



Zimmermann, Zoe <zoe_zimmermann@brown.edu>

Fwd: Elitist Email

Tamez, Leonardo <leonardo_tamez@brown.edu>
To: Zoe Zimmermann <zoe_zimmermann@brown.edu>

Wed, Apr 15, 2020 at 9:39 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Tamez, Leonardo** <leonardo_tamez@brown.edu>
Date: Mon, Mar 30, 2020 at 7:02 PM
Subject: Elitist Email
To: Rashid Zia <rashid_zia@brown.edu>

To Rashid Zia

This is a time of a lot of trauma for many UFLI students and students all across the country. You sending out this email is extremely problematic and really telling of whose voices are being privileged when you are having these conversations and making these decisions. The level of ignorance in your email tells me a lot about how you care for community. Even if that was the reason for the decision, the truth is the vocabulary in the email excludes many narratives outside of those that are privileged and wealthy. I know many deans don't have to interact with low-income students or think about the problems we face, but the reality is that for a lot of us, this transition to remote learning just ruined the chances of being able to have better future opportunities. A lot of UFLI students have been faced with adversity all of our lives, and being able to physically be at Brown ensures that we can succeed in a safe learning environment. There were so many more "compelling" narratives addressing life threatening situations and regarding students who had no access to internet and you decided to make a HUGE decision based on students who were able to get a good grade during a difficult time. Your email is elitist and it's unacceptable. Stop further hurting the communities who are actually being affected by this right now outside of their grades. THATS WHAT YOU'RE PRIVILEGING. GRADES.

Best,

Leo Tamez

P.S. I really hope you take a second look at that email and find why what you sent is problematic.

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