

**STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY SENATE**  
**University Environment Committee**  
Meeting of December 1, 2021, 1:00 PM EDT  
Online meeting (Zoom)

In attendance: Thomas Wilson, chair, Tiffany Freidman, Clifford Knee, Matthew Eisaman, Michelino Puopolo, Malcolm Bowman, Frederick Walter, Joanna Kaczorowska, Christopher Sellers, Trevor Kapuvari, Dan Amarante, Henry Edmonson, Claran Joel Martis, Mona Ramonetti, Xinwei Mao, Gary Kaczmarczyk, Michael Youdeelman - guest speaker

Consideration of minutes from the meeting of 11/10/2021. Motion by Christopher, seconded by Malcolm to accept the draft minutes, accepted without dissent.

Chair Report:

Parking advisory committee will meet monthly in the new year

What happens to the leaves on campus? They are all composted on campus in the South P lot. In the spring they are used as mulch. Electric leaf blowers are still not in use but may be considered in the future. SBU still uses the gas ones. Fred and Matt stated that the gas ones are disruptive to their work activities and the smell is bad. Malcolm pointed out that the electric ones are not as powerful. Malcolm will do a little research on the commercial grade power leaf blowers.

Working Group- [SBU Clean Energy Plan](#)

The group welcomes comments and suggestions on the document.

In summary- the energy plan discusses some solar panels and a few other efficiencies but leaves some things off the list. It doesn't include transportation. It also depends on a small group of administrators to make decisions about energy efficiency. There is also an over-dependence on the energy company NYPA to provide energy to the campus and provide solutions.

Guest Speaker: Michael Youdelman Recycling Manager at SBU

Larry Swanson at SoMas taught Thomas that in order for recycling to work economically you need an uncontaminated recycling stream. Meaning recycle material clean and correctly in appropriate places. How challenging is it to get the SBU community to recycle correctly?

- Answer: Michael has been in this industry for approximately 23 years. There are two sets of issues. There may not be a market for the material to recreate or remake it to another product. Glass cannot be recycled at SBU. Plastic, bottles, and cans must be paid for and have zero value. Paper had value in the past but today it cost \$400 a pull (garbage truck).

Tom's Question: what is the cost for garbage per ton?

- Answer: \$84 per ton regular dumpsters, \$174 per pull, \$110 for front end dumpsters, \$144 per ton pull.

- SBU is required to recycle food waste or compost it as a commercial entity. But because there isn't a compostable facility available then SBU is not required to recycle or compost the food waste. There will be a new place available in 2023 for composting.
- There is a mechanism in place to pick up and distribute untainted prepared food.
- Gov. Hotchul passed some new regulations about recycling for state institutions but it costs a lot for recycling.
- In 2018 China stopped purchasing USA's trash. Therefore, around the country facilities to manage trash and recycling material is needed. Right now the market is down but Michael believes the market will go up for this material again in the future soon.
- In the past the garbage used to be transported to mid-Atlantic states but now SBU waste goes to local incinerators due to merging to garbage companies.

Malcolm's Question: Who's responsible for the cost of all this garbage?

- Taxpayers are responsible for paying for all of the costs associated with garbage.
- There is so much we need to do as culturally to change our own behaviors.
- Past University Presidents banned plastic bottles. It's going to take the whole community to shift the culture.

Tiffany's Question: What are some of those cultural changes people can do?

- Mandate recycling
- Get staffing in the recycling area- sustainable material management area.
- Look at the procurement areas
- State of New York and CUNY schools put funding towards these mandates
- Get deeper into the culture of sustainability
- We can each individually can do more and include students
- Make it a mandatory orientation on recycling

Tom's Question: What can this committee recommend

- Recycling management area need help including- new trucks, new bins, staffing (5 minimum) managers, experts etc.
- SL3 managers who can analyze the waste stream so that we can understand it and do something about it
- Improve the culture dealing with climate change and being aligned with the governor's mandate
- We need sustainable energy's management-- look at how goods and services get to us with energy expended to get it to us.

Tom's Question: Would an SL3 position overall reduce total costs for the University?

- This is unknown but the effort is needed to look into what we throw away.
- We need to ask for multiple paid positions and hopefully we will get someone

Working group needed for policy changes for waste management and recycling:

Henry, Tiffany, Malcolm

Date of next meeting- Jan 12th at 1pm

Send Tom ideas for guest speakers

Meeting adjourned at: 2:28pm.