

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Environment Committee

Meeting of May 14, 2025, 12:30-2:00 pm EDT

Virtual meeting on Zoom.

In attendance: Annette Barnes, John Castle, Caitlyn Clauson, Jenn Coggin, Tiffany Friedman, Jennifer Gilday, Timothy Gonzalez, Angela Gupta, Bill Herrmann, Peter Joyce, Erin Kluge, Tom Lanzilotta, Christopher Martin, Rich Maha, Victoria Mylott, Christopher Percival, Michelino Puopolo, Marianne Quirk, Mona Ramonetti, Jeffrey Sabatini, Miao (Yixin Miao) | Sasaki, Yirong Yao - Sasaki, Chris Sellers, Rob Sugar, Frederick Walter, and Tom Wilson.

1. Co-chair Ramonetti called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm and invited participants to introduce themselves.
2. The minutes of the meeting of April 16, 2025 were considered. Ramonetti moved that they be approved as submitted, Gilday seconded. Without opposition the minutes were approved.
3. Current co-chair Christopher Sellers and John True were proposed as co-chairs of the committee for the 2025-2026 academic year. Friedman moved and Gonzalez seconded that Sellers and True be approved as co-chairs. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Sellers introduced Bill Hermann, Vice President for Facilities & Services, to present on the Campus Master Planning process.
 - a. Herrmann: The University has launched a comprehensive master planning process. Want to include voices of sustainability in the planning process.
 - b. Campus has hired the Sasaki planning firm.
 - c. Sasaki team members introduced themselves: Caitlin Clauson, Marianne Quirk, Rob Sugar, Yirong Yao, Yixin Miao.
 - d. Stony Brook team members introduced themselves: Jeff Sabatini, Christopher Martin, Jennifer Coggin, Annette Barnes.
 - e. Official titles of Stony Brook and Sasaki team members are given on the appended presentation slides.
 - f. Clauson: Sasaki is the prime consultant on the project, using sub consultants as needed. Has experience working in the SUNY system. Time horizon for the Master Plan is 10 years.
 - g. Quirk: schedule for the plan is 18 months, beginning in February 2025, ending in August 2026. There will be broad community involvement during the process.
 - h. Clauson invited the committee to engage in a visioning exercise using a shared whiteboard to establish goals, needs, and opportunities.
 - i. Goals: what should the campus look like in 10 years? What are the challenges today?
Friedman: keep the campus as green as possible: maximize trees, absorb stormwater, retain a lush environment.
Wilson: build up not out. Stop suburban sprawl: it's a Long Island disease but the University does not need to catch it.
Wilson: Heavy emphasis on deferred maintenance. Fix the buildings and facilities we have now.
Wilson: School of Marine and Marine and Atmospheric Sciences is the only School that has

never had a purpose built building. Build a building for SoMAS and move it inside main campus Circle Drive.

Sellers: we are currently failing to meet the State requirements to move to clean energy. Need to have a plan to transition away from the Calpine cogeneration plant.

Sellers: Enable electrification across campus: EV charging stations, solar panels. Heat pumps.

Sellers: we have not done a good job of walking the walk after positioning ourselves as an international climate leader. We need to write the clean energy transition into this plan in a deep and thoughtful way.

Sellers: need to integrate transportation into the plan. Enable electric vehicles on campus. Make campus more bike friendly. Better connect campus bike paths to community bike paths, have dedicated bike paths.

Clauson: there is a separate utilities master plan. There will be good opportunities to reinforce decarbonization and clean energy goals through the two plans working together.

Walter: Stony Brook is a landlocked campus. The administration has a goal of vastly increasing the student body to be competitive with other R1 universities. Not sure if that is feasible but it is clear we do not have the infrastructure to grow to that size as of now. Transportation is already inadequate. We have to build up if we build. There needs to be better integration with local transportation, existing train service does not serve the needs of the University.

Mona: maintain green spaces. Make sure the Ashley Schiff Preserve is not compromised with this new plan.

Sellers: want to make sure that the Master Plan explicitly recognizes the Ashley Schiff Preserve as forever wild.

Wilson: We are in the final stages of preparing a report entitled "The Case For The Ashley Schiff Preserve" and will send you a copy once it is approved.

Clauson: we look forward to receiving it.

Sellers: add garden spaces and possibly community gardens.

Clauson: Are there other examples on campus of programs that make the campus visible as a living laboratory: goals for sustainability, health, and wellness?

Gonzalez: the campus greenhouse is one example.

Wilson: there is a student led composting program in the dorms, it would be good if this master plan could enable and encourage expansion of this initiative.

Clauson: Are there conversations regarding resilience?

Sellers: there was a multi century rainstorm that damaged 64 buildings, we are still recovering and repairing. There was a similar storm a few years ago, but the improvements that were made were insufficient to weather this storm. We need to get ahead of these changes.

Percival: ability of ground to absorb water. Adding parking lots decreases permeability, is an argument for building up not out.

Percival: student composting program was aided by staff at Roth dining center but has been shut down for reasons that are unclear.

Clauson: Is there a campus wide composting facility?

Percival: so far as I know, just the one at Roth.

Hermann: no, just that one facility.

Sellers: clearly we need a composting facility for the campus.

Wilson: We need better recycling facilities and systems in general. Recycling on campus is hit and miss, labelling needs improvement. Recycling containers at Governor's Island are beautifully marked. You still need compliance but the first step is to let people know what they need to do.

Wilson: you can build not just up but down: put parking for a building under the building. Yes it's more expensive but only if you discount the value of open and green space.

Herrmann: our goals are to tie together our master plan with sustainability goals: Parking below buildings, green roofs, pollinator gardens, bioswales. To solve infrastructure problems and provide ecosystem services.

Clausson: bioswales can be beautiful spaces that both address engineering needs and provide ecosystem services.

Sellers: mass transit enhancement, for example by shuttles to and from other LIRR stations.

Walter: teaching and lab buildings are very out of date. We need modern laboratory spaces.

Sellers: energy efficiency is crucial as we rebuild.

Ramonetti: when we are upgrading, we surplus good items but more thought needs to be given to creative use.

Walter: Modern teaching needs space, not just big auditoriums.

Wilson: to respond to Ramonetti, there is legislation in process that will allow State agencies to donate surplus property to qualified nonprofits.

Herrmann: there is a central stores surplus that does rehome items.

Sellers: Center for campus/community collaboration.

Percival: pedestrian and cycling safety connections.

Ramonetti: pedestrian safety is spotty - no dedicated lanes for bikes and scooters.

j. What are the opportunities?

Wilson: redevelopment of South Campus. Invite Bill Herrmann to speak on this.

Herrmann: redevelopment of South Campus is a huge opportunity to reimagine what a campus could be like. Replace all facilities with two high rise buildings on a smaller footprint. Move Dental Clinic to vacant local mall space as SB Medicine has done.

Freidman: old buildings by main campus entrance.

Herrmann: Point of Woods buildings, roofs are collapsing, full of hazardous materials. Working on funding to take them down.

Percival: opportunities to connect students and researchers to local environmental issues.

Sellera: three to one plan for trees: planting three trees for every tree cut. How is that going to work? Can experts on campus give you advice on how to implement the program?

Herrmann: Lanzilotta has done a lot of work on how to implement this wisely.

Wilson: CPDC site does not have the new dormitory construction. Can you make sure that the site is kept current. CAPRA was given an advance briefing on the dorm construction, can you give advance notice and opportunity to comment to this committee in the event of proposed forest clearing?

Herrmann: We are committed to that in future.

k. Clausson: thanks for your time and ideas.

5. Ramonetti introduced Tom Lanzilotta, Assistant Director of Energy & Sustainability and Erin Kluge, Sustainability Coordinator for West Campus to address plastics recycling and SUNY policies.

a. Lanzilotta: covering for Mike Youdelman, this is his purview but he's having computer issues. The campus recycling home page is at [Recycling | Campus Operations & Maintenance](#)

b. Kluge: liaison between SUNY and campus stakeholders. Starting in August, all SUNY schools are obligated to follow single use plastic elimination policies 5200:

https://www.suny.edu/sunypp/documents.cfm?doc_id=923

and 5201:

https://www.suny.edu/sunypp/documents.cfm?doc_id=925

As of August 2025 no more balloons, 50% reduction in plastic bag usage, 50% reduction in single use plastic bottles. As of August 2026 100% reduction of single use plastics in student dining.

- c. Lanzilotta: Kluge has filled a needed gap in sustainability personnel. She has just completed a STARS (The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System) report for Stony Brook University that can be found on the website of AASHE (Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education):
<https://reports.aashe.org/institutions/stony-brook-university-ny/report/2025-03-06/>
- d. Kluge: Stony Brook is the third SUNY to report on STARS and earned a Silver Certification. Planning to go for Gold certification when we resubmit in 3 years and hoping for Platinum in the future.
- e. Wilson: So this means that Stony Brook cannot use State funds to purchase balloons? Kluge: correct.
- f. Wilson: What is the alternative going to be for trash bags? Cans being dumped into other cans? Kluge: we are looking at other SUNYs and trying to be creative. Lanzilotta: This is going to be a challenge. Walter: eliminating plastic bags means we go back to the 1950s where trash was dumped from cans to bins to trucks.
- g. Walter: At some events the University serves water in bottles, at others they use carafes. How will we enforce the ban? Also, how about vending machines? Kluge: at two SUNYs they were able to get water in cans for vending machines. Rich Maha, Director of Operations at SBU Eats: starting last semester converted the entire arena and stadium to cans. Saved over 15,000 plastic bottles being landfilled.
- h. Lanzilotta: We do have a plastics recycling program but it's not clear how well it's working, we will be working on that.

Maha expressed interest in learning more about that as well. Lanzilotta: we recycle types 1, 2, and 5 plastics. Maha: we are adding cans to more locations.

- i. Maha: In the fall Craft Salads is switching to a wax lined box. Replacing utensils will be a challenge, the only option from plastic is bamboo but that is very expensive.
- j. Sellers: question about dining halls generally. There seems to be a wide range of practices. How are correct practices across the dining halls going to be enforced? Maha: we are now using reusable takeout containers. Students get one at the beginning of the semester, if they do not bring it back there is a \$5 charge:
[SBU Eats Goes Green: Reusable Takeout Container Program | SBU Eats \(Campus Dining\)](#)
- k. Maha: campus dining halls use reusable dishware and utensils unless a dish machine goes down. Looking for better items for takeout and working diligently to reduce plastic.
- l. Maha: we are limited in soft drinks because Coke only offers five flavors in cans and the campus contract does not allow us to go to other vendors.
- m. Maha: We looked at aluminum takeout containers but they conduct heat.
- n. Wilson: How about custom drink machines such as those that already exist at some fast food restaurants? Have them vend a cup and let the user customize their drink. Kluge: Unfortunately we have to eliminate straws and lids too.
- o. Walter: 16,000 water bottles at 5 cents deposit is \$800.00. Are we throwing away that money? Lanzilotta: We plan to do waste audits. Kluge: waste audit has to be done every 5 years, will be done this fall by student interns.

- p. Kluge: we will be doing a lot more education on what can and cannot be recycled, what can or cannot be composted.
 - q. Peter Joyce: What is the plan to bring outside vendors into compliance? What about items like k-cups? Lanzilotta: you can use reusable k-cups, might be possible for education. Kluge: Terracycle does recycling of niche products, might recycle k-cups. Outside vendors will be required to abide by State regulations on single use plastics.
 - r. Lanzilotta: there is a program called "Fill it Forward" where a person gets a barcode and points for using their reusable cup. We plan to expand that in future.
6. Ramonetti thanked everyone for their contributions.
7. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Thomas Wilson

SASAKI

SUNY at Stony Brook

Facilities Master Plan



Stony Brook University



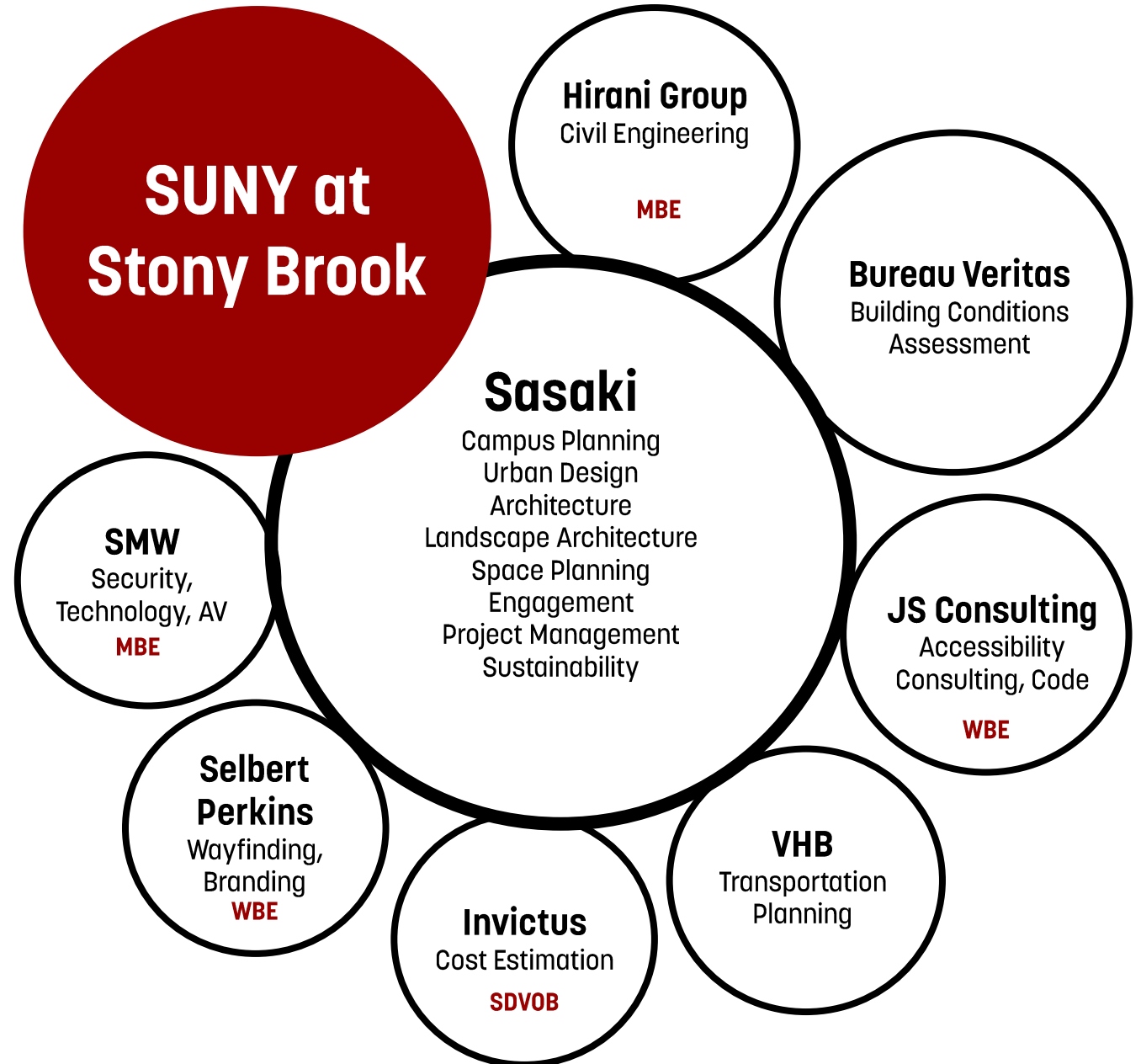
SUNY – STONYBROOK WORKING GROUP

- **Annette Barnes**, Capital Program Manager, State University Construction Fund
- **Christopher Martin**, Associate VP for Planning, Design & Construction, Stony Brook University
- **Jeffrey Sabatini**, Associate VP for Campus Operations & Maintenance, Stony Brook University
- **Jennifer Coggin**, Director of Business (Facilities & Services), Stony Brook University
- **William Herrmann**, VP for Facilities & Services, Stony Brook University

TEAM TAILORED TO SUNY AT STONY BROOK

Sasaki's team comprised of:

- Core Team
- In-House Specialists
- Sub-consultants



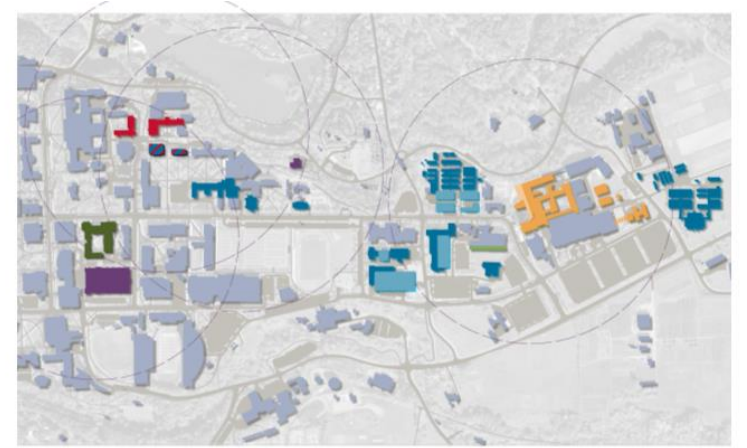
WE BRING DEEP EXPERIENCE WORKING WITHIN THE SUNY SYSTEM



**State University of New York
Cortland Facilities Master Plan**



**State University of New York
Geneseo Facilities Master Plan**



**Cornell University Statutory
Colleges Facilities Master Plan**



**State University of New York Purchase
Facilities Master Plan**



**University at Buffalo Student Housing
Master Plan**



**University at Buffalo Innovation District
Master Plan**

LARGEST CAMPUS PLANNING FIRM UNDER ONE ROOF

88 ARCHITECTS

68 LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

61 PLANNERS AND URBAN DESIGNERS

INTEGRATED ETHOS WITH A DEEP BENCH

SASAKI



SASAKI CORE TEAM

Collaborations that span more than a decade



Caitlyn Clauson

Principal-in-Charge
and Campus Planner



Romil Sheth

Design Lead



Marianne Quirk

Project Manager and
Planner



Rob Sugar, NY Based

Architectural Designer



Tamar Warburg

Director of Sustainability



Phyllis Zhu

Landscape



Yixin Miao

Urban Designer



Phillip Bruso

Space Analyst



Yirong Yao

Planner

REALIZING STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY'S GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

As New York's flagship and a first choice institution, Stony Brook University achieves transformative impact by driving innovation and inclusive excellence in education, research, healthcare, economic and cultural development, and social mobility.

Transforming Learning and Teaching

Growing Our Research Enterprise for Impact

Serving Communities as a Flagship

Reimagining the Way We Work



OUR MOMENT

Stony Brook University's
Strategic Plan | 2023



OBJECTIVES OF THE PLANNING EFFORT

Guide the campus in identifying, prioritizing, and structure future project requests for capital funding

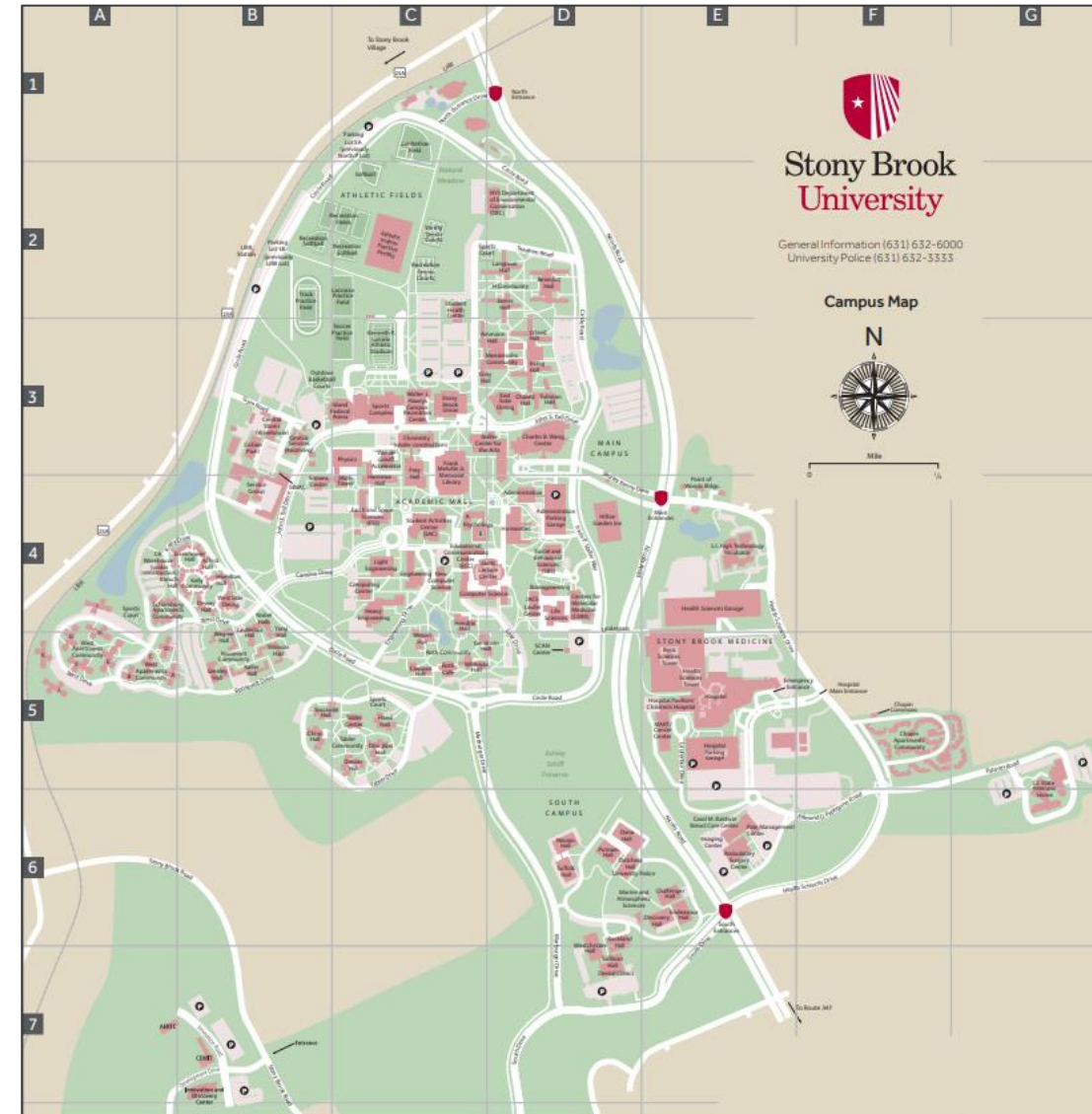
Include the Educational and Health Sciences campuses, excluding hospital facilities; also include Long Island State Veterans Home.

Identify capital improvements needed for a **ten-year timeframe**.

Consist of 5 phases based on current SUNY initiatives and objectives, current and projected enrollment, and space needs.

PROJECT SCOPE AREA

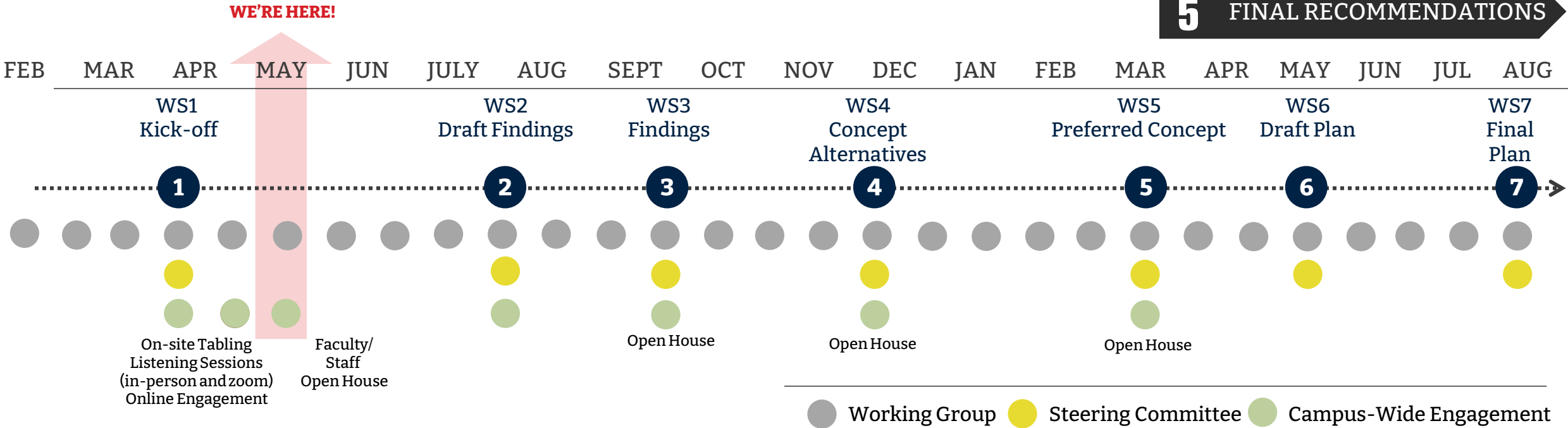
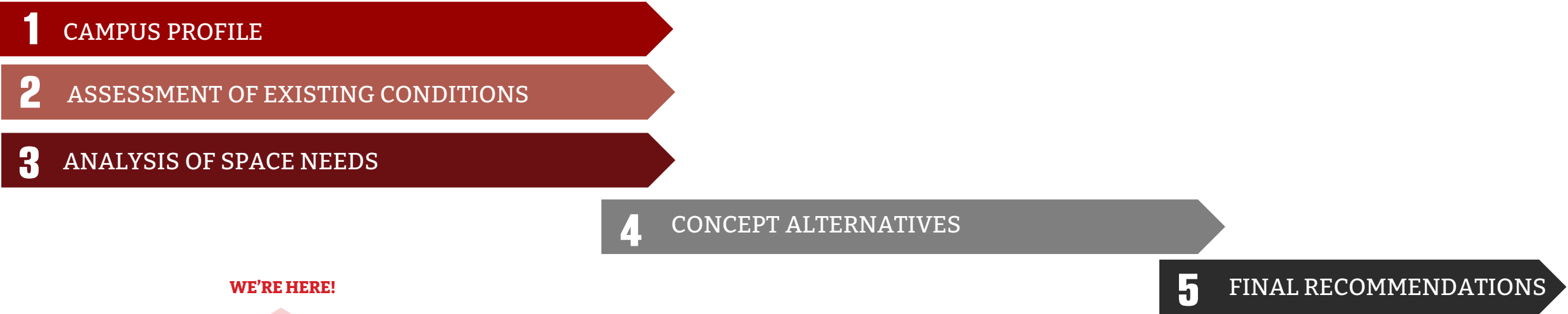
- Stony Brook Campus, exclusive of the Hospital buildings
- Southampton Campus
- Include the Long Island State Veterans Home



PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

18 Months

FMP PHASES:



LISTENING SESSIONS

Completed:

- Enrollment/Educational & Institutional Effectiveness
- Campus Residences
- Campus Planning, Design, & Construction
- DoIT
- Research
- Campus Operations & Maintenance
- University Police
- Mobility, Parking and Security
- EH&S
- Hospital/HSC
- CAPRA Faculty Senate
- UEC

Ongoing

- Stony Brook Leadership / President
- Academic Leadership (Provost+), 5/14
- Schools and Colleges
- Finance & Administration
- Campus Life
- Student Life
- Students
- Athletics and Recreation
- Advancement/Foundation
- Sustainability Group
- Auxiliary Services / Events
- Student Health and Wellness
- Student Services
- Community Relations
- Campus Beatification Committee
- Economic Development
- Southampton Advisory Committee