



UPDATED: Student Union Senate Update FINAL MEETING (4/14/19)



Update from Vice President/Senate President:

Sunday was our last Senate meeting. We chartered “PERIOD @ Brandeis,” and formed an umbrella group (MARIMBA) for instrumental clubs. We impeached two Justices for lack of attendance, passed two SMR’s, and amended the Club Consultant bylaw to require the consultant be either a faculty member or a full-time staff member. We also passed an amendment encouraging club leaders to undergo an “Allyship Training” being developed by the Office of DEI. This is meant to facilitate greater cultural awareness and competence when discussing sensitive issues. We also proposed sending out a survey about whether we should change the Brandeis mascot back to an Owl. Stay tuned! This past week, I met with Tim Touchette from DCL, and Dean of Arts and Sciences, Dorothy Hodgson, along with Dennis Hicks from Student Activities.

I want to thank the community for electing me. A lot of what we've done is long-term planning, something that seemed to be lacking. Presence, Club Advisors, the Senate’s bylaw reforms, Hannah Brown’s Commuter Rail stipend, FREE airport shuttles, new water fountains in residence halls, The Ollies, Campus Conversations, CEEF reforms, and everything else the Union's been working on, were (and are) long-term projects. Some of these required policy changes, and others required changes of culture. The Senate has become more goal-oriented, and accountability has been our core focus. We've also spearheaded new (hopefully) long-lasting partnerships with several administrators. It's no secret that this year's Union hit some bumps in the road. Disagreement is normal, but it should never be personal. We're certainly an argumentative community, but I'd ask us all to approach challenges with trust in each other, an open mind, and a good sense of humor. This doesn't mean that we shouldn't be serious. Rather, it means we shouldn't take ourselves too *seriously*. The minute a disagreement becomes personal is the minute we should ask ourselves if we're taking it too far. All of us have good intentions, and want what's best for Brandeis. Nevertheless, I'm proud of what the Union has accomplished. Despite some setbacks, we got big things done, made Brandeis a better place, and had some fun along the way. All in all, not bad. Not bad at all.

Senate Committee News:

1. Rules: Brought a written report to recap the work of the bylaws over the semester.
2. SoJo: To recap the year, Black History month event + planning a Student/Faculty Event for the Fall, hoping for a chair next year who will seeks out feedback from students.
3. Dining: Proud of all of the improvements made to the dining halls through partnerships with Sodexo. Read their FULL REPORT here:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hc4BgDarRofr-ea9pBTekmJe-lsYyF-7Z-bZzXqhYqg/edit#>
4. Services and Outreach: Rewrote bylaws, held a successful Meet-the-Union event, MidBuff is going to be a great time, flea market event is going to ease the transaction of furniture/electronics/etc for those graduating.
5. Health and Safety: Started meeting with the BCC regularly to encourage more outreach programs and make their website more accessible. Discussed insurance issues, permanent dispensers for CONDOMS, making sure buildings are up to ADA codes.
6. Club Support: Period @ Brandeis approved to be chartered, MARIMBA umbrella organization approved, restructured the chartering process for new clubs, club consultant bylaw passed, JFAB recognized.
7. Facilities and Housing: Appreciation day for Sodexo workers and staff, East beautification in progress through CEEF, more accessible BranVan drivers, cleaning the ICC club closet, replacing broken HDMI cables in community spaces, new committee email.
8. SenSus: Assisted in hosting a successful Student Sustainability Leadership Symposium (SSLS), disposable water bottle ban going through, water fountain refurbishing initiative will continue over the summer, new solar panels to be installed over the summer, made stickers, bulk ordered reusable water bottles, SaveOhno campaign

More Info About Senate Committees

- **Campus Operations Committee** (Formerly "COW-G") - (Chair: Sen. Taylor Fu - taylorfu@brandeis.edu) - **Mondays from 6-7pm in the Union Office (SCC 301)**
 - *Addresses facilities and maintenance issues, as well as long-term physical campus improvements.*
 - *Suggest new projects [HERE](#)*
- **Club Support Committee** (Chair: Sen. Noah Nguyen - clubsupport@brandeis.edu) - **Saturdays from 3-5 pm in the Union Office (SCC 301)**
 - *Assists Student Union clubs in the accreditation process and organizational development. Hosts club leader development workshops, and reviews club documents and Union Bylaws to improve students' experiences with clubs at Brandeis.*
- **Dining Committee** (Chair: Sen. Leigh Salomon - leighsalomon@brandeis.edu) - **Thursdays from 3:30-4:30 pm in Sherman Dining Hall**
 - *Meets weekly with Brandeis Dining (Sodexo) leadership to discuss menu options, dining hours, dietary issues, specific dining concerns, and special dining events.*
- **Health and Safety Committee** (Chair: Sen. Josh Hoffman - saramello@brandeis.edu) - **Thursdays from 4:30-5:30pm in the Union Office (SCC 301)**
 - *Works to address issues of student health and wellness, public safety, and sexual violence prevention through close collaboration with the Health Center, Counseling Center, and PARC.*
- **Rules Committee** (Chair: Sen. Jake Rong/Sen. Jacob Diaz (interim) - jrong@brandeis.edu) - **Wednesdays from 7-8pm in the Union Office (SCC 301)**
 - *Works to clarify and streamline the operations of the Student Union. Responsible for updating and reforming the Union's governing documents.*
- **Services and Outreach Committee** (Chair: Sen. Kendal Chapman - chapmunk@brandeis.edu) - **Thursdays from 6:45pm-7:45pm in the Union Office (SCC 301)**
 - *Plans special Student Union services and events, like transportation for breaks, Midnight Buffet, Meet-The-Union events, etc. Also works with the Department of Student Activities staff.*
- **Social Justice and Diversity Committee** (Chair: Sen. Geraldine Bogard - gbogard@brandeis.edu) - **Thursdays from 7-8pm in the Union Office (SCC 301)**
 - *Collaborates with student organizations and administrators to promote a diverse and inclusive environment on campus, while addressing issues of inequity.*
- **Sustainability Committee** (Chair: Sen. Kent Dinlenc - kentgokce@brandeis.edu) - **Mondays from 1-2pm in the Union Office (SCC 301)**
 - *Works to make the Brandeis campus more environmentally conscious and manages Brandeis Sustainability Fund.*

Brandeis University Student Union

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SCC 301

Senate Update Archives

(3/18)

From the Vice President/Senate President:

This past week was another busy time for the Union. I had a meeting with the Director of DCL (Tim Touchette) and the Dean of Arts and Sciences (Dorothy Hodgson). We discussed some very exciting changes to the laundry program, housing options for next year, and student involvement in long-term strategic planning within the Dean's Office. I also discussed ongoing efforts by the Dean's office to streamline and implement new programs next year. There will be another free shuttle from Logan airport to Campus returning from April Break. Stay tuned for more updates via email! During Sunday's Senate meeting, I appointed two new committee chairs, and the Senate passed bylaw amendments to clarify meeting procedures and A-Board policies. I am continuing to work with others on a long-term Club Advisor initiative. Additionally, the student life management software (Presence) is gaining steam, and we hope to see this exciting new system be implemented shortly. This groundbreaking individualized student portal system combines club management, extracurricular life, campus-wide communication, and much more!

Senate Committee News:

9. Club Support Committee: working on a comprehensive club guide to assist future leaders in this club recognition process and club management.
10. Dining: reported an 8% increase in the satisfaction rate of Dining Hall food. The committee also met to clarify the meal exchange options at Upper Usdan and the C-store.
11. Campus Operations: planning an "East Beautification" initiative and is planning changes and renovations to a large, under-utilized East Quad storage space.
12. Social Justice and Diversity Committee: planning an event in early April to better-connect minority students and faculty.
13. Senate Sustainability Committee: will be using BSF funds to replace and install new water fountains in residence halls (especially East and first-year quads). They are also looking into reducing/eliminating plastic water bottle sales on campus.
14. Health and Safety: will be holding a follow-up meeting to discuss accessibility at the BCC.

(3/24)

From the Vice President/Senate President:

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SCC 301

I want to congratulate Simran Tatuskar and Guillermo Caballero on being elected next year's President and Vice President! Hannah Brown and I will be working with them over the next month and a half to ensure a smooth transition. There are many projects underway which will take longer than a semester to complete, so we appreciate their willingness to continue our work next year. Some of those projects include *Presence*, a new student portal system which will consolidate all of club life, Community Service, applications and forms, student events and activities, the campus calendar, and campus-wide/intra-club communication into one personalized platform. This is revolutionary for Brandeis, and something we should all be excited about. We are also working on a Club Advisor initiative to provide extra support to student-run organizations. Club advisors will NOT make decisions, but they CAN help club leaders better-understand contracts, deal with financial matters, or ensure continuity of leadership in the face of naturally high student turnover. You will find club advisors at nearly every other major university, and this is a much-needed change. I have also finalized the plans for a free Airport shuttle for those returning from April break, and will have the opportunity to meet with a few key administrators next week. Have a great week!

Senate Committee News:

15. Club Support: working on a comprehensive club guide to assist future leaders in this club recognition process and club management.
16. Dining: reported an 8% increase in the satisfaction rate of Dining Hall food. Held a cooking-event in Lower Usdan last week that was very successful.
17. Campus Operations: planning an "East Beautification" initiative. Created a list of clubs currently using East storage unit who need to remove their belongings. There will also be a meeting to discuss renovating East lounges.
18. Social Justice and Diversity Committee: planning an event in early April to better-connect minority students and faculty. Working on a Bylaw amendment to require Allyship training for clubs hosting social justice-related events outside their normal scope.
19. Senate Sustainability Committee: will be using BSF funds to replace and install new water fountains in residence halls (especially East and first-year quads). They are also looking into reducing/eliminating plastic water bottle sales on campus.
20. Health and Safety: Meeting with BCC director to discuss bridging the communication between them and students as well as sharing testimonials. Also surveyed the progress of the condom distribution initiative.
21. Services and Outreach: Meet the Union went well, discussed safety/logistics of holding MidBuff on the Great Lawn on 5/2
22. Rules: Talked about amendments being proposed today, made sure two BSF reps will be voted on, intend to update all of the committee descriptions in the bylaws, co-chairship transition is going smoothly, prioritizing what should be addressed this semester

Student Union Senate Update (3/31/19)

Brandeis University Student Union

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SCC 301

Update from the Vice President/Senate President:

This week, after a long and thorough debate, the Senate passed an amendment requiring all secured clubs to have a "Club Consultant," a faculty or staff member of their choosing who can be used as an advisor on a multitude of issues. This is just one step towards bringing Brandeis club life up to par with other universities, and changing our institutional culture by facilitating more collaboration between students, faculty, and staff. The bylaw we passed does not restrict student autonomy, and Club Consultants do not have any official decision-making powers. If anyone has any questions regarding this new legislation, please don't hesitate to reach out. The Union is also proud to announce that *Presence* is moving forward. This comprehensive online student life platform promises to be an exciting addition to the Brandeis student experience, and will hopefully become a critical part of everyday life here on campus. More details to come! I have also finalized plans for a free airport shuttle for students returning from April Break, and I held a meeting with Director Tim Touchette of DCL to discuss end-of-year procedures and the steps they are taking to reduce issues involving move-out. They will be adding more dumpsters for students to use, and will be using iPads during their room inspections to streamline the process. They have assured me that the controversial extra fees from two years ago will not be a problem this year. However, they asked me to remind everyone to please clean up as much as possible and take care of your facilities to avoid damages and extra fees. I will also be meeting with the Dean of Arts and Sciences, Dorothy Hodgson, in the very near future. Please feel free to contact me or visit my office hours if you have any additional questions.

OFFICE HOUR CHANGE: I will not be holding office hours on Monday, but will do so on Tuesday from 12-2. You can also reach me via Facebook or at asfinkel@brandeis.edu should you have any questions. We can set up another meeting time if necessary!

Senate Committee News:

23. Club Support: **Club application deadline is next week!** working on a comprehensive club guide to assist future leaders in this club recognition process and club management. Passed Club Consultant amendment, and will be working on the structure for consultants in the upcoming weeks.
24. Dining: Addressed labeling issues in the dining halls and C-Store.
25. Campus Operations: planning an "East Beautification" initiative. Created a list of clubs currently using East storage unit who need to remove their belongings. Spoke with Paris Sanders from DCL to discuss East Quad lounge renovations.
26. Social Justice and Diversity Committee: Did not have a meeting last week. Still planning an event to better-connect minority students and faculty. Working on a Bylaw amendment to require Allyship training for clubs hosting social justice-related events outside their normal scope.
27. Senate Sustainability Committee: will be using BSF funds to replace and install new water fountains in residence halls (especially East and first-year quads).

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SCC 301

28. Health and Safety: Meeting with BCC director to discuss bridging the communication between them and students as well as sharing testimonials. Also will be restocking condoms in the bathrooms throughout the week.
29. Services and Outreach: Meet the Union went well, discussed safety/logistics of holding MidBuff on the Great Lawn. MidBuff planning is going well.
30. Rules: Talked about amendments being proposed today, made sure two BSF reps will be voted on, intend to update all of the committee descriptions in the bylaws

(4/7/14) UPDATE

Update from Vice President/Senate President:

This Sunday was the penultimate meeting of the Senate. As a reminder, our meetings are public, and the agendas include an open forum. Please stay informed and involved - Student Government impacts you. This week, Senators introduced Senate Money Resolutions, and voted to amend the bylaws further to clarify committee roles.

A Senator has introduced a proposal to de-charter *The Hoot*. This is an important and controversial vote. While I do not officially vote in our Senate, I have several concerns about this proposal. The community must make its voice heard. Please fill out the anonymous feedback form Senator Dinlenc released so you can express your views on the matter. The link is: <https://bit.ly/2UDt8Bt>.

Presence is also being implemented - a really exciting change for Brandeis! I realize there are still some concerns about the club consultant initiative, specifically regarding club autonomy. I will be clarifying the bylaw in a comprehensive email to club leaders early this week. In writing the bylaw, we specifically intended to protect the autonomy of club leaders. It only impacts 9 secured clubs, and the only actual requirement is that treasurers meet with their consultants twice per semester to discuss the financial health of their clubs. All other uses of the consultants are optional, and consultants have no decision-making powers. If the initiative proves to be successful, future leaders can expand it to other clubs in the long term. If not, it can be reformed or removed.

Regardless of the issue, I do hope people reach out to us. We are here to help, and I invite public participation. We are all on the same team. Please reach out to me at asfinkel@brandeis.edu if you want to discuss anything specific. Thank you, and have a good week!

Brandeis University Student Union

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SCC 301

Hannah Brown, President

Aaron Finkel, Vice President

Senate Committee News:

31. Club Support: Working on a club guide to assist future leaders in this club recognition process and club management. Passed Club Consultant amendment, and will be working on the structure for consultants in the upcoming weeks.
32. Dining: New hand sanitizers around dining halls, flavored seltzer dispensers will be coming, new (real) butter packets, heard complaints about fruit price fluctuations
33. Campus Operations: planning an “East Beautification” initiative. Spoke with Paris Sanders from DCL to discuss East Quad lounge renovations.
34. Social Justice and Diversity Committee: Had to cancel their event due to concerns of low attendance this late in the semester, SMR has been cancelled and the money remains in the budget
35. Senate Sustainability Committee: will be using BSF funds to replace and install new water fountains in residence halls (especially East and first-year quads).
36. Health and Safety: No meeting this week - instead refilled condom dispensaries in bathrooms, running low on inventory, considering making this a CEEF project
37. Services and Outreach: Two SMRs today for Midnight Buffet and a flea market (asking to suspend the rules for MidBuff), MidBuff attendance will be ENFORCED, will send out a Google form to account for all members
38. Rules: Many bylaw amendments - working on revamping the judiciary, clarifying language. Would like to acknowledge the VP’s official censure of Union members not adhering to the attendance policy.