February 5, 2010

Dear Colleagues,

President’s Simmons’ letter of February 2 outlines Brown’s response to the economic crisis and the University’s ongoing budgetary concerns. It also states the recommendations of the Organizational Review Committee (ORC) and the University Resource Committee (URC), which can be found on the website Brown and the Economy. I am very supportive of the process that the University has undertaken to confront the financial hardships caused by the economic crisis.

The ORC and URC were tasked with making necessary budget reductions without sacrificing our academic priorities or disrupting the level of service to our students and faculty. These committees, made up of faculty, students and staff from both the University and the Division, have worked very hard to deliver thoughtful recommendations that will be voted on at the February Corporation Committee meeting. While The Division of Biology and Medicine has not been targeted for specific reductions, we are not exempt from reviewing our processes and staffing levels. Changes may be forthcoming to maximize efficiencies to better serve our students and faculty.

The Division continues to be successful in a number of fronts. The Global Health Initiative and their coordination efforts in response to the Haiti crisis have been enormous. Planning for the new medical school building continues. The federal stimulus funding has made a significant impact and our programs in Biology and Public Health continue to thrive as a result. However, we must prepare for the post-ARRA environment. We are well aware of the difficulties and challenges that lie ahead.

Much remains to be done to sustain and improve the programs in the Division. Dedicated people are the key to our success and I thank you for your service. I welcome your involvement and suggestions to make our organization remain effective and competitive in this economic climate.

Best regards,

Edward J. Wing, MD  
Dean of Medicine and Biological Sciences  
Frank L. Day Professor of Biology 
The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University