

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY SENATE
University Environment Committee
Meeting of July 12, 2023, 1:00 PM EST
Online meeting (Zoom)

In attendance: Thomas Wilson, chair, Michelino Puopolo, Clifford Knee, Frederick Walter, Christopher Sellers, and Sarah Battaglia.

Meeting called to order by Chair at 1:00pm.

Ashley Schiff report

Thomas Wilson: Have a two-week vacation coming up at the end of July so my plan is to have the Ashley Schiff written report draft done during that two-week vacation. I will distribute it to the committee, probably around the end of July beginning of August, so that everybody can look at it, comment on it, and revise it. And then the idea would be that we would have the committee consider it for approval.

With regards to Ashley Schiff- Malcolm Bowman and John Turner have offered to assist us in moving the preservation effort forward! I do intend to take them up on that. The thing that concerns me is that there has been nothing from the Administration since the President's announcement. I've tried to contact Bill Herman. He invited me to a meeting, and then things went dark, and I've reminded him of that, and nothing has happened so I'm talking to the Senate Exec. Well, I'm talking to the senate exec for advice on how to kick start the process. I have got no response back from the senate exec. My inclination is that I think it's really important for us to be there to be in dialogue about exactly how the preservation process would happen. First of all, I think it cannot end with that email from the President. So right now I'm hoping to get the Senate exec advice on how to kick start this. My inclination is to contact Judy Grime and loop her in. Possibly get a meeting with Bill Herman either next week, before I go away, or early in August.

Frederick Walter: so the Senate exec is meeting occasionally. I think the next meeting is July 20th. We have been talking to the provost, who is not the right person here. We have to be put on the agenda for the the exec and the on the 20th by Richard Stein.

Thomas Wilson: Yeah, I'll write them both (Richard Stein and Richard Larson).

Frederick Walter: The meeting is the 30.

Energy Working Group

Thomas Wilson: With Ashley Schiff I am going to move forward with the with the the written report, follow along with the presentation I made in March to the Senate, and it is going to have the appendices of all the original documents that are referenced in the presentation. So the idea being that this will go up on the Senate website of the Environmental Committee reports.

Thomas Wilson: Okay, energy working group report discussion. Chris has done a great job leading the energy working group. He has produced a really good, what I think is a really good draft.

Christopher Sellers: The goal of the working group is getting a draft out, because every so often we'd dialogue with the office of sustainability. Every so often they've sort of looked like they're gonna do something new. We wanted to talk with them. They've ordered to talk with us. So we've been at this process for over a year, I think. So I think we're ready to show this to you -a draft and get your comments. It's a little rough, toward the end especially. (Referring to report) The goal (for electric energy) is set for 7 years to 2030. We're trying to support the office of State sustainability and at the same time really call for more ambitious upper level engagement exploring the funding opportunities. Also some recalculations of cost. They really undersold the cost effectiveness of onsite solar in particular. Having that be more expensive than the cogent plant over 30 years. I don't get that. So we have this discussion of costs of how to expand onsite solar. What the obstacles may be. also. Cogen (plant) is operating with natural gas, and that's how most of our 90% of the campus gets its energy. They want to continue that on natural gas through 2050. It doesn't (make sense) with 2030 goal of clean energy.

Thomas Wilson: What kind of timeframe? At the present time my hope would be to have something that the committee could vote on in August.

Christopher Sellers: We looked at some of the other Suny plans at Esf and Syracuse, the environmental sciences and forestry schools and buffalo- all seem to be relatively active and aggressive so I wrote those two guys on the committees in charge of sustainability for those institutions. The guy at Buffalo, Ryan Mcpherson wrote back, and CC. Tom Lens. Then Tom asked me to speak to him before talking to anyone outside Stony Brook.

Thomas Wilson: With respect to Tom, who I want to keep a good relationship with, that's not his call. We've been talking to them (other universities) for a year. You've gotten information from them, and yes, things have changed, but things are always changing. When I was doing Ashley Schiff, I was calling around and connected with the guy up in Binghamton. They have a nature preserve that's 25% of their campus, and they actually even have an endowed. They have an endowed steward of the natural area.

So with report, I'll make sure that the permissions are set properly and I will send it out to all the voting members on the committee. I'll send the link out to everybody for comment. And I think that maybe we ought to leave the comments in one week.

Christopher Sellers: 3 weeks we can send the report after that.

Old business: Parking

Thomas Wilson: The Administration has made no move to restart the Parking Advisory Board, which was the Senate's way into discussions about parking. If they do, Mona Ramonetti has

volunteered to be the Senate representative. The Union has asked me to join the parking negotiations team. I have accepted that role.

New Business: NA

Meeting adjourned at 1:38 pm.

Minutes compiled by Tiffany Freidman.