

February 4, 2009

Dear President Reinharz,

We would like to ask you to consider suspending any final decision about the fate of the Rose Art Museum, pending a full airing of possible alternatives by the Brandeis community. With the world's eyes fixed on Brandeis, now is the time for all of us in the university to show our willingness to debate, to deliberate, to explore a range of financial and intellectual options. This process should take place in a timely manner, but without undue haste.

The last two weeks have left many in the faculty feeling uninformed by an administration bent on taking speedy action. But the crisis of confidence that this episode has engendered may yet be transformed into a widespread support for our governing bodies, if all members of the Brandeis community are allowed to take part in a truly free discussion about what can be done, both for the Rose and for the tough financial choices that face the university. When transparent and accountable governance is circumvented anywhere in the university, we all suffer. When that breach of process results in adverse publicity for the university as a whole, as well as serious damage to the intellectual work undertaken by our colleagues in Fine Arts and their students, we all feel threatened.

The university's deserved reputation as a beacon for both social justice and intellectual integrity is at stake here. And speaking pragmatically, the events of the last week have shown that the Rose museum's value to the university is not only measured in the auction price of pictures. Donor goodwill is a valuable and hard-to-recover asset, and the Rose's potential dissolution may send the wrong message about Brandeis to potential supporters everywhere.

Because closing the Rose Museum was authorized but not mandated by the Board of Trustees, we hope that you will reassure us that you plan to hold off on any final decision about the Rose at this juncture. We believe that the suspension of any action concerning the Rose for a reasonable period—coupled with a resolve to make the university's financial options open to informed analysis by engaged members of the Brandeis community—would go a long way to reassuring both the community and our well-wishers outside.

Sincerely,

Silvia Arrom (History)

Susan Birren (Biology)

Marc Brettler (NEJS)

Mary Baine Campbell (English)

Bulbul Chakrabarty (Physics)

David Cunningham (Sociology)

Steven Dowden (German, Russian, & Asian Languages and Literatures)

Irving R. Epstein (Chemistry )

Elizabeth Ferry (Anthropology)

David Hackett Fischer (History)

Seth Fraden (Physics)

Richard Gaskins (American Studies)

Michael T. Gilmore (English)

Leslie Griffith (Biology)

Karen Hansen (Sociology)

Eric Hill (Theater Arts)

Jane Kamensky (History)

Don Katz (Psychology)

Nina (Cornelia) Kammerer (Heller)

Tom King (English)

Sarah Lamb (Anthropology)

Sue Lanser (English)

Harry Mairson (Computer Science)

James Mandrell (Women's and Gender Studies)

Catherine L. Mann (IBS and Economics)

Eve Marder (Biology)

Charles McClendon (Fine Arts)

Robert Meyer (Physics)

Robin Feuer Miller (German, Russian, & Asian Languages and Literatures)

Paul Morrison (English)

Leonard Muellner (Classical Studies)

Richard Parmentier (Anthropology)

Gregory A. Petsko (Biochemistry)

John Plotz (English)

Michael Randall (Romance Studies)

Michael Rosbash (Biology)

Fernando J. Rosenberg (Romance Studies)

Daniel Ruberman (Mathematics)

Ellen Schattschneider (Anthropology)

Dawn Skorczewski (English)

Nancy Scott (Fine Arts)

Marion Smiley (Philosophy)

Ramie Targoff (English)

Gina Turrigiano (Biology)

Jonathan Unglaub (Fine Arts)

Cheryl Walker (Classical Studies)

Aida Yuen Wong (Fine Arts)

Bernard Yack (Politics)

Additional Signatories of the Letter

Faculty who did not have the opportunity to sign before 9 pm February 4th

(Last updated: 7:00 pm February 5<sup>th</sup>)

William Flesch (English)

Laura Quinney (English)

Dimitry Kleinbock (Mathematics)

Jim Haber (Biology)

Melissa Stimmel (Legal Studies)

Derek Isaacowitz (Psychology)

Patricia Johnston (Classical Studies)

Joyce Antler (American Studies)

Sacha Nelson (Biology)

Liuba Shrira (Computer Science)

Richard Lansing (Romance Studies)

David Engerman (History)

Jeffrey Agar (Chemistry)

Govind P. Sreenivasan (History)

Jane Hale (Romance Studies)

Gordon Felman (Sociology)

Thomas Doherty (American Studies)

John Wardle (Physics)

Andreas Teuber (Philosophy)

Mark Auslander (Anthropology)

Joseph Cunningham (Psychology)

Judith Claire Eissenberg (Music)

Adrienne Krstansky (Theatre Arts)

Susan Lichtman (Studio Art Program)

Ellie Kellman (NEJS)

Donald Hindley (Politics)

Martin Boykan (Music)

Wayne Marshall (AAAS)

Michael Willrich (History)

Paul Jankowski (History)

Daniel Kryder (Politics)

Paul DiZio (Psychology)

Gerald Schwartz (Mathematics)

Javier Urcid (Anthropology)

Eric Chasalow (Music)

Olga Broumas (Creative Writing)

Bernadette Brooten (NEJS)

Eric Chafe (Music Department)

Mary Ruth Ray (Chair, Music Department)

Bob Nieske, (Music)

Michael Henschman, (Chemistry)

Neal Hampton (Music)

Daniel Stepner (Music Department)

Leslie Zebrowitz (Psychology)

Seth Coluzzi (Music)

Carolyn Cohen (Biology)

Dirck Roosevelt (Education Program)