

July 2, 2009

President Lawrence Bacow
Office of the President
Tufts University
Ballou Hall, Second Floor
Medford, MA 02155

Dear President Bacow,

I am writing to you in reference to the current union organizing efforts of the Tufts Employee Association (TEA). I have had an opportunity to meet with some of the TEA's organizers, and I wanted to put in a word of support on behalf their ability to conduct a fair and inclusive organizing campaign.

I continue to be deeply grateful for the strong and close working relationship that exists between Somerville and Tufts – a relationship that you have worked hard to nurture and enlarge. I also recognize the value of Tufts as a major local employer that provides good jobs and benefits to hundreds of Somerville residents.

Since I believe that organized labor has a strong and valuable role to play in any large, institutional environment, I urge you to allow TEA's organizing drive to proceed in an open, free and fair manner. In considering the question of whether or not to be represented by a union, all workers should, after all, enjoy free access to information and open dialogue.

I have been assured that TEA is committed to engaging in positive and fair organizing. They wish to organize for a union rather than against Tufts; they do not plan to run a campaign based on grievances, anger, fear or resentment.

I am sure that, whatever your views on the merits of the TEA cause, you and your managers share their belief in an open, fair and cordial process that allows employees to come to an informed conclusion in a non-hostile environment. I would welcome your views on this matter and would be happy to schedule an opportunity to continue this discussion.

Thank you again for the commitment you bring to the strong and growing relationship between Tufts and the City of Somerville.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Curtatone
Mayor