

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY SENATE
University Environment Committee
Meeting of January 12, 2022, 1:00 PM EST
Online meeting (Zoom)

In attendance: Thomas Wilson, Chair. Christopher Sellers, Frederick Walter, Clifford Knee, Gary Kaczmarczyk, Michelino Puopolo, Malcolm Bowman, Tiffany Friedman, Ashani Escoffery, Dan Amarante.

Chair Thomas Wilson gave a status on the Parking Advisory Board.

Waiting to see whether or not Tim Haas report will be allowed to be distributed. Sending out for external review of plans and asking board members not to talk about it, which is in conflict with the Senate representatives' purpose in being members.

Discussion of what is going on with parking:

TW - univ is talking about not making parking free

MB - are trees being cut down

TW - univ trying to raise money to fix parking issues

MB - UUP contract says we have free parking

TW - Contracts do require free parking.

Tiffany Friedman - Parking crisis for the students. It's not a crisis for staff .

Fred Walter - Any new lot we can be charged at.

MB - Chevron Parking is an option

TW - We brought up Chevron Parking before

TW - Issue is that we don't have money to refurbish the parking lots

FW - Residents may be an opportunity for improvement..

TW - Brings these issues up at the parking meetings.

MB - What happened to some of the other issues that we brought up...

TW - thinks there is still some momentum but with the expectation that we are running out of space.

MP - Is the hospital fees sufficient for the maintenance of the parking lot?

TW - that is what we are trying to determine. That is some of what is in the Tim Haas report.

Working Groups reports

Chris Sellers reported on the SBU Clean Energy Plan

2030 is the most important goal. 50% renewable energy by 2030.

MB - How are we gonna do this.

CS - Outside providers will do this.

TW - Not only Solar but Wind. TW thinks in about 10 years there will be a significant amount of power.

CS - Discussed the plan to reduce energy usage by 2030. The report included calculations, alternative ideas, back up batteries, transportation system; pretty much ignored.

TW - Where do we see the soft spots in this report? Does SBU think more about generating power on campus? Is this an opportunity for research or additional education?

Action Items

CS - The committee should review the Clean Energy Master Plan and make comments

TW will resend the report

CS - Please look at the report and add what else you think the plan should consider.

TW - If you have any other ideas or requests sent out to the committee please send it out to the committee so we can get a final draft because it needs to go out to the senate executive committee. Publish sometime in March. Review the CEP with suggestions or comments.

TW - Sharpen our questions and put together a final report.

Comments

CS - Most of the interesting sections to review are near the end of the report.

CS - Report does not take into consideration input from faculty

MB - This is true for example Water Flow and Catchment basins on Campus.. Upper administration should be reaching out to faculty that have knowledge and expertise in this.

GK - Recommendation on how to present the changes/comments.

GK - Bring in someone from Facilities who has first hand knowledge of the plan.

MB - Does AERTC have anything to say about this plan?

GK - Authors are on the report.

TW - We have ideas and communicate them. We do get things done and we do engage. Let's look at the report and be clear about what we are going to submit.

No other working groups had reports to present.

MB - Is anyone responsible for looking at student gardens? Audubon student club is looking for a faculty advisor.

TW - Any questions about the pandemic?

Working through Omnicron..maybe leveling off.

Hopefully it will recede. N95 masks are widely available again.

TF - Gave an update about the R&D testing site?

TW - The SAC testing site is for asymptomatic. R&D is for symptomatic testing.

GK - Hopefully the new sites will relieve some of the testing at other locations like City MD.

GK - N95 comment. Not recommending medical grade N95s. About 60% of KN95s are counterfeit. Be careful about procuring a KN95 mask. May not be any better than a mask. Not NIOSH approved. We are sending out a Guide. Other caution is to make sure workers are not using a KN95 ear loop for worker protection for exposure to certain hazards.

MB - What is the testing requirement now? Once per week if non vaccinated/ Once per month if vaccinated.

FW - UUP are providing KN95 respirators.

Fred gave some clarification about the testing site at R&D park.

MB - Who is enforcing vaccination. Dean of Students Office.

GK Students need boosters before they return.

2:15 Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Clifford J. Knee