

University Environment Committee - 2018-2019 Progress Report

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

Rev. 1 - 2 April 2019.

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. At the first meeting of this academic year Tom Wilson was re-elected Chair. Malcolm Bowman continued as Vice-Chair. Scheduling conflicts prevented Pamela Linden from continuing as Secretary; Sean Deery was appointed to that position in February 2019.

Currently three of sixteen committee positions are open (two in Humanities, one in Social and Behavioral Sciences) and two members are standing for re-election.

III. Committee meetings and records.

Since the last Chairs retreat on March 23, 2018, the Committee met eleven times: April 5th, May 3rd, June 14th, August 2nd, September 12th, October 10th, November 14th, December 5th, January 30th, February 20th, and March 27th.

Meetings are scheduled on the second or third Wednesdays of the month during Campus Lifetime (1:00pm - 2:30pm). Future meetings this year are scheduled for April 17th and May 8th. All members of the University community are welcomed to meetings and invited to volunteer for our Working Groups (see below).

The Chair and Recording Secretary Sean Deery are setting up public Google Drive folders to hold Committee agendas, minutes, and approved reports.

IV. University liaison and meetings with experts.

After the departure of Cognate Administrator Vice President for Finance and Administration Bob Megna, Assistant Vice President of Environmental Health & Safety Gary Kaczmarczyk was assigned to be Administration liaison to UEC. Mr. Kaczmarczyk has attended most UEC meetings 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.

UEC has begun the practice of periodically inviting one guest expert to meetings. The guest is invited to give a fifteen minute presentation on an area within our charge, followed by an open discussion. Past and future guests this year include:

- Tom Lanzilotta, Campus Energy and Sustainability Manager (November 2018).
- Gary Kaczmarczyk, Assistant Vice President for Environmental Health and Safety (December 2018).
- Dexter Bailey, Senior Vice President for Advancement & Executive Director of the Stony Brook Foundation (March 2019 update on Campus Village project).
- John Fogarty, Director of Capital Planning (scheduled for April 17 to discuss the capital planning process).
- Sharon Pochron, Toxicologist and Lecturer in SoMAS Division of Sustainability (scheduled for May 8 to discuss pesticide use on campus and the Ashley Schiff Preserve).

V. Working groups.

A great positive change this year has been the formation of five working groups to concentrate on specific areas within the committee charge. This has greatly expanded the amount of work the committee can accomplish, both by delegating projects and by incorporating volunteers from campus and community. The working groups, their coordinators, and representative current projects are listed below:

Transportation (Coordinator: Matthew Eisaman)

- Bicycle and pedestrian safety.
- Encouraging and increasing public and shared transportation.
- East Campus Parking issues, short and long term solutions.
- Increasing traffic safety.

Natural Environment and Preservation (Coordinator: Tom Wilson).

- East Recharge Basin/Lake Briana. We are moving forward with a one-year scientific and engineering study, conducted by the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, that will help resolve whether the basin can remain naturalized and developed as a research and educational resource or whether alterations are necessary to cope with extreme weather events. At present we expect to install level monitors and commence data collection before the end of the semester.
- Rank environmental and historic values of undeveloped areas on campus.
- Wild Stony Brook project. Online species list of native flora and fauna on campus, photo contest.
- Enhance appreciation and appropriate access to natural areas of campus with walking trails, signage, guides, etc.
- Advocate for permanent protection for some wild areas of campus.
- Recognize 50th anniversary of the dedication of the Ashley Schiff Woods in October 2019.
- Calculate carrying capacity of campus, recommend limits to growth, and research increasing capacity by increasing efficiency as opposed to size of traditional student body. Make case for build up not out. New buildings on existing parking lots, conversion of lots into parking structures.

Efficiency, Recycling, and Liveability (Coordinator: Sean Deery)

- The working group coordinated volunteers to plant Chef and Campus gardens this spring, and are working on a plan to establish community gardens on campus.
- Increased energy efficiency. Alternative energy generation on campus - solar roofed parking and buildings, etc.
- Encourage reusable water bottles, bottle friendly drinking fountains, carafes of water as the default for catering, rental of reusable china and silverware from campus food service as opposed to using disposables.

Pesticides (Coordinator: Jeanne Charoy)

- Draft “bee friendly” revisions to the University’s pesticide policy and request formal adoption by the University.

Research (Coordinator: Michelino Puopolo)

- Monitor AASHE.org and other resources, report ideas and best practices to committee.

VI. Implementation strategies.

With the increased productivity of the committee has come the question of how to translate all this work into action and positive change. Apparently these are somewhat uncharted waters. The “Committee advises Senate, Senate advises administration” is a start but a limiting model. We do inform the Executive through our Committee liaison Fred Walter, but we can’t get much done if every action has to be run through a small pipe to the Executive Committee and an even smaller pipe to the main Senate.

Our strawman plan has three levels:

- a) Discussions and advocacy with Senate Executive and University Administration is leading to changes.
 - We have already had input through the Executive Committee to the discussion of East Campus parking issues.
 - Campus dining is considering offering china rental for events as an alternative to disposables.
 - Carafes of water have recently re-appeared at campus receptions.
 - We have collaborated in projects like recruiting volunteers to plant campus gardens.
 - We are considering sponsoring talks and forums as an expansion of our current meetings with experts. Would there be a charge for reserving the Wang Lecture Halls for such a purpose?
- b) Written reports and recommendations will be forwarded to the Senate Executive for approval, after which UEC will publish them and send to appropriate authorities as recommendations for action.
- c) Major issues such as official designation of a wild area as a preserve would be recommended to the Senate Executive for presentation and adoption as official positions of the Senate.

VII. Structure and representation, both in the committee and full Senate.

There is discussion afoot regarding the Senate By-Laws and/or Constitution and I have a proposal I hope to plant in a few places. As shown in the UEC roster, there are two discipline-specific seats for professionals, two for Fine Arts and Humanities, two for Social and Behavioral Sciences, two for Engineering, one for Library, two for HSC, plus graduate and undergraduate student representatives.

I like the idea of discipline-specific seats, but what I have found is that some of the discipline-specific seats on UEC go unfilled because no faculty are interested in serving. I spoke with Fred Walter about this and he said according to the Senate Constitution anyone from a defined constituency could stand for election, but presently the discipline-specific calls for nomination and ballots only go out to Faculty not professionals. Fred says if a seat goes unfilled in the election then the Senate Executive could appoint any qualified faculty or professional to a discipline-specific seat but just for one year. This provides something of a workaround but doesn't provide professionals with equal opportunity or treatment and doesn't provide the term length a new appointee needs to grow into the job.

UEC certainly has a ton of work to do. It seems silly to leave committee seats open if there are talented and committed professionals willing to serve, and a bit inequitable to have appointed members serve only one year and then have to stand for election (especially if they are professionals appointed to a discipline-specific seat, can't stand for election, and end up having to wait and see if a seat is available after the election).

My recommendations for a solution:

- a) Explicitly open the discipline based seats on standing committees to both faculty and professionals. As an example, if this change was implemented the nomination letter sent out to faculty and professionals for UEC this year would have read:

Environment Committee

Fine Arts and Humanities: two (2) open seats (Mather is going up for tenure so declined to stand for election)

Social Sciences: one (1) open seat (Zimansky is retiring).

Whatever nominees there are for the discipline-based seats would be on ballots sent to both faculty and staff. This is the way it is done in UUP elections so I know it is possible.

- b) When the existing professional seats comes open, characterize them as:
Environment Committee: At-large professional: one (1) open seat.
- c) If a standing committee seat is unfilled by the election or comes open by resignation or removal for nonparticipation, change so that a Senate Executive appointment lasts the length of the unexpired term, i.e. 3 years for a seat unfilled by the election, the remaining length of term for someone who resigns or is removed for nonparticipation.

So long as I am on a soapbox regarding who should serve in a remodeled Senate, I have also been impressed by the service and commitment of the student members of the Environment Committee. Sean Deery serves as UEC secretary; is coordinator of the working group on Efficiency, Recycling and Liveability; and was my choice as the guest I brought to the Senate Chairs retreat last year. Andrew

Machkasov attends general Senate meetings and asks very well crafted questions. Are they young and relatively inexperienced? Sure, but they are also smart and committed. Involvement in the Senate is a great learning experience for them, and with proper mentorship they can be a great positive force for the University.

Faculty, professionals, and students are stronger working together than apart. The best argument for an inclusive University Senate is the involvement, service, and accomplishments of professionals and students in the existing body, a fact that I hope does not go unnoticed as revisions to the Senate Constitution and by-laws are discussed.

VIII. Acknowledgements.

Thanks to:

- The University Administration for their communication and collaboration with the committee.
- Our Executive liaison Frederick Walter.
- Members of the Committee for their hard work and dedication,

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Wilson
UEC Chair

UNIVERSITY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

2018/2019

Updated: 3/13/2019

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 10/18.

Vice Chair: Malcolm Bowman, elected 10/17.

Recording Secretary: Sean Deery.

Humanities and Fine Arts:

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

Social and Behavioral Sciences:

Shirley Lim	History, 2-7515	shirley.lim@stonybrook.edu	9/21
Paul Zimansky	History, 2-7506	paul.zimansky@stonybrook.edu	9/21

Natural Sciences:

Dimitri Tsybychev	Physics, 2-8106	Dimitri.tsybychev@stonybrook.edu	9/21
Malcolm Bowman	SoMAS, 2-8669	Malcolm.bowman@stonybrook.edu	9/19

Library:

Mona Ramonetti	Library, 2-1740	mona.ramonetti@stonybrook.edu	9/19
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College of Engineering:

Xinwei Mao	Civil Eng. 2-8718	xinwei.mao@stonybrook.edu	9/21
Matt Eisaman	Electrical & Computer Engineering	Matthew.eisaman@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:

Sarah Battaglia	Occup. Therapy, 4-2363	sarah.battaglia@stonybrook.edu	9/21
Thomas Wilson	SoMAS, 2-8706	Thomas.wilson@stonybrook.edu	9/20

Students:

Graduate Student (1): Jeanne Charoy (Jeanne.Charoy@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: Senior VP for Finance and Administration Kathleen Byington

Facilities and Services Supporting Staff: John Fogarty and Terence Harrigan

Executive Committee Liaison: Frederick Walter