

# STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY SENATE

## University Environment Committee

Meeting of February 10, 2021, 1:00-2:30 PM

Online meeting (Zoom)

Attendance: Thomas Wilson, Sarah Battaglia, Frederick Walter, Mona Ramonetti, Hiya Panja, Carlos Colosqui, Xinwei Mao, Matthew Eisaman, Ria Bhutra, Clifford Knee, Malcolm Bowman, Joanna Kaczorowska.

Meeting called to order at 1:05 PM.

Consideration of the January minutes: Sarah Battaglia made a motion to approve the minutes; Mona Ramonetti seconded. The minutes were approved without opposition.

**Chair Report:** Tom Wilson said that a bunch of exciting projects are underway; he encourages us to speak more on them. Tom will send a final list of projects/committees for which to sign up if interested.

**Transportation committee (Mona):** Sarah sent out an article about advantages of remote work, Mona sent a data-driven article, and Tom sent out a framework of questions we should ask on survey. How do we go about getting OK to send out the survey on campus? The Senate sends out multiple surveys; this is important and worth doing. So once questions are nailed down we can request to send them out. Fred Walter said committee chair can ask Richard Larson about sending survey. Chair of the Administrative Review Committee (ARC) is the contact for surveys; Fred will get person's name. The survey can be incorporated into the annual survey that goes out in March or April or we can send out separate survey. Mona said there was a survey that went out about 2 months ago; who sent it out? We will look into this. Tom said ARC chair said Fall classes should be in person assuming optimistic vaccine distribution. If ARC is sending out survey in March, maybe we can submit our questions to ARC to include in survey. Fred will talk to ARC and find out procedures. Fred suggests a stand-alone survey. Matthew E suggests just a few questions that would give us financial data. (i.e., how many days would you work at home vs. on campus? Can track environmental impact). We want to quantify the environmental benefits of remote work and resolve parking issues and act on it this semester so we can have things underway for Fall.

Mona will forward to us a survey that was emailed on November 10 regarding COVID pandemic effects so we can see who sent the survey. This is the survey that Fred sent out a white paper on regarding transportation issues that he has worked on for a while. Parking garage will be repaired for a year, have to decide where those people will park. Bike path connectivity – Fred can send article on this. Pedestrian safety: people come through hospital loading dock (not safe) or long walk from South campus (also not safe). There is nothing LIRR can do to help with buses. Englebright wants to electrify the Port Jefferson branch. The proposed bus lane down Nicolls Rd has been met with opposition. How many people use battery chargers in parking lots? There will be more electric cars on the road in next decade. Having stop signs at every intersection is not good; motion activated sensors are much more efficient. The berm that blocked the east side train station path used to be blocked; now it was taken down for more visibility. These suggestions are costly and above our control. Let Tom or Fred know if you have ideas on these items. Malcolm: P-lot is head-to-head parking; we can get 20 percent more cars on campus with a can of paint and make it angled parking (chevron parking). Carlos said there should be a pedestrian walking area in the Engineering parking lot (near Light Engineering and SAC); this can also be solved with painting. He also suggested an

electric bus donated by a company. Carlos will participate in the Transportation Committee in addition to Research Committee since we have just 3 people so far.

**Efficient, recycling and liveability committee (Ria):** Jeanne absent today. Tom suggested doing some outreach about reducing disposables (Tom uses cloth napkins and china at home). Ria said the cafeteria switched over to paper cups, plates, etc. which increases waste. Tom asked Ria and Jeanne to write up a notice that we can put on the web about changes we've made since the pandemic – small ways to save the planet. Can send on Campus Announcements, Senate page, Sustainability department. **Renewable energy (Carlos):** Tom will send Carlos info. Tom Lanzilotta is campus energy coordinator (has presented on this before). There is prohibition on campus restricting solar panels and other renewable energy items but the contract is up soon so we can add those items. Tom W. will discuss this with Tom L. Clifford. Tom L. can also speak on the battery charging areas for cars and electric buses. Tom W. will see if he can speak with us next month as guest speaker on this. About 15% of campus buses run on bio-diesel. Malcolm asked if this can be increased to 20%. Hiya Panja said recycling in East Side Dining and classroom buildings have recycling bins. But West Side Dining doesn't have enough bins. It seems there are less recycling facilities on West Campus than on East Campus. Tom asked Hiya to merge with Jeanne and Ria to discuss the dearth of recycling bins and check out places where bins are overflowed and may need another bin. Clifford said Mike Youdelman is a resource for this to have more bins put out.

**Best practices committee (Heidi absent):** Tom said anyone can help with this and send ideas to Heidi. TIAA will divest itself from fossil fuels and fracking. They got Senate to pass a resolution on this. Are we encouraging best practices? There are many advocacy requests, like change.org, available. Should we bring any of them to the Senate's attention with a resolution? We have to choose the best resolutions to present. Tom said there are green energy companies that we can invest in on TIAA. Directors of TIAA pays attention to this. If we all abandon fracking companies the company can fail, so we should invest in green companies. Best practices committee should look into this and find funds that are green to recommend to others. Matt posted a map of university divestments.

**Natural environment and preservation (Tom W.):** Englebright won another term. Nothing to report.

**Open discussion of the COVID situation:** Tom said the Point of Distribution (POD) for vaccines is open. The vaccine link was leaked and 20,000 people tried getting appointments. The POD is working efficiently now. Tom was there and said things went smoothly and swiftly. The University was asked to now set up pop-up vaccine clinics once more vaccines are available. The eligibility pool will expand next Monday for those with comorbidities. Too many eligible people are chasing too few vaccines. Vaccines are now available at some pharmacies, like Walgreen's. Tom said there should be a virtual "rush" line for vaccines, like Broadway tickets in NYC, where leftover vaccines can be given last minute. Cliff said there are 1,000-2,500 vaccines given at SBU per day. Tom said to feel free to blast out emails

**Old and new business.** There was no new or old business.

The next meeting was scheduled for the second Wednesday of March (3/10/21) at 1:00 PM.

Frederick motioned to adjourn, all in favor. Adjourned at 1:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Battaglia