the leader of both programs for thirty years. Brown squash is critical to what we have devoted our lives to doing – teaching young men and women lessons through sport. Coach LeGassick has proved time and again to be among the best.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ivy Squash Coaches

Mike Way – Head Coach, Harvard University

Hameed Ahmed – Associate Head Coach, Harvard University

Hansi Wiens – Head Coach, Dartmouth College

Gail Ramsay – Head Coach of Women’s Squash, Princeton University

Sean Wilkinson – Head Coach of Men’s Squash, Princeton University

Gilly Lane – Head Coach of Men’s Squash, University of Pennsylvania

Jack Wyant – Head Coach of Women’s Squash, University of Pennsylvania

David Palmer – Head Coach, Cornell University

Jacques Swanepoel – Head Coach, Columbia University

Joanne Schickerling – Associate Head Coach, Columbia University

David Talbott – Head Coach, Yale University

Lynn Leong – Associate Head Coach, Yale University

CC: Jack Hayes, Director of Athletics

Marguerite Joutz, Chief of Staff and Assistant to the President

Eric Estes, Vice President for Campus Life

Stuart LeGassick, Broadbent Family Head Coaching Chair for Squash Racquets