

Starting Platform of Jacob Edelman for Student Union President

1: ACCESS

Let's fight to guarantee the support for all students to have access to necessary services and opportunities. I Plan to:

- Advocate for increased off-hour and weekend health services, especially at the Brandeis Counseling Center.**
 - ◆ Ensure adequate coverage for students suffering from substance abuse issues.
 - ◆ Make certain that essential products, such as plan-B, are available to students within a reasonable amount of time.
 - ◆ Issue a public call for the administration to guarantee funding to match the increasing demand that gets placed upon its services year after year.
 - ◆ Offer trainings to recognize and respond to signs of mental health difficulties among peers, focusing on areas such as panic attacks and academic stress, with program guidance from the Dean of Students' office and the Brandeis Counseling Center. Also offer the training to the student body at large.

- Start the conversation about reducing the practice of free student labor on campus.**
 - ◆ Prompting students to choose between a beneficial unpaid job and an unfulfilling paid job serves as a promoter of inequality, and a barrier to participation.
 - ◆ This is especially an issue in roles such as research jobs, which are often an experiential expectation for higher level career-related programs.
 - ◆ Changing the practice of unpaid labor will not be easy or simple, but let's finally move to start the conversation between students and administration officials.

- Continue the fight for free and accessible Menstrual Products.**
 - ◆ This is a meaningful change that would positively affect a huge number of students on campus. I pledge to work with the senate COW-G committee to make this a priority Union initiative.

- Call upon the administration to include a laundry quota in financial aid.**
 - ◆ Clean clothing is not a luxury, it is a necessity.
 - ◆ We will seek to negotiate a price decrease, or research a new laundry provider so students are no longer stuck with arbitrary increases in load pricing.

- Advocate for students facing food insecurity.**
 - ◆ As a Union, we will fight to ensure that dining halls remain open during breaks, and that students who face food insecurity have a way to access a meal.

2: STANDING FOR PRINCIPLE

Let's Enact Policies That Uplift the Best of Who We Are. I Plan to:

→ **Guarantee funding parity for clubs representing diverse and marginalized groups.**

- ◆ Measure how the Union is serving and supporting diverse student groups and cultural clubs as compared to other on-campus groups by means of a survey that anonymously asks clubs if they feel that their funding and support is equitable.
- ◆ Respond to any existing funding and service difficulties by conducting direct Union and A-Board outreach to groups representing people of color, LGBTQIA+, the disability community, women, and others per CDO recommendations.
- ◆ Continually assess and reassess Union funding strategies to maximize funding impact via online polling and other methods aimed at including the extended Brandeis community.

→ **Promote a Student Union that reflects Brandeis Students.**

- ◆ Create the position of Union Chief Diversity Officer, who will consult with the University's Chief Diversity Officer to assess the Union and its policies. Complete the Student Union census for diversity each semester.
- ◆ Advertise for Union elections both in the Intercultural Center, and directly clubs, focusing on student groups that cater to underrepresented minorities
- ◆ Set up regular meetings between the University Chief Diversity Officer and Union branches to continually develop and implement inclusion efforts.
- ◆ Encourage both the new Union Chief Diversity Officer and the University Chief Diversity Officer to hold open and accessible office hours.

→ **Work for a greener campus.**

- ◆ Petition the administration to commit to purchasing a majority of its electricity from renewable energy sources, following the lead of peer institutions (see: Goshen College, American University, MIT, etc.)
- ◆ No more lawn sprinklers usage during rainstorms.
- ◆ Reduce paper waste from flyers
- ◆ Create A-Board grants for clubs who pledge not to use paper flyers.

→ **Continue our work towards enacting universal bystander intervention training.**

- ◆ Advocate for bystander intervention training to be integrated into the general education curriculum through our influence on the Task Force on General Education.
- ◆ Ensure that strong standards are protected, regardless of the federal status of Title IX. We cannot weaken our standards in regards to preventing sexual assault.

3: TRANSPARENCY

Let us restore the idea of the Undergraduate Student Union as a force for community good.

→ Release the budget.

- ◆ At the beginning of the year, we will open up Union finances by sending out a budget to the general student body which plainly breaks down the resources that the Union has to work with.
 - The budget will continue to be released throughout the year, detailing what expenditures have been made.
 - We will hold open meetings with the student body to discuss spending priorities.
 - We will conduct online student body polling to reflect changing opinion on budget allocation.

→ Updating the Student Union.

- ◆ Release weekly media updates to the general public.
- ◆ Open a Student Union Snapchat account with campus updates.
- ◆ Begin a GroupMe text messaging system with each cohort class to receive important notifications, as well as within academic major and minor groups.
- ◆ Set up an email system where students can send in policy concerns or specific issues of individual assistance very easily to get quick assistance or updates. Begin transition work the day after the election instead of waiting until the month of May. I pledge to work with current administration immediately for a smooth and productive transition.

→ Create “Essential Guides” for Student Union and Brandeis administration functions.

- ◆ Create a “What is the Student Union” guide with an organization chart, so everyone knows what each part of the Union does.
- ◆ Create a “What is the University administration” guide with an organization chart. and chain of command.
- ◆ Ensure that each guide includes methods for students to contact and meet with specific members of the Union and the Administration on specific issues.

→ Do a better job engaging, and at points disagreeing, with administration members.

- ◆ Hold more town halls and roundtable discussions with administration officials.
- ◆ Create a system of advocacy for students seeking to meet with administrators.

→ Amend A-Board and Treasury procedures to better work for clubs with unique needs.

→ Continue to grow the bond between the Student Union and the Graduate Student Association.

- ◆ The Undergraduate Student Union has every incentive to work together with graduate students on common concerns and enact our solutions campuswide.