Dr. Robert A. Brown, a distinguished chemical engineer, has served as president of Boston University since 2005. During his tenure, Boston University produced and is implementing its strategic plan, Choosing to be Great, which focuses on strengthening the quality of undergraduate and graduate programs, attracting world-class faculty members, and facilitating their research and scholarship. Significant progress has been made toward these goals, as evidenced by the enhanced quality of the incoming undergraduate class, increased ranking of the University, and, in 2012, the University being invited to join the Association of American Universities (AAU), which includes the 62 leading research universities in the United States and Canada. Also in 2012, the University launched its first comprehensive fundraising campaign to raise $1 billion by 2017. This goal was achieved well ahead of schedule when the University passed the $1 billion mark in April 2016. Because of the pace and the success of the campaign, the Board of Trustees has extended the campaign to 2019 and raised the goal to $1.5 billion. The campaign already has led to important new academic initiatives, including the Kilachand Honors College, a unique discovery-based approach to fulfilling the general education requirement for our most talented undergraduate students; the Pardee School of Global Studies within the College of Arts & Sciences; and the establishment of the $100 million Rajen Kilachand Fund for Integrated Life Sciences and Engineering, the first major endowed research fund in Boston University’s history.

Before coming to Boston University, Dr. Brown held a number of leadership positions at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, including provost, dean of the School of Engineering, and head of the Department of Chemical Engineering. He has published more than 250 papers in areas related to mathematical modeling of transport phenomena in materials, and he served as executive editor of the journal Chemical Engineering Science from 1991 to 2004. He was named an honorary citizen of the Republic of Singapore in 2005, and in 2008 was honored as one of the top 100 Chemical Engineers of the Modern Era by the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. In 2014, the National Academy of Engineering awarded Dr. Brown the prestigious Simon Ramo Founders Award for his contributions to engineering and his leadership in transforming disciplines in institutions. In that same year, he was also elected as a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors.

Dr. Brown earned BS and MS degrees in chemical engineering at the University of Texas at Austin, and a PhD in chemical engineering from the University of Minnesota. He and his wife Beverly have two adult sons.