

# STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY SENATE

## University Environment Committee

Meeting of May 12, 2021, 1:00 PM

Online meeting (Zoom)

**In attendance:** Thomas Wilson, Sarah Battaglia, Carlos Colosqui, Gary Kaczmarczyk, Mona Ramonetti, Frederick Walter

Meeting called to order at 1:10 PM.

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

**Chair Report:** The report on remote working was done, will discuss later. Tom is working with Nazaninto submit this past year's committee minutes to her. What they don't publish on the Senate website, Tom will have on Google Drive so we can still view them.

### **Project and group discussion:**

Remote work survey: We presented the report on the environmental aspects of remote work at the May 3rd Senate meeting after the Administrative Review Committee (ARC) committee presented their report on faculty and staff attitudes toward remote work. It was presented late at the meeting and many administrators seemed to be on their phones while Tom was presenting. Many people were concerned with safety issues but there is a lot of grassroots interest. Tom will send a copy of the report to those who requested it.

Once COVID is a past memory, we will return to the parking issue.

Fred: HR believes everyone will be on campus beginning in August. We will be violating social distance protocols; but now students are required to be vaccinated so this may help. HR sees that all will be well going back in August.

Tom: Sarah sent an article from Chronicle of Higher Education about universities starting to work remotely.

Tom was invited by Dean Tufts to be on the Parking Advisory Committee.

Sarah: The campus president made it clear in recent meetings that she wants everyone on campus.

Tom: Dean Shepson is on board for remote work. It's been 14 months and there is still blue tape on key holes on many doors which shows how many people have not been on campus the whole time.

Mona asked about student vaccinations: Tom: Vaccines can only be made mandatory if the school receives full FDA authorization; even the military is not required to vaccinate because it isn't yet mandatory. I strongly urge everyone to be vaccinated.

Gary: There is still much unknown about this; we must wait and see if FDA approval will be given. Mandating it for faculty and staff is still not part of the discussion.

Fred believes it may be mandated in July; the union needs to agree to this mandate. Tom said there may be an opt-out possibility down the road.

Fred: UUP President Fred Kowal said it will likely be individual unions' decision.

Gary: We won't beat this until everyone is vaccinated.

Gary shared an article about herd immunity from Johns Hopkins. Tom said that today's NY Times stated that 1 in 7 Suffolk residents has gotten COVID and 1 in 430 has died from it.

Fred: People don't understand the concept of risk; you have a higher risk of dying in your car. We can't control vaccine effects so it seems out of our control; it is irrational thinking.

**Old Business:** None to report

**New Business:** Tom sent out the SBU Clean Energy Master Plan; please review it. There is no mention of remote work for energy conservation. The continuing challenge of the climate crisis is that it will take a generation to stop the problem and two generations to reverse it. You can email comments or suggestions to Tom on the report.

This is the last meeting of the academic year. Do we want to meet over the summer? Fred thought we can all read the Energy report and send him critiques; maybe we will meet in July or August.

Tom thanked everyone for serving on the committee, particularly this challenging past year. Shirley, Dimitri and Sarah: special thanks, as your terms are completing. Even if we are not an official member of the committee in the Fall, we are still welcome to participate.

Mona and the committee thanked Tom for his leadership and efforts for getting so much done. We hope Tom can continue progress on the Parking Advisory Committee.

Motion to adjourn at 1:38 PM made by Mona, seconded by Carlos. Meeting was adjourned without objection.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Battaglia