

# **Stony Brook University Senate**

## **University Environment Committee - 2020-2021 Progress Report**

Submitted by Thomas C. Wilson, Jr. University Environment Committee (UEC) Chair.  
25 May 2021.

### **I. Committee charge.**

“This committee shall examine all aspects of the university environment, including but not limited to conservation of natural areas, ecological preserves and historic sites and artifacts; transportation, parking issues, infrastructure, facilities planning, human health issues, safety and security, energy efficiency, recycling, waste management, and general appearance of all university locations. It will consult with and advise the Vice-President for Facilities and Services.”

### **II. Membership.**

The most recent committee membership is attached. At the meeting of December 8th, 2020, Thomas Wilson was re-elected Chair, and Jeanne Charoy was appointed as Recording Secretary.

One of sixteen committee positions (in Health Sciences) remained open throughout the year. Four members are coming to the end of their three year terms.

### **III. Committee meetings and records.**

Since the Senate Committee Chairs’ virtual retreat on June 15th, 2020, the UEC has met via Zoom eight times: July 8th, September 2nd, and December 8th in 2020, and January 13th, February 10th, March 10th, April 13th, and May 11th in 2021. October and November 2020 meetings were skipped due to various logistical complications.

The Chair will forward 2020-2021 committee minutes and reports to the Senate Executive for publication.

### **IV. University liaison.**

Assistant Vice President of Environmental Health & Safety Gary Kaczmarczyk has functioned as Administration liaison to UEC, with backup by EHS Safety, Training, & Environmental Compliance Manager Clifford Knee. Either Mr. Kaczmarczyk or Mr. Knee (or both) have attended all UEC meetings for productive discussion of agenda items and have provided referrals to others in University Administration. Members of the University Administration have been responsive to UEC communications and collaborative in their actions.

## **V. COVID-19.**

UEC Chair Thomas Wilson has served throughout the year as one of thirteen Senate liaisons to the University COVID Recovery Planning Committee. In August 2020, Mr. Wilson and Senate President Richard Larson met with Vice President for Facilities and Services Dean Tufts to confirm that all HVAC systems on campus met CDC standards with regards to COVID mitigation.

Each UEC meeting in 2020-2021 has included a period of open discussion regarding the pandemic. Gary Kaczmarczyk and Clifford Knee have both been invaluable in informing the committee of the University's planning and response to a health and safety challenge unmatched in living memory.

## **VI. Working groups and projects.**

Our four working groups greatly expand the amount of work the committee can accomplish, both by delegating projects and by incorporating volunteers from campus and community. Due to pandemic restrictions many working group projects have been on hold, but we hope to resume work on some of these in the Fall of 2021.

The working groups, their coordinators, and some representative projects are listed below:

### **Natural Environment and Preservation (Coordinator: Thomas Wilson).**

- Permanent preservation status for the Ashley Schiff Park Preserve, detailed in UECs 2020 annual report.
- East Recharge Basin/Lake Briana study, detailed in UECs 2020 annual report.

### **Transportation (Coordinator: Mona Ramonetti)**

- Bicycle and pedestrian safety.
- Campus Parking issues, short and long term solutions.
- Encouraging commuting alternatives to single-occupancy vehicles.
- Environmental impacts of remote work.

A study on the environmental impacts of remote work was conducted in the spring of 2020 and presented to the Senate and Administration on May 3, 2021. Results of the study indicated that the continuation of some remote work by some employees could play a significant role in mitigating the parking and traffic crises that have plagued the University for years, as well as help the University reach carbon footprint reduction mandates included in the New York Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act of 2019.

In April 2020, UEC Chair Thomas Wilson was appointed as a Senate representative to the new University Parking Advisory Board.

### **Efficiency, Recycling, and Liveability (Coordinator: Jeanne Charoy)**

- Reducing use of disposable packaging.
- Optimizing recycling locations on campus.
- Expanding use of renewable energy.
- Evaluation of Stony Brook University's Clean Energy Master Plan, published in April 2021.

### **Best Practices (Coordinator: Heidi Hutner)**

- Research best environmental practices, especially at other academic institutions.
- Evaluate received advocacy requests.

## **VII. Acknowledgements.**

Thanks to:

- The University Administration for their communication and collaboration with the committee.
- Senate President Richard Larson and the Senate Executive Committee for their support of the committee over the past year.
- Members, volunteers, and friends of the Committee for their hard work and dedication to the vision of helping build a better Stony Brook University community.

Respectfully submitted,  
Thomas Wilson  
UEC Chair 2020-2021

# UNIVERSITY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

2020/2021

Updated: 12/07/2020

**Charge:** This committee shall examine all aspects of the university environment, including but not limited to conservation of natural areas, ecological preserves and historic sites and artifacts; transportation, parking issues, infrastructure, facilities planning, human health issues, safety and security, energy efficiency, recycling, waste management, and general appearance of all university locations. It will consult with and advise the Vice-President for Facilities and Services.

Chair: Tom Wilson, Chair, elected 9/2020.

## Humanities and Fine Arts:

Joanna Kaczorowska	Music, 631-745-1679	<a href="mailto:violinjoanna@gmail.com">violinjoanna@gmail.com</a>	9/22
Heidi Hutner	English	<a href="mailto:heidi.hutner@stonybrook.edu">heidi.hutner@stonybrook.edu</a>	9/23

## Social and Behavioral Sciences:

Shirley Lim	History, 2-7515	<a href="mailto:shirley.lim@stonybrook.edu">shirley.lim@stonybrook.edu</a>	9/21
Christopher Sellers	History	<a href="mailto:christopher.sellers@stonybrook.edu">christopher.sellers@stonybrook.edu</a>	9/22

## Natural Sciences:

Dmitri Tsybychev	Physics, 2-8106	<a href="mailto:Dmitri.tsybychev@stonybrook.edu">Dmitri.tsybychev@stonybrook.edu</a>	9/21
Malcolm Bowman	SoMAS, 2-8669	<a href="mailto:Malcolm.bowman@stonybrook.edu">Malcolm.bowman@stonybrook.edu</a>	9/22

## Library:

Mona Ramonetti	Library, 2-1740	<a href="mailto:mona.ramonetti@stonybrook.edu">mona.ramonetti@stonybrook.edu</a>	9/22
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## College of Engineering:

Xinwei Mao	Civil Eng. 2-8718	<a href="mailto:xinwei.mao@stonybrook.edu">xinwei.mao@stonybrook.edu</a>	9/21
Carlos Colosqui	Mechanical Engineering	<a href="mailto:carlos.colosqui@stonybrook.edu">carlos.colosqui@stonybrook.edu</a>	9/23

## Health Sciences Center:

Open position			
Michelino Puopolo	Anesthesiology	<a href="mailto:Michelino.puopolo@stonybrook.edu">Michelino.puopolo@stonybrook.edu</a>	9/23

## Professionals:

Sarah Battaglia	Occup. Therapy, 4-2363	<a href="mailto:sarah.battaglia@stonybrook.edu">sarah.battaglia@stonybrook.edu</a>	9/21
Thomas Wilson	SoMAS, 2-8706	<a href="mailto:Thomas.wilson@stonybrook.edu">Thomas.wilson@stonybrook.edu</a>	9/23

## Students:

Graduate Student (1): Jeanne Charoy ([Jeanne.Charoy@stonybrook.edu](mailto:Jeanne.Charoy@stonybrook.edu))

Undergraduate Students (2): Ria Bhutra <[ria.bhutra@stonybrook.edu](mailto:ria.bhutra@stonybrook.edu)>,  
Hiya Panja <[hiya.panja@stonybrook.edu](mailto:hiya.panja@stonybrook.edu)>.

Ex officio members: Gary Kaczmarczyk, Assistant Vice President of Environmental Health & Safety

Cognate Administrator: Vice President for Facilities and Services.

Facilities and Services Supporting Staff: John Fogarty and Terence Harrigan

Executive Committee Liaison: Richard Stein.