

Campaign Platform Student Government 2025-2026

### Letter from the Slate

Dear Terriers,

Welcome to the journey and community that we call BridgeToBU! We are so incredibly honored and grateful to have the opportunity to run as your next 2025 - 2026 Student Government Executive Board.

For us, BU is more than just a university. It's a collection of some of the most brilliant, passionate, and diverse students. But far too often, we exist in silos of isolation, separated by our different backgrounds, hobbies, and organizations. That isn't the BU that we believe in. The name of **BridgeToBU** reflects our mission; to bridge the gaps between the diverse communities of students across all walks of life, to bridge students as a whole to student government, and to bridge students to our university administrators to ensure that our voices and values are heard.

The **CORE** of BridgeToBU are you all, the students. Our shared and lived experiences as students but also as members of Student Government have shown us the importance in the **COMMUNITY** by bridging connections among different members of our student body, organizations and campus resources. By actively conducting direct **OUTREACH** to students as a collective, we aim to **RESPOND** to the most urgent problems of our community and your needs in order to **EMPOWER** and amplify the voices of every BU student equally and inclusively.

Together, we'll **bridge differences**, **build movements**, and **empower** every student to create the BU we deserve.

This is our movement, BridgeToBU

# Why BridgeToBU?

At the center of our **people-powered grassroots campaign**, is of course, you all—the students. What makes BridgeToBU transformatively different is our direct approach to addressing student concerns and needs, a fundamental yet too often overlooked part of Student Governance. Rather than just focusing on our ideas and visions for change on campus, we look towards your ideas and work to address your concerns to guide the work and initiatives that we do.

As the most experienced Student Government slate running, we are well aware of the traditional barriers and obstacles that prevent people from getting involved. For too long, Student Government has been seen as an isolated, difficult-to-reach institution that maintains a revolving door only for those that are already involved. Although we may have our own initial platform and policies, our ultimate goal is to build a collective agenda contributed by all students—something that we call **The People's Agenda**.

BridgeToBU champions the rights of all students, regardless of our differences, and we understand that our **diversity is our greatest strength**. Together, we will build bridges between communities on campus, between students and student government, and between students and the university administration. Together, we will fight day and night for the better campus that we believe is possible, with an especially strong emphasis on supporting our historically disenfranchised and marginalized communities to ensure **equity and equality throughout all that we do.** 





Matthew Feliciano

President

There is no greater honor than representing the diverse community of leaders, dreamers, and visionaries at Boston University as Student Body President. From my personal leadership experiences, I know that creativity and innovation are abundant in our city and institution. Fielding student ideas to form

actionable policies and events has become my passion, and to me, empowering everyone to create more and leave their mark is the most important role of the President.

**Campus Involvements:** BU Student Government Director of Academic Affairs, Internal Vice President of BU's Alianza Latina, HUB Student Advisory Council Undergraduate Member, Outreach and Research Intern in Village of Nyack



As your Executive Vice President, I am committed to working with our E-Board to utilize and expand on Student Government resources and to uplift our staff to empower and advocate for students from all walks of life. My priority in serving our community is to foster a creative, and collaborative Cabinet that will host engaging events, organize initiatives to

further advance the needs of all students, and to liaise with the University to ensure that we work to create a BU where everyone can thrive and feel supported.

**Campus Involvements:** BU StuGov VP Chief of Staff, SPARK Project Manager, Admissions Ambassador, BU Public Relations Terrier Creator, CAS Student Government Community Affairs, BU Running Club, Transfer To BU Mentor, Phi Alpha Delta, Chinese Student Association, Living Our Values Committee, BU Votes Terrier Turnout Committee Chair



Zakiya Majeed-Landau Vice President of Internal Affairs

As your Vice President of Internal Affairs, I am dedicated to strengthening the internal community and operations of Student Government to ensure we effectively represent all students and connect all groups, however diverse. I am determined to cultivate a culture of support, collaboration and inclusivity within our

organization so that we can better advocate for the needs of the student body. Nobody should feel left out or alone. Nobody should feel unheard. I will improve communication and transparency within the Cabinet by streamlining internal processes and ensuring operations across committees are run efficiently. I am also committed to enhancing overall student engagement initiatives to enrich each student's college experience in these four years and beyond. BU at its absolute best. For everyone.

**Campus Involvements:** BU Student Government Engagement Cabinet Executive Staffer, Phi Alpha Delta, BU Pre-Law Society, Ex E-board for the Organisation of Pakistani Students, Paralegal intern at Four Golf Road Chambers, Assistant Founder for Street Children Education, Alam al Khayal Foundation, Pakistan. Law Fabrio Fashion Club, BU Fashion & Retail.

## Hanna Yilma Vice President of Finance

As your Vice President of Finance, I am determined to connect with ALL of the diverse demographics of BU in order to ensure a more equitable and transparent allocation of Student Government funds. In a city-oriented campus environment, our clubs and student organizations play a vital role in making BU feel like home to thousands of students. My objective is to build the bridge between our student organizations and our E-board, establishing a dynamic of open communication and representing YOUR needs.

Campus Involvements:

BU Student Government Engagement Cabinet Executive Staffer, Phi Alpha Delta, Kappa Delta (Eta Phi Chapter), Campaign Staffer for Breakthrough BU



## CORE of BridgeToBU

Four primary objectives to Student Government

- 1 Community
- 2 Outreach
- 3 Response
- 4 Empower

## Principle #1: Community

One of BridgeToBU's primary objectives is facilitating a transformative cultural shift both within and outside of Student Government, strengthening communities for all BU students. School spirit, or the seeming lack thereof, is a persistent issue that students have been outspoken about for years. On a campus with over 16,000 undergraduate students, too often and too easily do students feel lonely, isolated, and disconnected from their surroundings. As a slate representative of BU students from all walks of life, we believe that community and school spirit are the driving enablers behind our shared identity and the work that we plan to accomplish.

#### Expansion of Spring Concert > Spring Festival:

As a staple event that brings together the BU community and is an icon of our school spirit, we want to expand the Spring Concert to a Spring Festival that'll have multiple artists, food vendors, and a venue change from Agganis Arena to Nickerson Field. Think Coachella or Governor's Ball, but a BU version.

#### Slate Meet and Greet:

We want to create regular opportunities to connect students with elected representatives during the year to encourage engagement, casual conversations, and familiarity with Student Leaders. We intend to make the slate as accessible as possible so students can easily voice their concerns to us on a more personal level.



#### **Student Affinity Centers:**

We will work closely with the IMPACT At-Large Party and the IMPACT Senate Committee to logistically support a path towards the establishment and construction of Black, Latine, and Asian Student Resource Center websites, along with plans for physical centers by Spring 2026.

#### **University Spirit Week:**

What's better than a day dedicated to school spirit? An entire week. The University Spirit Week will be an event each semester that celebrates the diverse diaspora of BU students through a week-packed with events, spirit competitions, and more!

#### Global Village:

Working with the various cultural and affinity groups on campus, we plan on hosting a large-scale global village on BU Beach every semester that features unique cuisine, performances, and festivities to showcase the diverse diaspora of BU.

#### **Increased Tailgates:**

Our Events Department will work closely with BU Athletics and the Dean of Students office to host more regularly scheduled tailgates for athletics games to promote school spirit in the form of rooting for our home team. Free food, music, and athletics merch will be provided.

#### Extending Campus Hours:

Working with campus spaces to extend their hours so that organizations and students alike can host more events. More study spaces and increased campus accessibility for all types of schedules, including night classes, is the mission.



## Principle #2 and 3: Outreach & Response

Historically, Student Government has always been a resource for campus organizations. Still, we have not taken as much initiative as we could with hearing and learning about the consistent plights faced by student organizations. Communication is a two-way street: catalyzing a shift in campus culture requires outreach to all organizations and improved responsiveness for communities and issues of all sizes. Working hand-in-hand with our campus leaders, we aim to

#### Feedback Task Force

A component of the Engagement Department, the StuGov Feedback Task Force will work to develop surveys and other methods to engage with students on various thoughts and ideas on how to improve Student Government, issues that matter to them, and proposals they'd like to share.

#### Establishment of a University Referendum Process

By working with the Students Election Commission, Student Senate, and the Dean of Students office, we will establish a formal referendum process for any and all student groups to submit referendum proposals by the beginning of the 2026 - 2027 election cycle.

#### Campus Policy Tracker

All students have the right to know what goes on at our university. We will hire a team of students dedicated to researching and publishing a tracker of all new university policies, decisions, and statements, visible to all of the campus community.



## Principle #2 and 3: Outreach & Response

#### Supporting CGS and Transfer Students

We plan on working with Orientation, the CGS Advising Office, and University Partners to host optional events during the Fall gap semester to assist students with getting a head start in adjusting to the campus environment while building community. Additionally, we will work with Transition to BU (TTBU) and the First Year Success Office to increase the number of advisors for transfer students and to make resources for transfer students more visible on campus, as well as increasing the speed in which the University processes credit evaluations.

#### Supporting First-Generation & Low-Income (FGLI) Students

We intend on developing a close working relationship with the Newbury Center to develop additional programming, scholarships, and networking opportunities for FGLI students on campus. We will also open a dedicated team in the Engagement Department to connect and outreach to FGLI students.

#### Monthly University Town Halls

As an elected body to represent all 16,000 undergraduate students, it is also the responsibility of Student Government to connect students to our university's leadership, faculty, and administration. Every month, we will host a town hall with the Dean of Students and various other university offices on the state of university affairs to answer student questions and field feedback throughout the semester.

#### Increased Usage of the Student Government Office

The Student Government office is our hub for operations, and more than that, a physical manifestation of our work. We hope to use this office as a space to bridge and connect with students like never before, and we will implement an office schedule so that the office and our phone line are constantly staffed Mondays - Fridays, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

#### **Dedicated Club Liaisons**

We will work to establish dedicated club liaisons that will proactively engage with and collaborate with every single student club on campus in order to better understand your needs and problems.

### Trigger Warning

The next pages of our platform discuss sensitive content regarding mental health, domestic violence, sexual assault, and other forms of abuse.

BridgeToBU is committed to making this campus safer for ALL students. We firmly believe every student has the right to feel supported and protected on our campus.

Student Government plays a vital role in assisting students in self-advocacy, along with advocating for you. We are dedicated to empowering every student and fostering an environment of **transparency** and **accountability**, from the community to the individual level. We want to facilitate open communication between our slate and our students. We will actively listen to your concerns, and we are determined to deliver.

While these topics are central issues our platform is dedicated to resolving, we understand that it can be triggering and very upsetting to read.



## Principle #2 and 3: Outreach & Response

#### **Sexual Assault Prevention:**

Customized clothing accessories in collaboration with SAP Department and Greek Life. People wearing the clothes are basically considered "allies" or people always looking/willing to help people out at night. The goal is for students to feel more comfortable going out and enjoying the nightlife that BU and Boston have to offer.

#### **Terrier Taxis:**

We intend to partner with a ride-share company to ensure that every student can get home safely at the end of the night. This will be provided throughout the whole year, not just finals week. Whether you are getting home late from the library or from somewhere else, we want to ensure that you feel safe and secure on your way home.

#### Transparency and Communication:

We want to foster a sense of transparency within our community, and we believe that the first step is communicating with YOU about what resources exist for you.

#### Mental Health Resources:

At a school as academically challenging as ours, it is of the utmost importance that we prioritize our mental and physical health. We want to get rid of the stigma surrounding mental health and seeking help and encourage each and every student to speak up in times of need. We want to foster a community where we look out for each other and help our fellow terriers during the good and the bad times. We want to ensure that you are aware of every resource available to you.

#### Greek Life Liaison:

We will launch a dedicated liaison that will work with BU Greek Life, the Multicultural Greek Council, the Panhellenic Council, and more to support our Greek-life community on campus and to provide resources and awareness on how to combat sexual assault and domestic violence.

### Principle #4: Empower

Student government, in its simplest form, gathers and amplifies student voices and ensures they are considered by campus administrators. BridgeToBU holds the goal of empowering all campus clubs, organizations, and communities - particularly those within marginalized communities that have been overlooked for far too long. Our historically diverse team of student leaders and visionaries examines all aspects of student life to increase collaboration internally and externally. We will empower you all, our university's creators and trailblazers for change, so that together we can dream bigger.

#### **Expanded Awareness of Career Support Services:**

We will establish a close relationship with the Center for Career Development (CCD) to increase awareness of services available to students. Along with this, we will establish new initiatives such as language-based career networking opportunities, monthly international student career fairs, and more so planning life post-graduation can be more seamless.

#### Student Leadership Pipeline:

The future of Student Government and campus leaders are trained today. We will work with the Student Activities Office to establish a formal student leadership pipeline that organizes training events, organizing support and public speaking workshops to build and encourage the campus leaders of tomorrow.



### Principle #4: Empower

#### **Increased Civic Engagement on Campus:**

We will continue to expand the existing Terrier Turnout Committee and BU Votes Initiative in collaboration with the Community Service Center to make it easier than ever for students to register to and to actually vote. Our goal is for a 75% campus engagement rate in local elections.

#### University-Wide Mentorship Program:

We will partner with various student organizations, both professional and cultural, as well as university departments to launch BU's first ever, campus-wide, mentorship program connecting students in the same majors, with an emphasis on connecting historically underrepresented and marginalized students on campus. We want to work with the new resource centers to create a mentorship program where underclassmen can build relationships with and receive guidance from mentors that they can connect with through culture and shared experience.

#### Increased Transparency and Support from Allocations Board and SAO:

As student leaders ourselves, we know first hand the often overwhelming process of requesting funding or running events. We will work closely with the Allocations Board (AB) and Student Activities Office (SAO) to make their work more transparent, establish formal procedures for StuGov to help student groups with funding and event denials, and more.

#### **BU Textbook Exchange:**

Textbooks are some of the heaviest financial burdens on students, costing up to hundreds of dollars each semester. We will establish an official BU Textbook Exchange run by the Student Government that will allow students to trade in and exchange their old textbooks for their peers.

#### Peer Notes:

Ever had trouble taking notes for a fast-paced class? We want to acquire notes and study guides from students who have completed certain required classes and make them available to students struggling to take notes.

