

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY SENATE

Campus Environment Committee

Meeting of March 27th, 2018, 1:00-2:20 pm
Provost's Conference Room, Administration 407
Draft: 4/15/2019

MINUTES

Attendance: Tom Wilson (Chair), Fred Walter, Sean Deery (Secretary), Michelino Puopolo, Mateo Mezic, Malcolm Bowman, Dexter Bailey, Mona Ramonetti, David Mather, Matt Eisaman, Andrew Machkasov, Clifford Knee, Lazaro Rivera, Dmitri Tsybychev

Meeting called to order at 1:05pm with introductions.

Campus Village Update. Dexter Bailey spoke about the Campus Village development proposal. The proposal is in the feasibility stage, no contracts have been signed, and the project has been pushed back one year to construct the parking during the summer. The Environmental Impact Assessment has been completed and will be sent to the Committee. This project is run by the Alumni Association (Section 355 I of the New York State Law), not the SB Foundation. The developer will build and manage the buildings for the term of the ground lease. Stony Brook will reserve the right to run some of the building operations such as SBU Residence Hall Administrators, SBU Security, and SBU Technology. The retail on site will be run by FSA and will not compete with surrounding retail - it will serve the students on campus and in the dorms. The developer will seek LEED certification, but net zero is likely not viable for this project - which may serve as a flagship for the SUNY system. The bonds for the development will be issued by a local IDA. Phase 1 will increase the parking in the surrounding lots from 525 existing spaces to 860 spaces, a net gain of 335 spaces*. Students living in the building will likely be able to pay for a parking permit. Campus administration is trying to work around the co-generation contract to allow for solar car stalls over EV charge ports. Graduate Students will be in Building A and Building C, with Building B for just undergraduates. There will be no commingling of graduate and undergraduate student housing within the same building. Some of the items still being considered include: how to keep the pricing in line with the current dormitory stock on campus, the finer details of the ground lease (will probably be like the Hotel ground lease), and an assessment from Suffolk County regarding sewer capacity. Some suggestions presented were; having porous pavement in the parking lots, working around the basketball courts/moving them, maintaining the student liaison channels and expanding the faculty liaison channels, and the need for visiting scholar housing.

*Number of spaces to be gained was incorrectly stated in the meeting. This figure reflects a correction emailed to the Chair by Mr. Bailey later that same day.

Minutes. A motion put forth by Malcolm, seconded by Michelino, was made to accept the minutes of UEC meetings of February 20th. No amendments were put forth and the minutes were approved unanimously; motion carried.

Chair Report. Elections are coming up. Elected faculty/staff serve a 3 year term and appointees serve one year. There are term limits of two consecutive terms. Upcoming guest experts include John Fogarty (Capital Planning) and Sharon Pochron (Pesticides and Ashley Schiff). Tom will try to schedule every meeting of next year in the Administration Building. The chairs retreat will be happening soon and Mona will be going to the retreat with Tom. Tom also has a three tiered system to turn projects into action. First, the committee can work on and collaborate on projects that are independent of the Senate approval (such as the campus gardens or hosting a forum). Second, disseminate any of our reports or results to the campus community via print and digital channels so the information can be accessed, and consider also going through Senate. Third, go through the full Senate process for our large projects. One opinion was presented by Fred who thinks that the reports have to go through the Senate if the committee wants administrators to read the reports.

Sub-committees.

The Natural Environment group has secured two student volunteers and by the end of the semester the instruments will be installed in Lake Brianna, pending on some final details.

The Efficiency, Recycling, Livability group worked with FSA to create new herb planters (5) and raised beds (2) on the west-side of East Side Dining, and cleaned the SAC garden. Sean was contacted by Michael Martino, who will help direct Sean to specific reports regarding campus energy and efficiency.

Transportation group has broken down their sub-committee into 6 areas. Even though there are 6 areas, the common theme is that we need to add more spots and we need to get commuters to drive less cars. On East Campus, the total inventory is 5917 spaces, and the daily demand is 8300. The demand is broken down as follows: academic faculty/staff - 1500; students - 1600; hospital employees; physicians and vendors - 4300; patients and visitors - 900.

The Pesticides Group met with administration to find out that neonicotinoids are not being used on campus - which are harmful to the bees. The University has no policies regarding bees and pesticide application. Potentially, a condensed version of the "Bee Sanctuary" concept could be implemented.

The Research group is looking into student fellowships for the October AASHE Conference.

New Business. Google Drive is going to be organized in the near future so everyone can easily access all reports and documents. Earthstock starts on April 15th - get involved!

Next meeting is Wednesday April 17th, 2019 at 1:00pm - 2:30pm in Administration Room 221.

The meeting adjourned at 2:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sean Deery
UEC Undergraduate Representative