

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY SENATE

Campus Environment Committee

Meeting of November 9, 2022, 1:00-2:30 pm
Virtual meeting on Zoom.

Attendance: Thomas Wilson, Mona Ramonetti, Joanna Kaczorowska, Gary Kaczmarczyk, Fred Walter, Chris Sellers, Nicholas Smith, Dan Amarante.

Guest speaker: Kendra Violet from Mobility and Parking Services (MAPS), Executive Director, working at Stony Brook for 1 year

Presentation:

Changes made this fall and reasons behind those decisions

1. Parking services became part of the Division of Enterprise and Risk Management in Jan. 2022- new division. Before that they were part of Facilities Services.
2. They consist of three areas: transit operations, auto repair and parking services. Their services are an essential piece of the university because parking is needed.
3. They want to be proactive and nimble; have integrity and accountability due to the changing situations; be resourceful and innovative- taking advantage of new changes in the industry; services oriented and collaborative because this service is necessary.
4. Based on student feedback they made changes because there wasn't a lot of parking available. It wasn't true that there was no parking available because South P had space but they learned that students didn't want to park there. Students circled around to find spots. Students walked past empty spaces in the faculty lot.
5. Changes allow: control the number of students coming to the core of campus, double the number of spaces for commuters in core of campus by reallocating faculty and staff spaces not being used, stadium lot has tension because it gets filled up faster.
6. Why charge students? It's to acquire newer technologies that they need to buy. The current technology is at end of life. Charging is the only way they can acquire funding because of their IFR status.
7. Moving parking outside the circle helps with pedestrian safety and traffic control.
8. They have the SBU transit system. They created a new express route to east campus. Increase inner loop. Brought in house the Jefferson route shuttle and added it to the app. Have a paratransit for individuals with disabilities also.
9. Bike share/ wolf ride: coordinated by the Sustainability Office-they work closely with them. There are technology issues out of their control but they are going to review where bikes should go. They want to improve the technology of where to get a bike and where to return one.
10. Parking enforcement is no longer under UPD and is now under MAPS. MAPS write tickets but do not review the appeals so those functions can be separate. East Campus parking is also under MAPS as of August 2022. Expanded airport shuttle to pick up all students, not just international students. Want to expand the Port Jeff shuttle. Working on lot and garage improvements. Projects on east campus side underway. Want to

update the website because it's not easy to navigate currently. Formalizing special events for departments. Increasing presence at campus events. They're trying to send out more communication if parking or traffic flow will be impacted for any reason. Handing out double maps app at events to inform students. Re-wrapped the buses to show visibility to the SBU brand.

11. Future plans: improving traffic flow and pedestrian safety. Improve parking experience for campus and visitors. Want to get rid of the hang tag and have a virtual permit, mobile payment options, tell people where parking is available through apps or digital signage. Looking for on demand technology like the Uber model. Looking for alternative modes of transit and partnerships with Suffolk County transit and LIRR. Looking for setting up an electrical grid for campus.
12. Questions about the LIRR parking and what's happening? Town of Brookhaven owns the parking lot next to LIRR and is open to anyone who is a resident. Therefore students have been parking there and can openly if they are a resident. This is a long problem that has been discussed for decades. Town is working with Stony Brook on a solution.
13. Parking advisory board: plan to bring it back but they do not have a lot of resources right now.
 - Thomas Wilson points out that the parking near LIRR is more the Town of Brookhaven issue.
 - Introductions of committee members to Kendra
 - Q&A: Thomas- how many commuter spaces on campus? Kendra- 2500 lot 40 and 1,200 core of campus, 500 hospital side. They are data driven. Even though they sold 1600 parking permits they do not see that many students parking on campus which they concluded means students are not parking during the day or are campus less. They sell the permits on a semester basis.
 - Fred- why is there a pile of dirt by the arena lot. Kendra- that's the general lot, the lot is being fixed.
 - Fred- if the telecommuting agreement isn't renewed feared that faculty/staff lots are going to be filled. What is the contingency plan? Kendra- met with the union (UUP) to keep up on the usage. Will change based on the situation.
 - Fred- Have you looked into running a shuttle bus from Ronkonkoma to Suffolk County Community College, etc. ? Kendra- great idea. We do not have that yet due to its suburban area but hope to have a transportation coordinator who will look at other opportunities to cut down on single occupancy vehicle use.
 - Chris- working on the clean energy plan- shouldn't transport be part of that? What kind of collaboration is happening with electrification? Kendra- they charge the student a transportation fee to cover any of their costs. They're working on reserves to pay for infrastructure costs so there have been some reserves to pay for the electrification. There is no central hub for vehicles- it's owned by departments. Their goal is to get a fleet systems management in place that will maintain the vehicles- calculate the ownership, repair and placement of vehicles and wrap that into the electrification part. Doing a study with LIPA & PSEG with the Sustainability Office.

- Chris- follow up on that- haven't heard Kendra mention calculating carbon emissions. Should be part of the energy plan. Kendra- believe they're doing the study to feed back into the plan.
- Thomas- Governor issued executive order for zero emission or low emission vehicles. Kendra- yes so they have to purchase hybrid transit vehicles since they currently have diesel.
- Nicholas- could North P be made more desirable to students? Kendra- bikes, buses from that spot but can't have the electric scooter currently because it's not safe.
- Nicholas- options for making that intersection less chaotic? Kendra- no plan in place right now but need to bring in traffic engineers. Option right now is an all way traffic light. Bus stops- remove it from the road. Still need to study it.
- Nicholas- recommended a crossing guard. Kendra- they currently have UPD out there but it's on and off so efficiency wise it will not work but it would work in general if the person manages the downtime and uptick between.
- Mona- what technologies are you considering? Kendra- need new permitting and enforcement. The current system is home grown and doesn't communicate with other systems or each other. The enforcement people can only do what they can clearly see so they can't give warning and don't know anything. Vehicular guidance to know where available space for parking.
- Mona- warning cards you want to get- how does that work? Kendra- warning cards are under Bursar's office currently and they want to bring it under MAPS. Appeals are under the traffic appeals chair outside of MAPS. Appeals can go through second rounds and fees can be waived. They are strict on safety parking (fire hydrant parking) and ADA violations (expired placards) and will not waive the fine.

Thomas-

- minutes from the last meeting accepted by Chris and Mona.
- Annual fundraiser for Ashley Schiff on November 10th at 6-8:30pm Wang Center. Invitation shared through the chat.
- Each year someone is presented with a guardian of the Glades award for Ashley Schiff and Thomas Wilson is the recipient of the award but he would be unable to come to the event. Malcolm will be attending.
- Invited people to be part of the Ashley Schiff working group
- Thomas asked Chris to reach out to the director of utilities and power plant to get back to the environmental committee on the fact sheet.

Chris- update on clean energy plan

- The working group plans to meet to draft the plan. Adding sustainability and adding transportation. A lot of questions have been cleared up from before.
- Discussed energy costs related to the clean energy plan.
- Chris is still confused why transportation and clean energy are so separate.

Thomas- goal is to get a presentation by the February University Senate meeting.

Notes prepared by Tiffany Friedman