



Dear President Paxson,

The University Club of Boston has long been one of the premier squash hubs in the United States and has served as to promote squash as an inclusive, life-long sport to athletes of all levels. Squash is one of the fastest growing sports in the US, with a rapidly growing list of college varsity teams. Squash is recognized as one of the most diverse and inclusive sports, providing ample opportunities for students of any social economic situation.

We are alarmed and disappointed that the Brown University men's and women's squash programs are to be stripped of varsity status and believe this will reflect negatively on Brown University. We strongly urge you to reflect on the metrics used to drive this decision, and reconsider based upon measures that reflect and acknowledge the excellence of your squash program, your student squash athletes and your coaching staff, as well as the many contributions they make to the Brown Community and the regional squash community at large.

The Brown squash programs have brought accolades to Brown University for many years, as your teams consistently rank in the top 15 nationally, have won more CSA team sportsmanship awards than any other school, and are recognized for their competitive intensity and dedication to high academics. Brown squash teams are a shining example of why Brown is so attractive to the nation's top squash recruits, despite Brown offering fewer recruitment roster spots than other Ivy schools.

The University Club of Boston has placed athletes into every Ivy league school, and currently has multiple players on the Brown Varsity Squash teams, including Senior Co-captain Alexa Jacobs, Senior Co-captain John Paul Champa, and Sophomore Julian Wambach. These outstanding athletes are academic scholars of high integrity as well. They each represent the best of what Ivy league varsity athletes strive for in terms of their character, hard work, sportsmanship and achievements.

Demoting Brown's varsity squash teams to club status seems to run counter to your claimed commitment to Excellence in Athletics. There is no better example of excellence than the skill, effort, grit and fair play Brown teams bring to every match. Your squash teams should be celebrated and held up as role models to your many other varsity teams who have failed to achieve the national rankings, high grades and high matriculation rates that your squash teams produce year after year.

We strongly urge you to open a dialog with the squash community to understand the vast resources that are available to assist Brown squash. These options seem to have been unexplored by your research or consideration. Our understanding is the Brown squash program is primarily funded through endowment and donations, and if the administration wants to elevate the success of sports team, squash should be a logical sport for enhanced investment, and not a place to cut.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chris Spahr - Director of Squash

Neal Vohr - General Manager of The University Club of Boston