

**Stony Brook University Senate**  
**University Environment Committee**  
Meeting Minutes: April 10, 2024, 1-2:30pm  
Version 2: 5/6/2024

Attendees: Thomas Wilson (chair), Tiffany Friedman, Clifford Knee, Maggie Li, Heather Lynch, Christopher Percival, Sian Piret, Sara Poon, Michelino Puopolo, Mona Ramonetti, Peg Spitzer, John True, and Frederick Walter.

Agenda Items and Discussion:

1. Opening Remarks:
  - Tom Wilson opened the meeting, thanking Tiffany for taking the minutes. He also reminded attendees of his impending retirement. He informed everyone that he will be happy to be involved in the meetings in the future if we will allow him.
2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:
  - Minutes from March 20, 2024, were circulated a few hours before the meeting. Mona moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Chris and Peg. The minutes were approved without objection.
3. Status Reports and Follow-ups:
  - Tom discussed a recent meeting concerning the Ashley Schiff Preserve, confirming the boundaries and protections being established for the reserve.
  - There will be no development allowed in the park preserve, ensuring strong protection for the area.
4. Committee Updates:
  - Energy Working Group: Chris Sellers was absent; discussion postponed.
  - Composting Initiative: Sara Poon provided a comprehensive update on the composting initiative, emphasizing ongoing student involvement and planning. She has reached out to the Living Learning Community to inform new hires and returning staff about opportunities to participate. Plans are in place to launch more activities during the summer, with potential town halls and one-on-one consultations to strategize on student-led enforcement of composting practices. Sara also mentioned collaboration with Tony Gentile, who expressed enthusiasm about expanding the composting program and is scheduled to speak at the next meeting.

- Sustainability Efforts: Heather Lynch discussed efforts to enhance the university's environmental ranking, including faculty recognition in environmental awards as an incentive.
5. Bike Path Discussions:
    - Bike Paths and Campus Transportation: Christopher Percival discussed his attendance at the Chapin Hall event, where food was provided by the Graduate Student Organization. He highlighted how students are taking the same routes under the loading docks when biking or using scooters. Christopher emphasized the need to map these common routes to address any issues with their commutes and mentioned the positive weather's effect on biking. He expressed a need for volunteers to capture images of these commutes to finalize a comprehensive report on campus transportation.
  6. Employee Shuttle System:
    - Tom discussed a new initiative regarding a shuttle system for low and moderate-income employees, with potential to use an app for routing and scheduling. UUP is surveying employees to gather data for interest through its newsletter Happy Pay Day.
  7. New Business:
    - Heather Lynch shared plans to call for Stony Brook University to divest from fossil fuel companies during her keynote address at Earthstock.
    - Chris Percival discussed recycling and reusing equipment within the university and highlighted the lack of a surplus system for furniture and equipment.
  8. Action Items:
    - Invite Tony Gentile to discuss the composting initiative at the next meeting.
    - Consider inviting the team studying the employee shuttle system to a future committee meeting to discuss further.

#### Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned by a motion from Tiffany and seconded by Heather. The next meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2024.