

# **BAM's Bylaws**

## **Sec. 1 Mission**

The Brown Alumni Magazine (BAM) exists to maintain the relationship between Brown and the extended Brown community, including alumni and others interested in Brown. It is responsible for allowing readers to truly know their institution, while advancing the long-term best interests of the University and its alumni. It holds itself to the highest standards of reporting and design, exploring its subject matter in a fair, accurate, credible, and complete way. It seeks to inspire its readers with a sense of access to, and intellectual engagement with, Brown, as well as with each other. The BAM is dedicated to creating experiences, across media, that are relevant and engaging to today's audiences, and that remain faithful to the traditions of close examination, critical evaluation, and debate that are the hallmarks of a Brown education.

Therefore, it shall:

- explore the initiatives, achievements, and challenges surrounding the University's past, present, and future;
- report news about alumni, with special consideration to how their experiences at Brown continue to act in their lives;
- inform readers about the activities arising from the University's educational and teaching mission;
- continually assess the digital and multimedia landscape with an eye to developing new platforms to engage readers, encourage their input, and create a sense of community.

## **Sec. 2 History**

The Brown Alumni Monthly was created by alumni in 1900 as an independent, subscription-only monthly publication with the mission: "To bring the University and its graduates into closer touch and sympathy."

It became part of the University in 1945. At that point its circulation grew to include all alumni, subscriptions became voluntary, and a Board of Editors was created to ensure its editorial independence. It became a bimonthly publication in 1997, when it changed its name to Brown Alumni Magazine; in 2020, it began publishing five times a year in print, with a monthly email newsletter.

## **Sec. 3 Governance**

As Brown's flagship communications vehicle with alumni constituencies, the BAM is housed within the Office of University Communications (OUC).

The BAM shall work in cooperation with OUC, Alumni Relations, and Advancement in serving alumni and related constituencies. This shared role means Advancement, and in particular Alumni Relations and the Brown Alumni Association, are significant magazine stakeholders.

The BAM shall maintain its editorial independence, in recognition of the credibility and historical value this has brought to the BAM's relationship with its readers. It shall also maintain

independence of operational management, including decisions about page count, publication frequency, and mailing list. The Editor and Publisher shall have independent oversight of BAM's board of editors, but that board shall include representatives from Alumni Relations and the Brown Alumni Association.

In recognition of this:

- The Editor and Publisher of BAM shall report directly to the Vice President for Communications.
- The Editor and Publisher shall share long-term content planning with OUC, Advancement and Alumni Relations, with emphasis on cooperative sharing of information, audio-visual collateral, and when necessary, red flags about sensitive individuals or subjects.
- The Vice President of Alumni Relations and the head of the Brown Alumni Association shall be *ex officio* members of the BAM Board of Editors.
- The VP of Alumni Relations and the head of the Brown Alumni Association, or their designees, shall participate on search committees for the Editor and Publisher.
- AR and Advancement shall support the BAM's budget through a combination of budget transfer and/or the purchase of advertising.

#### **Sec. 4 Board of Editors**

The BAM Board is charged with keeping the BAM accountable to its readership. Its members must have the expertise necessary to advise the Editor and Publisher on the various functions of a modern, long-form publishing venture, including matters of content, design, fundraising, advertising, business operations and staffing, and print and digital publishing, with special emphasis on strategic engagement with readers across digital, multimedia, and event platforms. Members shall hold both BAM and Brown University accountable for BAM's financial sustainability and its tradition of editorial independence and credibility. They are advocates for the magazine both within the Brown community and in the wider world.

The Board shall include:

- Between 12 and 15 alumni and parents reflecting the diversity of the Brown community and the scope of educational attainment at Brown, including at least one holder of a graduate degree from Brown.
- The Editor and Publisher
- *Ex Officio*: The VP of Alumni Relations or his/her long-term proxy
- *Ex Officio*: The head of the Brown Alumni Association or his/her long-term proxy

**Membership:** Nominations for the Board are drawn from existing Board members, Alumni Relations, Advancement, the University's administration, and members of the Brown extended community of faculty, staff, alumni and parents.

The Editor and Publisher shall determine membership with input from the Chair of the Board.

**Chair and Vice Chair:** The Chair shall be an alum not otherwise affiliated with the University and shall serve for a term of three years, preceded by a term of one year as Vice Chair.

**Terms:** Members will serve for three years, with staggered terms, and may serve multiple terms.