

University Environment Committee - 2017-2018 Academic Year Progress Report

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

Rev. 2 - March 21, 2018

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 as an appendix. Long time Chair John Robinson began a sabbatical in January 2018 and so was unable to continue serving as chair, but remained as a member through December 2017. At the first meeting of the academic year Tom Wilson was elected Chair and Malcolm Bowman Vice-Chair.

Currently three of sixteen committee positions are open: one in Humanities and two in Social and Behavioral Sciences. These have been referred to the Senate Executive Committee for filling.

III. Committee meetings and records.

The Committee met October 5th, November 2nd, December 7th, and March 8th. The February meeting was cancelled due to serious illness in the Chair's family. The Chair and Recording Secretary Pamela Linden are in the process of setting up a public Google Drive folder to hold Committee agendas, minutes, and reports.

IV. Liaison and meetings with University Administration.

With the departure of Cognate Administrator Vice President for Finance and Administration Bob Megna, Assistant Vice President of Environmental Health & Safety Gary Kaczmarczyk has been assigned to be Administration liaison to UEC. Mr. Kaczmarczyk has attended UEC meetings and met with representatives for productive discussion of agenda items and has provided referrals to others in University Administration. In general, members of the University Administration have been responsive to UEC communications and collaborative in their actions.

V. Agenda items. The committee has discussed a number of items this year with the intent of identifying important issues within our charge and moving as many as possible through to conclusion. Items on which significant progress has been made include:

A. Building locking and unlocking. As of September 2017, the University Police Department (UPD) discontinued locking and unlocking administrative and academic buildings due to budget constraints. This is an area of significant concern within the campus community. While custodial staff can unlock buildings in the morning they leave by 2-3 pm, and many building managers leave for the day around 5 pm. This poses a problem in buildings with evening classes but no Lenel systems on the outside doors. The outside doors should remain unlocked to provide student access until after classes conclude, but then how do they get secured for the night? UPD specifically stated in their September notification that they were encouraging foot patrols, but UEC has also heard concerns expressed that budget cuts may lead to decreased police presence and potentially less detection of propped doors and other security problems such as may have contributed to the recent vandalism in Heavy Engineering.

Ideally, all buildings would have Lenel card access systems on at least one outside door that would provide timed access to the building until after the last class ends. Until that time, UEC has inquired whether it would be possible to determine buildings where general access is needed into the evening, then identify one door for each of those buildings that University Police could lock at an appropriate time, with the building manager being responsible for locking the rest of the doors earlier.

Members of UEC are scheduled to meet with Police Chief Robert Lenahan and Vice President for Strategic Initiatives Matt Whelan on Thursday March 22 to discuss these issues.

B. Improving bicycle and pedestrian access and safety on campus. Stony Brook University is crowded with vehicular traffic, and parking during the middle of the day is often hard to find. It is in the best interests of the University to discourage use of personal vehicles by making it safe and easy to travel to and from campus by other means, including the LIRR, buses, bicycles, and on foot.

Pedestrian and bicycle access to Main Campus from the east is currently less than optimal both in terms of convenience and safety. A survey was conducted in November/December 2017 of the Chapin Apartments Residence Association. Of the 78 respondents, 72% have felt unsafe walking or biking on the East Campus. 52% of the respondents currently use a bicycle to get to campus, and an additional 35% responded that they would bicycle if safe options existed. Most (91%) of the respondents would use a path connecting east and west campuses; while 73% would use a connection to the Brookhaven Town bike path at Daniel Webster Drive.

This UEC has prepared a report on the safety and convenience of current routes between the Brookhaven Town Bike Path, the Chapin Apartments, and the Simons Bike Path on Main Campus. This report will be forwarded to the Senate Executive Committee with the recommendation that the Senate endorse making access improvements a priority.

C. East Recharge Basin/Lake Briana. The Stony Brook University precipitation runoff East Recharge Basin, located between Nicholls Rd. and O'Neill College, informally known as Lake Briana, is designated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) as Freshwater Wetland PJ-10 and is therefore protected by Article 24 of the Environmental Conservation Law. The basin contains a 5 acre lake and has become populated by a variety of migratory birds, fish, flora, and fauna. UEC has long been interested in working with the University and the DEC to develop the area as an ecological research site.

One critical issue that has hampered moving forward is the ability of the current basin to absorb discharge from precipitation and runoff events. That is, if maintained in its natural state can the basin effectively handle both routine and extreme stormwater discharge from its catchment area? UEC has reached agreement in principle with SBU Administration for a one-year scientific and engineering study, overseen by UEC and conducted by the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences that will provide objective data to definitively answer that question. This should help resolve whether the basin can be kept naturalized and developed as a research and educational resource or whether alterations are necessary to cope with extreme weather events.

The UEC has prepared a report and proposal requesting authorization to proceed with this study from the Senate Executive Committee.

VI. Current and future projects. UEC invites suggestions from all members of the campus community for agenda items. Current and possible future projects include:

Additional bicycle and pedestrian safety recommendations.

Parking enforcement issues.

Improved signage for South Campus overflow parking lot.

Placement of vehicle barriers to discourage dumping adjacent to South Campus overflow parking lot.

Examine and comment on Campus Master Plan.

VII. Acknowledgements. Thanks to:

- The University Administration for their communication and collaboration with the committee.
- Past Chair John Robinson, Executive Committee Liaison Fredrick Walter, and Vice-Chair Malcolm Bowman for being the conservators of institutional memory and educating the new members and new Chair on tradition and procedure.
- Members of the Committee for their hard work and dedication,

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Wilson

UEC Chair

UNIVERSITY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
2017/2018
Updated 3/8/18

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 10/17

Vice-Chair: Malcolm Bowman, elected 10/17

Recording Secretary: Pamela Linden

Humanities and Fine Arts:

David Mather	Art	David.mather@stonybrook.edu	9/19
Open Position			

Social and Behavioral Sciences:

Open Position			9/19
Open Position			

Natural Sciences:

Dimitri Tsybychev	Physics, 2-8106	Dimitri.tsybychev@stonybrook.edu	9/18
Malcolm Bowman	SoMAS, 2-8669	Malcolm.bowman@stonybrook.edu	9/19

Library:

Heath Martin	Library, 2-1174	Heath.martin@stonybrook.edu	9/19
--------------	-----------------	-----------------------------	------

College of Engineering:

Guodong Sun	Tech & Society	Guodong.sun@stonybrook.edu	9/18
Matt Eisaman	Electrical Eng., 2-8421	Matthew.esaman@stonybrook.edu	9/20

Health Sciences Center:

Pamela Linden	Occup. Therapy, 4-6931	Pamela.linden@stonybrook.edu	9/20
Michelino Puopolo	Anesthesiology	Michelino.puopolo@stonybrook.edu	9/20

Professionals:

Regina Lento	Facilities Design, 2-3148	Regina.lento@stonybrook.edu	9/18
Thomas Wilson	SoMAS, 2-8706	Thomas.wilson@stonybrook.edu	9/20

Students:

Graduate Student (1): Bertus Jordaan (bertus.jordaan@stonybrook.edu)

Undergraduate Students (2): Andrew Machkasov (Andrew.machkasov@stonybrook.edu)

Sean Deery (sean.deery@stonybrook.edu)

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

Cognate Administrator: VP for Finance and Administration (position vacant), currently represented by AVP Gary Kaczmarczyk

Facilities and Services Supporting Staff:

John Fogarty and Terence Harrigan

Executive Committee Liaison: Frederick Walter