

**STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY SENATE**  
**Campus Environment Committee**

Meeting of April 8th, 2020, 1:00-2:20 pm  
Zoom Video Conference

MINUTES

Attendance: Tom Wilson (Chair), Frederick Walter, Sean Deery (acting Secretary), Mona Ramonetti, Dmitri Tsybychev, Matthew Eisaman, Clifford Knee, and Malcolm Bowman

Meeting called to order at 1:06pm.

**Chair Report**

Chairperson Tom Wilson asked each attendee to give updates on their family, health, and working situation. Sean Deery (MBA Student) was sheltering in place and looked forward to his bike rides. Mona Ramonetti (Library Representative) was enjoying time spent with family while at home. Matthew Eisaman (College of Engineering Representative) was essentially running a small elementary school at home, but looks forward to brighter days. Malcolm Bowman (Natural Sciences Representative) was awarded the best social distancing teaching - for being stuck in New Zealand in a camper home set on the beach with the only power coming from solar panels and propane in order to keep up with a full schedule of online classes and meetings. Clifford Knee (Environmental Health and Safety) was managing an extensive workload in emergency response and wanted to highlight the amazing work of everyone involved in the emergency response. Dmitri Tsybychev (Natural Sciences) has been washing his hands and was wishing everyone good health.

Consideration of the minutes of the March 11th meeting. Thomas Wilson entertained a motion to accept the minutes. Sean Deery moved and Matthew Eisaman seconded. None opposed and minutes were accepted.

Chairperson Tom Wilson called for an open discussion related to the major efforts being pursued to deal with COVID-19. Clifford Knee mentioned some issues like “photobombing” on Zoom video conference calls, overcoming the perception that “wearing a mask is only for sick people,” highlighting that slowing rates of infection doesn’t mean we’re any more safe, praising the efforts to decontaminate N95 respirators for reuse, and thanking the iCreate Lab and researchers who have worked tirelessly to contribute in any way that they can.

Frederick Walter forewarned that social distancing and online meetings could continue for much longer than currently expected - the plateau in infection rates isn’t the end. Clifford Knee added that the sanitary and distancing protocol need to continue and participation is the only way to speed recovery. New Yorkers tend to be very impatient, but we are going to need patience to get through this and empathy to help the rest of the country get through this.

Tom Wilson shared a video from the Army Corp. of Engineers with drone footage of two field hospital tents near Stony Brook's IFCU Arena and two tents on the athletic fields near the LIRR station. The field hospital tents were supposed to be solely non-COVID-19 patients, but intake logistics for negative-pressure rooms have been tricky and protocols have technically been infringed. Clifford Knee warned that the resources required to staff the field hospitals over a longer period of time will become very difficult..

Other notes from the University Senate meeting included; ongoing trials at Stony Brook to find new vaccines, tests and antibodies for COVID-19, Stony Brook's Medical School is graduating the senior class two months early and hiring the graduates, and recovered COVID-19 patients can now donate their plasma to Stony Brook for the extract of antibodies.

Mona Ramonetti wanted to bring attention to all of the essential workers who are still working on campus and the students who are potentially not able to get the resources that they need. Tom Wilson mentioned the effort to get personal protective equipment to employees and potentially a round of hazard pay if involved in relief efforts.

### **Working Groups**

*The Natural Environment and Preservation group* will be revisiting Lake Brianna to check on the equipment and scope out future improvements to the water level monitoring system.

*The Efficiency, Recycling, Livability group* is going to type up a series of white papers related to the campus gardens, smallware rental project and other projects that are ongoing/completed. Sean Deery was concerned about future sanitary protocols that might deem the reusable smallware rental program "unsanitary," but Chairperson Tom Wilson backed up the idea of the smallware rental program by sharing a personal anecdote about his family who has recently reverting back to reusable cleaning cloths and washable dishware instead of disposable plates. The intent was to justify the original intent of the rental program and forecast that a similar program will be necessary at some point to decrease reliance on disposable products. Fred Walter added that the sky is looking much more clear and he hopes that society realizes that they don't need to travel so much every day. Malcolm Bowman updates the committee on New Zealand's efforts to "crush" COVID-19 by his present country of New Zealand and how a collective effort can make a big difference. However, they are pretty severe - his own family in New Zealand turned him away because they would have had to self-isolate and leave their jobs.

*Transportation group* will resume updates when the University transportation task force commences traffic studies again - the studies were meant to model typical parking/transit demand, but having far from typical campus operations due to COVID-19 disallows the opportunity to create predictive models. Chairperson Tom Wilson shared a cartoon about "all of these meetings that could have been facilitated over email" to opine that some of the transportation issues on campus may naturally be alleviated because some of the working from

home and minimal commuting habits will stay in tack after the virus recovery. Entire regions of ecological habitats are being restored/rejuvenated from the reprieve pollution and human interaction. Wilson added an update about the field hospital workers who are now living in nearby dormitories and using the campus dining halls for convenient access to the field work. Malcolm Bowman capped off the conversation with a humorous remark that all of his recent interactions with Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Asbury of the Army Corp. of Engineers related to storm surge barriers may have been one of the reasons Stony Brook was so quickly selected as a regional recovery site! Let's overcome this together!

*The Research group* did not provide an update.

### **Old News and New Business**

Best wishes to Clifford Knee and Gary Kaczmarczyk for their direct efforts in Stony Brook's/Long Island's recovery and good health to everyone.

Next meeting is 05/11/20 at 1pm on Zoom.

Wilson entertained a motion to adjourn. Malcolm Bowman moved. None Opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:01pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sean Deery  
MBA in Marketing Candidate '20