



October 8, 2024

Dr. Ronald D. Liebowitz
President
Brandeis University
415 South Street, MS 100
Waltham, MA 02453

Dear President Liebowitz:

I write to inform you that at its meeting on September 26, 2024, the New England Commission of Higher Education considered the progress report submitted by Brandeis University and took the following action:

that the progress report submitted by Brandeis University be accepted;

that the comprehensive evaluation scheduled for Fall 2027 (deferred from Fall 2026) be confirmed;

that, in addition to the information included in all self-studies and as requested in our letter of December 5, 2022, the institution continue to give emphasis, in the Fall 2027 self-study, to the five items noted for attention in the Fall 2022 interim report and two additional items, namely:

1. enhancing the effectiveness of its governing board;
2. implementing the University's Framework for the Future planning document;
3. addressing challenges in the current budget, financial, and operational structure of the University;
4. achieving its goals with respect to the diversity of the faculty and student body and continuing to implement initiatives related to campus culture and climate;
5. implementing its new General Education program and assessing student learning of the outcomes specified for the program;
6. completing and evaluating the effectiveness of its strategic and institutional plans, with attention to capital planning and enrollment planning;
7. continuing to close the deferred maintenance gap.

The Commission gives the following reasons for its actions.

The report submitted by Brandeis University (Brandeis) was accepted because it was responsive to the concerns raised by the Commission in its letter of December 5, 2022. We particularly appreciate learning that Brandeis has strengthened the effectiveness of its governing board, created workflow efficiencies, and convened a Framework for the Future planning task force. We further note with favor that the University is on track to complete a review of its core curriculum by Spring 2025, the FY2025 budget includes \$24 million for capital projects, and the Trustees have authorized a bond issue of \$145 million for the construction of a new residence hall. The report also documents the ways in which Brandeis is addressing its current budget, financial, and operational structures, and we note that the University will temporarily increase the draw from its endowment to support its capital campaign and new housing initiative.

The scheduling of a comprehensive evaluation in Fall 2027 (deferred from Fall 2026) is consistent with Commission policy requiring each accredited institution to undergo a comprehensive evaluation at least once every ten years. In addition to the information included in all self-studies, we ask that the institution continue to give emphasis, in the Fall 2027 self-study, to the five items specified for attention in its Fall 2022 interim report. We understand that these matters do not lend themselves to rapid resolution and will require the institution's sustained attention over time; hence, we ask that the Fall 2027 self-study include a further update on the University's continued progress in these areas. We also remind you of the two additional matters to be addressed in the Fall 2027 self-study that were identified in our December 5, 2022 letter, specifically: (1) completing and evaluating the effectiveness of its strategic and institutional plans, with attention to capital planning and enrollment planning; and (2) continuing to close the deferred maintenance gap.

The Commission expressed appreciation for the report submitted by Brandeis University and hopes that its preparation has contributed to institutional improvement. It appreciates your cooperation with the effort to provide public assurance of the quality of higher education.

You are encouraged to share this letter with all of the institution's constituencies. It is Commission policy to inform the chairperson of the institution's governing board of action on its accreditation status. In a few days we will be sending a copy of this letter to Lisa Kranc. The institution is free to release information about the evaluation and the Commission's action to others, in accordance with the attached policy on Public Disclosure of Information about Affiliated Institutions.

If you have any questions about the Commission's action, please contact Lawrence M. Schall, President of the Commission.

Sincerely,



Michael Whelan

MW/sjp

cc: Lisa Kranc

Attachments: Public Disclosure of Information about Affiliated Institutions