



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

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March 6, 2019

Office of the President
Northeastern University
716 Columbus Place, Suite 620
Boston, MA 02120

Dear President Aoun,

As you are aware, Northeastern's non-tenure track full-time faculty filed for a union election with the National Labor Relations Board on November 5, 2018. In the University's response to the filing, Northeastern challenged the election, deeming full-time faculty "managerial employees" and therefore not entitled to the right to bargain collectively.

As a global leader in higher education, Northeastern University has the academic obligation to set the gold standard for educational institutions around the world. But here in Boston, Northeastern has the moral obligation to be an active partner in the community they call home. On the Boston City Council, we work to ensure our city's schools and universities uphold their role as community leaders and partners. Full-time faculty from nearly every college at Northeastern have authorized a union election to improve compensation, benefits, and working conditions. As a major institution in our City, the University's response not only raises concerns around your ability to be a fair and transparent employer, but your impact on the community at large.

One of the fundamental ways we can improve the lives of our students is by empowering their educators. We, as a City Council, are proud to stand strongly in support of the right of workers to collectively bargain, and to decide to form a union. While faculty may have different stances on the decision to unionize, it is imperative that they be afforded the right to make that decision democratically for themselves.

Therefore, we, the undersigned, strongly urge you and your administration to allow full-time non-tenure track faculty the opportunity to decide whether they would like to bargain collectively through a free, fair, and expeditious union election process.

Sincerely,


Kim Janey
Boston City Councilor, District 7


Annissa Essaibi-George
Boston City Councilor, At Large

Althea Garrison
Boston City Councilor, At-Large

Lydia Edwards
Boston City Councilor, District 1

Frank Baker
Boston City Councilor, District 3

Mark Ciommo
Boston City Councilor, District 9

Michelle Wu
Boston City Councilor, At Large

Ed Flynn
Boston City Councilor, District 2

Josh Zakim
Boston City Councilor, District 8

Cc: John Tobin, Vice President of City and Community Affairs