

Tab 1



Student Union Accomplishments 2024-2025

This document showcases all the accomplishments of the 2024-2025 Student Union and aims to foster transparency between the Brandeis Undergraduate Student Body and the Brandeis Undergraduate Student Union. You can find all our events (those we participated in and those we hosted), projects, and meetings in this document by clicking the appropriate headline under the Table of Contents.

Last updated: 4/23/2024

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Events

September 2024:

- **Involvement Fair**, *September 1*
- **Mandatory Info Sessions for 2024 Fall Election**
 - *September 3, September 4, September 5*
- **New Club Info Session**, *September 8*
- **Presidential Debate Watch Party**, *September 10*
 - Organized by the VoteDeis Campus Coalition and ENACT Your Vote.
 - Funded by ENACT, the Educational Network for Active Civic Transformation.
 - Co-sponsored by The Brandeis Undergraduate Student Union, the Dean of Students Office, the Journalism Program, the Intercultural Center, the Legal Studies Program, and the Samuel's Center for Community Partnerships and Civic Transformation (COMPACT).
- **Student Union Retreat**, *September 22*
 - Student Union members participated in DEI and PARC training during this retreat.
- **Homecoming**, *September 28*
 - The Student Union sponsored 200 free food truck vouchers and hosted a raffle for Brandeis students.
- **Pumpkin Fest**, *September 29*
 - The event was part of Family/Alumni Weekend.

October 2024:

- **Vice Presidential Debate Watch Party**, *October 1*
 - Organized by the VoteDeis Campus Coalition and ENACT Your Vote.
 - Funded by ENACT, the Educational Network for Active Civic Transformation.
 - Co-sponsored by The Brandeis Undergraduate Student Union, the Dean of Students Office, the Journalism Program, the Intercultural Center, the Legal Studies Program, Hillel's Mitzvote, and the Samuel's Center for Community Partnerships and Civic Transformation (COMPACT).
- **Meet the Vote Goat**, *October 22*
 - Taking a selfie with a real goat to encourage voting, and provide help with registration, absentee ballots, early voting, and rides to the polls

- Organized by the VoteDeis Campus Coalition and ENACT Your Vote.
- Funded by ENACT, the Educational Network for Active Civic Transformation.
- Co-sponsored by The Brandeis Undergraduate Student Union, the Dean of Students' Office, and the Brandeis Politics Department.
- **Your Vote Matters, October 23**
 - Panel about the importance of voting led by Rani Balakrishna '25, current president of the Student Union, and Peyton Gillespie '25, former president of the Student Union
 - Moderated by Lee Bitsoi, Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
 - Co-sponsored by The Brandeis Undergraduate Student Union, ENACT, Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and VoteDeis.
- **COVID-19 and Flu Vaccine Pop-Up Clinics, October and November**
 - Partnership with the Brandeis Health Center

November 2024:

- **VoteBus, November 5**
 - A free ride on the Brandeis Vote Bus to Waltham was available on Election Day.
 - An ADA-accessible BranVan was also available to Waltham polling locations.
- **Election Night Watch Party, November 5**
 - Organized by the VoteDeis Campus Coalition and ENACT Your Vote.
 - Funded by ENACT, the Educational Network for Active Civic Transformation.
 - Co-sponsored by The Brandeis Undergraduate Student Union, the Dean of Students Office, the Journalism Program, the Intercultural Center, the Legal Studies Program, Hillel's Mitzvote, and the Samuel's Center for Community Partnerships and Civic Transformation (COMPACT).
- **Brandeis Bazaar, November 6**
 - A free clothing exchange where students could donate and/or take clothes to encourage sustainable use of clothing.
 - Spearheaded by the Student Union Director of Sustainability, Vivienne Scott, and the Senate Internal Operations Committee.
- **Brandeis Kindness Day- Faculty and Staff Appreciation, November 12**
 - The Student Union gave out faculty and staff appreciation goodie bags.
- **Turkey Shuttles, November 26-December 1**
 - The Student Union sold tickets for shuttles to Logan Airport or Penn Station for the Thanksgiving holiday.

- Funded by the Campus Sustainability Fund (CSF).
- Spearheaded by the Student Union President, Rani Balakrishna, and the Student Union Director of Sustainability, Vivienne Scott.

December 2024:

- **International Day of Persons with Disabilities Pop-Up Event, December 3**
 - An event that raised awareness of the issues faced by people with disabilities in all aspects of life, including political, social, economic, and cultural barriers.
 - Co-hosted by the Gender and Sexuality Center (GSC) and Disabled Students Network (DSN).
- **Therapy Dogs, December 11**
 - Bringing therapy dogs to the SCC library during exam season.
- **Self-Care Day, December 13**
 - An event dedicated to providing students with resources, both academic and mental health-related.
 - Hosting a petting zoo from Animal Craze.
 - Co-hosted by the Campus Activities Board (CAB).

January 2025:

- **“It’s Not All About the President: Engaging in Local and State Government”, January 30th**
 - Featured State Representative Thomas Stanley of Waltham & Waltham City Councilor Paul Katz.
 - Organized by the VoteDeis Campus Coalition.
 - Co-sponsored by The Brandeis Undergraduate Student Union and ENACT, the Educational Network for Active Civic Transformation.

February 2025:

- **Reproductive Health & Justice Week Events, February 6th-9th**
 - Featured three events:
 - “Know Your Body, Know Your Rights” Panel
 - Period Product Packaging Pizza Party
 - Sunday Matinee Movie Screening
 - Organized by Brandeis Pro-Choice, WSRC, PAD, The Brandeis Undergraduate Student Union, and ENACT.
- **Brandeis Bazaar, February 13th**

- A free clothing exchange where students could donate and/or take clothes to encourage sustainable use of clothing.
- Spearheaded by the Student Union Directors of Sustainability, Cesar Tarton and Aviva Gornick.
- **Listening/Talking Circles, February 24th**
 - Listening/talking circles that provided an opportunity to be in a community, to share one's experiences, and/or to listen to others deeply.
 - Organized by the Ombuds Office, the Dean of Students Office, and The Brandeis Undergraduate Student Union.

March, 2025:

- **Free Raffle at the Basketball Games, March 1st**
 - In partnership with Athletics
 - The prizes included a tote bag, a blanket, and a sweatshirt.
- **Therapy Dogs, March 11th**
- **International Women's Day Brunch, March 11th**
 - The Brandeis Undergraduate Student Union tabled to showcase inspirational quotes from women in history and to allow students to write down quotes from inspirational women in their own lives.
- **Open Mic Night, March 13th**
 - Celebrating Women's History Month
 - Hosted by the Creative Writing Department, the English Department, the AAPI Department, Connections Lit Mag, and the Brandeis Undergraduate Student Union.
- **"Culture, Change, and Uncertainty", March 18th**
 - Co-facilitated by Dean Shoulson and Michelle Bowdler.
 - Organized by the WSRC and the Brandeis Undergraduate Student Union.
- **Women in STEM Workshop, March 26th**
 - Celebrating Women's History Month
 - Organized by the Brandeis Undergraduate Student Union, Hiatt, BEWiSE, and Girls Who Code.

Projects

September 2024:

➤ **Undergraduate Transportation Fund**

- The Student Union sponsored the Undergraduate Transportation Fund through the Hiatt Career Center.

➤ **CSF and CEEF**

- Overseen by the Student Union A-Board.
- The Campus Sustainability Fund (CSF) provides funding for Brandeis Undergrads undertaking projects to improve sustainability at Brandeis.
 - In the past, CSF has funded the following projects: Turkey Shuttles, Water Confidence Testing, Trip to the March to End Fossil Fuels, etc.
 - CSF contains \$55,000, in addition to some funds carried over from the previous year.
- The Community Enhancement and Emergency Fund (CEEF) funds student-led projects to enhance and upgrade the campus, benefiting the entire student body.
 - In the past, CEEF has funded the following projects: Accessibility Ramp at the BCC, Branda, Library Treadmills, Condom Dispensers, and more.
 - CEEF has a budget of \$250,000 from the SAF.

October 2024:

➤ **Student Union Suggestions Box**

- Brandeis students can submit any suggestions or concerns to the Student Union by filling out the [Student Union Suggestions Box](#).

November 2024:

➤ **Multicultural Hair Products**

- Got multicultural hair products in the C-store and Bookstore in partnership with The Multicultural Hair, Art, and Empowerment Club.

February 2025:

➤ **Club Carts: Brandeis Event Ease Project**

- Club leaders can borrow cards from either the SCC or the ICC to help

transport and move items across campus.

- Funded by CEEF and in collaboration with the ICC.
- The Student Union Secretary, Rachel, led this project.

March, 2025:

➤ **Menstrual Product Dispensers Restocking**

- Expanded to Skyline and Village with smaller caddies.
- Led by the Brandeis Undergraduate Student Union and PAD (Period Activists at Deis).

Meetings

September 2024:

The Student Union members met with:

- Student Affairs
- Department of Student Engagement
- Hiatt Career Center
- PAD
- Public Safety
- Dean Shoulson
- Sue Scannell, *Executive Director Operations, Administration & Budget*
- Chief Rushton
- Intercultural Center
- Center for Spiritual Life
- Gender and Sexuality Center
- Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Board of Trustees
- Deepa Khatri, *Associate Director for Budget and Operations in the Department of Student Engagement*
- Laura Flynn, *Director of Orientation and First-Year Experience & Interim Student Union Advisor*
- Board of Trustees
- Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
- ENVS Department
- Student Accessibility Support

October 2024:

The Student Union members met with:

- Laura Flynn, *Director of Orientation and First-Year Experience and Interim Student Union Director*
- PAD
- Student Affairs
- DPV Transportation
- SSIS
- Lori Kabel, *Director of Facilities Service*
- Lois Stanley, *Vice President of Campus Planning and Operations*
- Community Living

- Khaled Nhoury, *Transportation Manager*
- Dean of Students Office
- Leah Berkenwald, *Director of Health Promotion and Wellness Initiatives*
- Alumni Board
- Harvest Table
- Interim President Arthur Levine
- Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
- Intercultural Center
- Center for Spiritual Life
- Gender and Sexuality Center
- Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

November 2024:

The Student Union members met with:

- Laura Flynn, Director of Orientation and First Year Experience and Interim Student Union Advisor
- Student Affairs
- Chief Rushton
- Student Life Committee, Board of Trustees
- Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
- Office of Undergraduate Admissions
- Intercultural Center
- Gender and Sexuality Center
- Center for Spiritual Life
- Interim President Arthur Levine
- Dean Shoulson and Provost Fierke
- Community Living

CEEF and CSF Funding Results

Overall Results- Redid the Funding Scope

- Cut funding scope to 7 pages, down from 14
- Removed redundancies and updated for new procedures

Community Emergency and Enhancement Fund (CEEF) Funding Results from 2024 Applications:

- Undergraduate Transportation Fund: \$6,000 was allocated to assist students with commuting to and from off-campus internships and jobs. Students will be granted up to \$100 each to cover transportation costs to and from Boston for the duration of the semester.
- I AM BRANDEIS Pt. 2: Nearly \$4,000 was allocated to build and supply dispensers around campus with free menstrual products for students. This constitutes Pt. 2 of an ongoing collaboration between the Brandeis University Student Union and the PAD club on campus.
- Brandeis Stair Accessibility Improvement Project: More than \$35,000 was allocated to install high-visibility/grit strips on hundreds of stairs across campus to improve accessibility and make campus safer for those with disabilities.
- Brandeis Event Ease: More than \$1,000 of funding was allocated for club resource carts to help clubs move materials around campus more efficiently. The carts will help clubs transport materials for shows, installations, and cultural events.
- Focus Pods: Nearly \$65,000 of funding was allocated to install state-of-the-art soundproof pods around campus, creating new spaces for students to take calls, meet virtually with employers, and conduct interviews in quiet and professional spaces.
- Apple Vision Pro Spatial Tour: More than \$10,000 of funding was allocated to purchase two Apple Vision Pros and develop augmented reality tours for admissions counselors on high school visits and at college fairs.
- Pedestrian Campus Safety: More than \$10,000 of funding was allocated to install pedestrian safety features at pedestrian crossings all around campus.

- ICC Floor Renovation: Nearly \$5,000 of funding to renovate the floor in the ICC and make the ICC a cleaner and safer space for students
- Campus Bleeding Control Station Coverage Expansion: Nearly \$7,500 of funding was allocated for an expansion of the current campus bleeding control program. The funding will go to installing dozens of bleeding control stations across campus.

Campus Sustainability Fund (CSF) Funding Results from 2024

Applications:

- Turkey Shuttles: Helped students get to Penn Station and Logan Airport over Thanksgiving Break.
- Warming Stripes Banner Stakes: Equipment to fix the Brandeis Warming Stripes Banner to the ground, when it used to take 10 people to hold.
- Brandeis Exchange Market Website: Create an exchange similar to Facebook Marketplace for Brandeis students to reduce waste and promote sustainable practices.

Treasury Fall 2024

- Held daily office hours
- Made 750+ payments this semester with clubs
- A new spending system was implemented for the Student Union.
- Held 4 large club treasurer trainings and 6 smaller focus sessions