

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY SENATE

Campus Environment Committee

Meeting of October 19, 2022, 1:00-2:30 pm

Virtual meeting on Zoom.

In attendance: Thomas Wilson (Chair), Tiffany Friedman, Giacinto Piacquadio, Frederick Walter, Mona Ramonetti, Malcolm Bowman, Mei Sen Lam, Daniel Amarante, Nicholas Smith, Michelino Puopolo.

The meeting was called to order at 1:05pm by the Chair.

Welcome to new members:

Nicholas Smith- year: senior, human evolution biology major. Joined the committee because he became familiar with the campus and wants to make an impact on campus.

Mei Sen Lam- Psych major. Love the environment

Giacinto Piacquadio- faculty member for Physics and Astronomy department. Joined this committee because he is hoping to help the campus.

Introductions of other committee members.

Chair report: Open seats in Social and Behavioral Sciences and Health Sciences Center. Encouraged to get the word out for new members. Executive committee will appoint for 1 year then the seat becomes available for electives.

Fred recommends bringing the vacant seats up to the senate executive committee so they can make an announcement at the next meeting for interest.

Next agenda item: Environmental committee and CAPRA (committee on planning and resource allocation). Former dean of facilities, Dean Tufts, wanted to talk to one group from the Senate. The idea would be a combined working group between the CAPRA and the environmental committee but this did not work out. CAPRA and environment committee issues are separate. Dean Tufts is no longer around so the working group is no longer relevant. CAPRA issues are mostly indoor including rehabbing buildings like the Chemistry building. Environment committee issues are largely outdoors including, parking, preservation, transportation, smart growth and energy efficiency/conservation. It's no longer required to have a working group.

Parking advisory board has been inactive and hasn't met since Feb. 4th since the parking administration was reorganized. Tiffany stated that the students are not happy with the new parking prices. Tom sent an email to Kendra- director of parking and transportation. He happened to run into her after the president's address and she stated she will be emailing him back and restarting the parking advisory board. Parking lots adjacent to LIRR are designated as premium parking and are no longer free. It's mostly empty. The LIRR commuter parking near the premium parking is very full. Why is there LIRR parking on SBU campus? We would like to know the history. He asked Kendra about why turn the LIRR parking into commuter premium

and she stated that the parking is more desirable than South P because people can walk across the street and through the athletic field.

Nicholas said he is a premium commuter parking beneficiary. He likes it even though some of his friends are not interested. He does not have an issue finding a spot. He pays \$112.50 per semester.

Tom asks- Where are the premium parking spots? Nicholas says half of Tubman, arena and the stadium.

Tom asks- How full are the lots? Nicholas says he has no issue finding a parking spot near the stadium when he comes to campus mid-day.

Tom states that the university has a plan to get revenue from parking. Tom wants to invite Kendra from MAPS to explain more about this as well as why is there LIRR parking on campus? We have to gather questions for her.

Mona asks if the LIRR parking is free? Tom and Nicholas confirm that some LIRR parking is free like Deer Park and Ronkonkoma. Question to ask Kendra- Are students filling up the LIRR commuter parking lot?

Nicholas explains that students do not park in the North campus near the baseball field as much because the spots are remote and not premium. They tend to park towards the center of campus more and the spots near the stadium get used a lot later in the day. Nicholas is a commuter assistant and sees that students are getting ticketed near the LIRR because they do not know the lot price has changed.

Tiffany mentioned the [Article about parking](#) that Giacinto found and put in the chat. Fred brought up expansion plans in the past and the current demand for more dormitories. Send Thomas Wilson questions in a week to send to Kendra. They're changing all the lots to numbers.

Energy plan- Chris Sellers absent today but has been leading the charge on the clean energy master plan.

Position was filled for one of the people who left SBU after helping author the clean energy plan. We have to put together a recommendation to present for the senate meeting/committee of what the university does well and what can be improved.

Time frame for report to senate - whenever it is completed. Closer to February because everything is pushed back.

Format of Senate presentation would be committee charge, make up of committee, clean energy report, and a report on Ashley Schiff preservation.

Ashley Schiff Preserve has been around for 50 years named after a former faculty but has no formal preservation status. Each former president has refused to endorse formal preservation status. It has a lot of value as a natural area. Make a presentation on Ashley Schiff and have the senate pass a resolution asking the University President to support formal preservation. We have a draft bill written by Steve Engelbright to add Ashley Schiff's preserve to the State park system. Directly ask the University President to make her position clear and in writing. If she says no we should know why. Every University's President said they do not want to tie the hands of future presidents which is why they have not agreed to signing commitments to preserving Ashley Schiff.

Tiffany says that the president has a plan for governors island but did not hear her mention Ashley Schiff at all. Tom believes it's time to bring it up again since this issue has been ongoing for 50 years. If not, the risk is development in that space.

Fred says there is no comparison of the two spaces Ashley Schiff and Governors Island because of their differences.

Micheal P asked about the size of Ashley Schiff? Tom says it's 26 Acres but the university overall is over 1,000 acres. On the environmental committee google drive there is lots of info about Ashley Schiff. Fred recommends making a compilation of undeveloped spaces on campus for the presentation. TF- Are there ways in which Ashley Schiff is used for stem related areas? Yes, it's used for biology, botany and other courses.

Old business: Review of Lake Brianna, 5 acres of natural water near the main entrance. Goal is to make it a preserve or use it for educational purposes in the future. Want to do some data analysis on whether it absorbs rainfall efficiently. Measuring rainfall levels. How much rainfall is needed for the lake on campus to flood the area. Need a student to do this data analysis. Looking at the correlation between total rainfall events and lake level changes.

New business:

Giacinto wants to get involved in the Energy Master Plan.

Nicholas wants to get involved in the parking group.

Tiffany and Nicholas want to help with the presentation of Ashley Schiff. Tom will get the info to look at in future meetings.

Giacinto wants to look at traffic jams and alleviating that.

Tom will ask Kendra in MAPS to attend the next UEC meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:04pm.

Respectfully submitted, Tiffany Friedman.