

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY SENATE
University Environment Committee
Meeting of March 10th 2021, 1:00 - 2:30 pm
Online meeting (Zoom)

Attendance: Thomas Wilson, Michelino Puopolo, Clifford Knee, Xinwei Mao, Frederick Walter, Gary Kaczmarczyk, Matthew Eisaman, Hiya Panja, Mona Ramonetti

Meeting called to order at 1:05pm

Because Heidi Hutner and Sarah Battaglia could not attend, they asked that the meeting be recorded. No one opposed to recording the meeting for the purpose of committee members listening to it later, therefore the meeting was recorded.

No chair reports.

Working groups.

Natural Environment and Preservation working group. Nothing to report.

Transportation working group. There has been a Senate meeting conversation with Richard Larson. SBU's President is very concerned about campus remaining a ghost town - she has never seen campus at a time when there were traffic and parking crisis. The committee has a short time window to submit a proposal so that there can be a middle ground between busting but not bursting. It's expected that everybody will be back at work onsite before the end of the semester. Thomas Wilson mentioned that a survey will be sent out with responses due by May 15th, so that the committee can have something to say at the May Senate meeting. Mona Ramonetti asked how would this survey be administered and who would send it out. Wilson answered that while the Senate can send surveys, they take a long time to work on the data, so he will talk to the IT person at SoMAS. The survey may be something as simple as a Google form (although one problem is hacking by answering the survey over and over again - there may be ways to guard against that). Frederick Walter said that he believes it's a mistake to wait for the Senate to send it out as it will take too long. He added that getting people to respond may be a bigger problem than potential hacking. Wilson said that the UUP has a full set of all UUP members and sends emails out every two weeks (e.g., Stronger Together pay day emails). For example, one will be sent out Wednesday 3/17/2021. Ramonetti asked whether that would require jumping through any hoops to which Wilson answered no and that he thinks the union would be very much on board. Walter suggested clearing it with Edward Quinn. Wilson said that the next thing to work on is the survey's content. The number of questions included has been cut down so that it wouldn't be too long. The questions include: 1) What is your role; 2) where is your primary parking; 3) what is your mode of transportation; 4) do you work on site; 5) what is your commute length; 6) What's your commute direction; 7) How many days a week did you work on site before March 2020 and 8) if you had the option to do some portion of your work remotely, how many a week could you do so and remain fully productive. Ramonetti suggested that the wording of question 2 be changed to "primary mode of transportation". Walter added

that we could ask a percentage for each mode of transportation. Wilson asked if carpool should be counted as a mode of transportation and whether we should add that level of details. Walter said that he wouldn't recommend going into details but if we do he would like to know how many people don't come on Fridays. Jeanne Charoy asked whether the survey should also be sent out to graduate students. Wilson said that would be ok as long as there is a way to send it out - Charoy mentioned that the GSO and GSEU are able to send out surveys to the graduate student body. Wilson asked if there were any other questions or comments. No other comments were made. Wilson said that the survey will go out in the next pay day email and to the GSO, asking for responses by the end of March 31st. This gives the committee time to look at the data and maybe write a first draft for something to present at the May Senate meeting.

Efficiency, recycling, and liveability. Nothing to report.

Best Practices/Advocacy. Heidi Hutner was not there to talk about TIAADivest. However, it appears that there is an enormous amount of energy surrounding this issue and it has being taken up by other people on campus. It will be brought to the senate at the April meeting. Therefore, the committee may want to direct its energy to another issue.

Open discussion. Wilson mentioned the website vaccinefinder.org to help people find vaccine appointments. Walter added that as of this Wednesday's morning (3/10/21) all in-person people on campus are eligible, including residential life directors, researchers, librarians. Wilson asked whether that was today or the 17th. Gary Kaczmarczyk said it was effective immediately, although it hasn't been updated on the website yet. The suggestion for now is to use another of the eligibility categories and rectify it during the appointment.

Old/new business. No new or old business.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:32PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Charoy