



# Northeastern

March 11, 2019

Dear Councilors:

Thank you for your recent letter to the university in support of full-time non-tenure track faculty at Northeastern. I appreciate your interest in this important issue, and why you felt the need to speak up on behalf of faculty.

The nuances of the union election process make this a more complex matter than it may first appear, and I wanted to share some information and correct a central misunderstanding in your communication. Northeastern has taken no steps to prevent its full-time non-tenure track faculty from forming a union or seeking an election.

The Service Employees International Union (SEIU) originally filed an election petition in November with the National Labor Relations Board. After SEIU subpoenaed thousands of university records, the parties agreed to postpone the process to allow the university time to collect the documents, which ultimately totaled over 12,500 pages. Under this agreement, SEIU withdrew its petition and reserved the right to refile on or after January 7, 2019. As of now, over two months after the January 7<sup>th</sup> date, no petition has been filed.

SEIU is certainly free to restart the election petition process at any time. This process has been in place for over 80 years, and provides a swift and efficient means for faculty to pursue union representation.

In light of SEIU's reluctance to file a new petition, it is difficult to understand why the Union is telling faculty and City Councilors that the university is disenfranchising faculty voting rights. It's simply not true.

Please let me know if you have any questions, or if there is additional information that may be helpful for you. I look forward to continuing to work closely with you to advance issues of mutual interest and vital importance to the City of Boston.

Sincerely,

John Tobin  
Vice President  
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