Re: Call for Active Support of Civic Engagement on Election Day

To: President Leibowitz, Provost Lynch, Stewart Uretsky, EVP Finance and Administration

CC: Robin Switzer, VP Human Resources; Dorothy Hodgson, David Weil, Katy Graddy, Lynne Rosansky, Eric Chasalow, Mark Brimhall-Vargas

The Faculty Senate calls on the Brandeis University administration to take every effort to ensure that all members of the community have time to vote on Election Day, Tuesday 3 November 2020.

This initiative would align with the historical mission of our great University, which was founded to promote the public good in response to global atrocities. A critical public good at the very core of American democracy is civic participation in voting.

Encouraging students to take their civic responsibility seriously by facilitating it would also promote our goal of helping students grow into individuals capable of “promoting their own welfare, [while] remaining deeply concerned about the welfare of others.” In addition, providing all staff members with the same schedule flexibility enjoyed by faculty and students will further communicate our commitment to equity and inclusion.

We recommend, specifically:

- All staff be granted at least 3 hours of paid time off on Election Day
- Faculty be encouraged to accommodate students who need to miss class or assignments on Election Day to vote
- Faculty be permitted to reschedule one class if necessary to vote.

8 October 2020

JPC, Chair with the unanimous support of the Faculty Senate