

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY SENATE
University Environment Committee
Meeting of November 10, 2021, 1:00 PM EDT
Online meeting (Zoom)

Attendees: Thomas Wilson, Dan Amarante, Tiffany Friedman, Susan Glodstein, Clifford Knee,, Federick Walter, Claran Joel Martis, Henry Edmondson, Trevor Kapuvari, , Malcolm Bowman, Chris Sellers, Ashani Escoffery, Tom Lanzilotta

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:08 pm EDT.
2. Introductions of committee members.
3. Consideration of minutes from 10/13 - motion to accept minutes by Susan Glodstein, seconded by Claran Joel Martis. Minutes accepted.

4. Chair Report

Thomas Wilson reported that Kendra Violet is the new Executive Director for Parking and Transportation.

The 52nd anniversary of Ashley Schiff Wildlife refuge will be 11/15 at 6 pm, speaker Josh Turner. Link for the ceremony <https://stonybrook.zoom.us/j/94152180634>

Remote work is a hot topic and will likely factor in upcoming contract negotiations.

Port Jeff shuttle is running, mostly for students use in off hours.

https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/transportation-and-parking/transportation/off_campus_transportation/port-jeff-sbu-shuttle.php

5. Open discussion with guest expert: Tom Lanzilotta, Campus Sustainability and Energy Manager.

Campus Sustainability website: <https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/sustainability/>

Questions:

Cogeneration plan has a contract, the contract is expiring, the current contract puts restrictions on alternative energy generation. Will the new contract allow new energy generation on campus? Are there plans for solar or wind power?

Tom said he is vetting solar companies now. The new contract will allow the campus to put in renewable energy. Focus is looking into renewables and cost effectiveness.

Issues: are roofs in proper order for SOLAR?

Tom L: Looking at using 60% of building 17 roof (old Gyrodyne building) to have solar panels. Coming up with a game plan and cost effectiveness, and finding out if leadership wants to move forward.

Malcolm discussed NYS goal to become carbon neutral by 2050.

Tiffany asks: how can we conserve more energy on campus?

Tom L: Running buildings on class schedules and occupancy to have a big impact on energy savings. LED technology helps with savings on lights, sensors.

Playing fields and lights consume huge power and stadium lights are not LED.

Fred Walter said there are a lot of lights by where the field hospital was taken down,

Tom L: these are temporary lights.

Chris Sellers discusses SBU clean energy plan: by 2025 a SUNY goal is 100% renewable energy, why can't we build a solar farm on campus, why do we invest in parking lots? We will have more storms in the future so this would be a reason to have renewable energy sources?

Tom L: SUNY Looking to purchase clean energy credits. The more people that ask for alternative energy generation the more likely the administration would like to do this.

Thomas Wilson is impressed with sustainability website to see how certain buildings are doing in terms of using energy. The sustainability website discusses bike share, which brings up the relationship between bikes and pedestrians. Should we have an outreach campaign related to this?

Clifford Knee: need to look into not only sidewalk/pedestrian-bikes but also about other forms of transportation (personal mobility devices, unicycles). Where will they be stored, where will they be operated, can they catch fire? Other safety issues. How much energy do they use? Main concern is safety and how this impacts other pedestrians and other riders? We don't want to take away the student experience of freedom to choose mode of transportation.

Students noted to be removing bike share bicycles from campus and leaving them off campus.

Malcolm Bowman and Fred Walter: Perimeter road does not have a side walk. The campus lacks sidewalks. Idea of using power from Fountains on campus to get the whole campus thinking about renewable energy.

Tom L: Talk about this with phase 2.

Thomas Wwilson: Looking at conservation on campus, why couldn't we set up a program to measure the amount of power saved per month and this could be a competitive environment to save energy. This happened a few years ago with residence halls.

Tom L: Consider charging each dept for usage. Cost is going up. Natural gas costs up by 30% this winter. Lighting costs are less and are much lower than in the past.

Claran Joel Martis asks about microgrids to generate power locally. Who would manage this?

Tom L. responds that we have the plans for SOLAR.

Working on updated energy plan, clean vehicle plan

Thomas Wilson asked if the master plan could be shared with this committee to help educate people with what is doable, generates ideas, etc.

6. Updates from working groups

Next month we will invite the recycling coordinator Michael Youdleman.

Energy group: Dan, Claran, Chris Sellers

How can we educate the upper level of administration about energy issues?

The group will write something up about the clean energy master plan, a first draft, we can send to the senate exec or publish on the website with the remote work report. This first draft can be sent to committee members for a first draft.

Fred Walters discusses: Has the Low hanging fruit been addressed?

Fluorescent lights in certain buildings still, light pollution. What kind of LEDs are we using? Are we using COOL LEDs?

Tiffany Friedman said the larger issue... could be with campus, encourage depts to pay more, this is a sociological issue.? Telecommuting saves energy. Tiffany shared this article in the chat.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-02-24/virginia-tech-scientists-may-have-found-a-better-way-to-convert-poop-into-electricity>

Tiffany chaired a meeting of Limits to Growth. University is reportedly not that crowded in the residential halls but they are falling apart. Could we accommodate all these people on campus? How can we increase the population more if we aren't taking care of what is here?

Discussed the Ashley Schiff preserve. Thomas Wilson is trying to arrange a meeting with the President McInnis to discuss the preserve to get permanent written protection, possibly moving the area to the state parks system.

7. Update about COVID Pandemic

Post thanksgiving we are in person. Covid task force dropped to monthly meetings.

Field hospitals put up by Army Corps of Engineers have been taken down and grass reseeded.

There are vending machines on campus that sell masks which are \$5. FSA issue.

Should we have dispensers at certain buildings with complimentary masks for students/faculty/ staff who need one?

8. New Business

Next meeting is 12/8 but this is the first day of finals. Thomas Wilson will send out a doodle poll to see what time works best for members. Wednesday from 1-2:30 is Campus Lifetime. January meeting is 1/12/22.

Fred Walter wants to discuss gas leaf blowers. They are noisy and banned in California due to pollution. Would propose they be banned from campus. Electric is better than gas leaf blowers.

Motion made by Fred Walter to adjourn. Without opposition, the motion was adjourned at 2:22 pm.

Minutes taken by Susan Glodstein