

University Senate Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2023, 3:30-5:00 PM (Hybrid Meeting – Wang Center Theater & Zoom Meeting)

Meeting called to order by Dr. Richard Larson, the University Senate President, at 3:30 PM. Meeting recording can be viewed [here](#). A motion to approve the agenda and the minutes from March 6, 2023 carried.

Greetings from Richard Larson, University Senate President

- Welcomed everyone to the April 2023 Senate meeting.

Report from H. Nekvasil, Undergraduate Council

- Full written report can be viewed [here](#).
- Explained charge of the committee.
- We are reviewing, coordinating all curricular and other academic matters that are not limited to a single major governance unit.
- We are creating the new General Education Advisory Committee.
- We are working very closely with the course assessment committees and various working groups.
- SUNY's new Gen Ed requirements are effective this coming Fall.
- We want to be able to maximize the existing and future course compliance.

Report from L. Zaccarese and K. Violet, Mobility and Parking Services

- Full written report can be viewed [here](#).
- Explained parking and mobility services parking plans.
- Stony Brook got permission from the Governor's office of employer relations to engage in conversations about mobility and parking services.
- Plans were first presented to the President's Cabinet, then to University Council, EC, and now is in process of presenting to various collective bargaining units.
- It's required for us to have a proposal to negotiate the payment rates.
- We have operational deficits, parking capacity issues on both East and West campuses, and delayed maintenance on our parking facilities.
- We are self-funded operation, and from a forecast perspective, if we made no changes to our operation, then we are projected to be at an 11 million dollars deficit in FY 26-27.
- Operational expenses have raised, and we have not kept up with that from a revenue perspective.
- How do we solve the issues that we have? We are bringing new staff for transportation demand management, we look at our infrastructure to support biking to campus, looking at how we can support scooters on campus, looking at the connection between East and West campus, looking to change the technology from an enforcement standpoint, looking at daily parking options for faculty and staff because they are working a hybrid model. We need to address the operational needs of the parking services and new technologies that we need

to bring in and part of that plan is to do a paid model for all faculty, staff and students.

- Our proposal must go through a process of negotiation.
- We went with a tiered model because we felt like it offered individuals multiple options from a payment rate. Our peer institutions have a higher minimum rate than we were proposing.
 - Comments – Students, especially Grad students, are already struggling with the cost of living on Long Island and they can't afford another payment for the parking on campus. The parking fees will be a pay cut for Faculty and staff as well. We need to have a town hall that audience can speak and be heard. We don't have to go in deep into the pockets of people that can't afford it. We need to have serious budget discussions as a group to think about how we might save money elsewhere, to avoid asking for parking fees. It will be very hard for faculty and staff to find a spot when a lot is buried by students. Recommended re-establishing the Parking Advisory Board that students can participate in and you will get some good suggestions or ideas from. 300% increase is absolutely unfair and unwarranted.

Report from HSC VP Hal Paz

- Full written report can be viewed [here](#).
- Mentioned names of Renaissance School of Medicine faculty who received State and National Honors.
- On Friday, February 24, 2023, the Renaissance School of Medicine hosted a pre-med event in the MART, entitled "So, you want to attend medical school?"
- Efforts are underway to launch the Center for Interprofessional Innovation across the Health Sciences schools.
- Afrinash Ahamad Wins Best Poster Award at 17th Annual Women in Medicine Research Day.
- Joseph Whitton elected Secretary of ASRT.
- The commission on accreditation of athletic training education granted the Master of Science program in athletic training the maximum possible 10 years of continuing accreditation.
- School of Dental Medicine Student & Faculty Research Wins ADEA Award.
- School of Nursing Students and Faculty Shine at Eastern Nursing Research Society.
- The SBUH Quality Assessment Review Board had a productive meeting last week.
- Stony Brook Eastern Long Island Hospital and Stony Brook Southampton Hospital Joint Advisory Committees have received positive feedback regarding the attention that SBM leadership is providing to these hospitals.
- A survey to gather input on Mission, Vision, and Values was sent this week to all staff.
- Tim Brown will become the new Chief Communications and Marketing Officer for Stony Brook Medicine.
- Bob Chaloner will be stepping down as Chief Administrative Officer of Stony Brook Southampton Hospital.
- This year, 121 RSOM students successfully matched, with 59 percent staying in New York State and 32 (22 percent) matching into Stony Brook Medicine programs for their training.

- Huron was selected to conduct a business analysis on the development of a School of Public Health.
 - Question – How is the progress of Lake Grove facility?
 - Answer - Facility is literally ready to open later this month. We are working on zoning issues and approval issues with the Department of Health. We are planning on having a ribbon cutting in July to officially open the building.

Report from President Maurie McInnis

- Full written report can be viewed [here](#).
- Albany has not finalized the budget yet.
- Chancellor put an endowment match for money that is raised philanthropically in SUNY schools in Governor's budget.
- Governor's Island will announce the winner of competition on Earth Day.
- Next Presidential lecture is on April 27th.
- We have a commencement team that's been working on some ideas of improving our ceremony and making it a little bit more exciting for families.
- Since the start of the 2023 fiscal year, \$39.8 million has been generously pledged or contributed by more than 6,822 donors.
- Stony Brook University hosted it's fifth annual Giving Day on March 29. As of Friday, March 31 we have raised \$757,089 compared to last year \$392,351.
- The annual Stars of Stony Brook Gala will be held Tuesday, April 11 at Cipriani 42nd Street in New York City.
- SBU community is invited to a ribbon-cutting celebration in the Tabler Community Residence Quad on Wednesday, April 5, to recognize the naming of Dr. May Edward Chinn Hall.
- I certainly, and Stony Brook certainly, and completely support the freedom of speech and the academic freedom of our faculty.

Report from Provost, Carl Lejuez

- Full written report can be viewed [here](#).
- Haresh Gurnani was named dean of the College of Business.
- In regard to strategic planning, we will announce a campus-wide set of town halls in the later part of the month, focusing on initiatives and metrics, and will introduce the plan at the start of the fall semester.
- We have completed the IDEA Fellows. The hiring process for this cohort has concluded with several successful hires across all themes.
- I reiterate the President's point about the importance of academic freedom and freedom of speech, and the importance of our supporting that at the University. But we don't intend to retract our statement.

Reports from UUP

- B. Kube - East campus President:
 - Encouraged members to participate in chapter elections.
 - We are having a workshop on problematic performance programs for our professionals.
 - We'll be forming a parking committee with the relevant stakeholders.

- A. Solar-Greco – West Campus President:
 - UUP Chapter elections: last call for ballots - submit them before the end of the month.
 - Upcoming events:
 - 4/4 - Grievance and workplace concerns workshop
 - 4/5 - General Membership Meeting
 - 4/6 - Happy Hour
 - Parking negotiations begin soon, share feedback with us, we are your voice.
 - Register for upcoming events at uupsbu.org/calendar.

Old Business:

- K. Lindblom: Regarding a post from the SB faculty on personal social media account, the Arts and sciences Senate Executive Committee, through the Senate Executive Committee, made a request to the provost that the sentence, judging that social media post be eliminated as it has created a chill on the freedom of speech on campus. It might be a month or a little bit more, and provost did say he would get back to us, but we haven't heard back yet.
 - Answer – C. Lejuez – I don't have plan to eliminate the statement.

New Business:

- **Report from A. De Laurentiis, Free Speech and Academic Freedom**
 - Talked about a resolution in defense of free speech and academic freedom at Stony Brook University.
 - Resolution passed by 91%.
- **J. True:**

The Ecology & Evolution Department faculty have a personal and professional commitment to conservation and sustainable development. As such, the ongoing discussion regarding parking, parking fees on campus, and the attendant issues involving campus transit, are of particular interest. We are disappointed that fees for campus parking are being proposed absent a larger strategy for equitable access to campus. Parking will remain a major challenge as long as Stony Brook focuses on individual cars as the primary mode of transportation for staff, faculty, and students. In contrast to ever-greater parking expansion and its costs, substantial investment by Stony Brook University in alternative modes of transportation can relieve the parking shortage, enhance campus access, reduce traffic congestion, limit carbon emissions, and contribute to cleaner air for all. These alternatives include but are not limited to: expanded bus service to campus from neighboring communities, protected bike lanes along 25A, Nicolls, Calhoun Avenue and other local corridors, a bike-friendly connection between the Greenway bike path and campus, and a campus carpool program with incentives. Indoor bicycle storage and easily accessible showers for bike commuters are also required. Expanding transportation options is an opportunity for Stony Brook University to provide positive benefits to its neighboring communities, as well as enhancing commitments to emissions reductions and sustainability, a key component of the University's strategic plan (Goal 5).

Parking fees disproportionately impact students and staff and, in the absence of a comprehensive commitment to supporting alternative transportation options, do nothing to address the limited space we have on campus for parked, idle cars. Because the steady expansion of impermeable surfaces on campus has real environmental impacts, we cannot expect to simply pave our way out of these problems. At the same time, fees for parking that might otherwise discourage car commuting simply cannot be effective absent viable alternatives. We urge the university to hold off on the new parking fee system until it can be combined with a larger community transportation plan that makes alternative forms of transport easy, safe, and convenient. We have an opportunity to lower our environmental footprint and improve access to campus at a time when the conversation about parking issues is front and center, and we hope that this opportunity does not go to waste.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM.