

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Environment Committee

Meeting of June 25, 2025, 12:30-2:00 pm

Virtual meeting on Zoom.

In attendance: John Castle, Tiffany Friedman, Jennifer Gilday, Timothy Gonzalez, Clifford Knee, Christopher Percival, Christopher Sellers (co-chair), John True (co-chair), Frederick Walter, Tom Wilson.

1. Co-chair Sellers called the meeting to order at 12:34 pm and welcomed those in attendance.
2. John True moved that the draft minutes from May 14, 2025 be accepted as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Earthstock 2025 UEC table and petition report from John True.
 - a) True: we learned a lot with the table exhibit from UEC.
 - b) Earthstock was a good event. Not the best venue for showing the forest video: too bright for the laptop and too windy for an umbrella. A tent/canopy would be good for next time.
 - c) Several dozen in-person signatures on the forest preservation petition and a similar number online.
 - d) Plan is to regroup in the fall, work on the video, then reintroduce the petition.
 - e) We are continuing to monitor the forest areas planned for clearing. Nothing is happening this week but we need to continue to check for activity and report it so we can document things as they happen.
4. Discussion of the draft Ashley Schiff Report from Tom Wilson.
 - a. The “Case For the Ashley Schiff Report” is based on the presentation Wilson made to the University Senate in March of 2023 that was one impetus for President Maurie McInnis to commit to permanent protection of a significant portion of the Ashley Schiff Preserve.
 - b. The draft report was reviewed by the Senate Executive Committee, who would like additional information on implementing the report’s recommendation to add the Preserve to the State Nature and Historical Preserve Trust. Wilson will make those recommended changes.
 - c. True moved and Gonzalez seconded to approve the report when the recommended changes are made, publish it on the Senate website, and forward it to the Senate Executive Committee for further action. The motion passed unanimously.
5. Discussion of the meeting with the Sasaki Consulting Group regarding the Facilities Master Plan.
 - a. General agreement that the May 14, 2025 presentation to the committee was interesting and that Sasaki engaged and documented the committee’s priorities.
 - b. Wilson pointed out that Sasaki was scheduling similar meetings with almost 30 different campus groups, so ongoing engagement with the process was essential to make sure that the end result reflects community input.
 - c. There was general discussion of past plans falling far short of their goals and that budget constraints might hinder implementation outcomes.
 - d. Planned town hall sessions for the master plan to occur in the fall, with a draft expected by May 2025 and final plan by August 2025.
 - e. Tom Wilson suggested annual updates on the master plan progress to ensure accountability and prevent obsolescence of plans.

- f. A presentation about the University's previous facilities master plan from 2012 is available in the Environment Committee's archive at:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Sy1kKy2uZbV6vEwJEcT0a1_S-H91o3jS/view?usp=sharing
 - g. Environment committee's continued involvement is critical in monitoring the University's actions in advance of issuing the new Facilities Master Plan.
 - h. The recent clearing of forest for emergency dorm construction may give the Senate an opportunity to obtain a pledge from the Administration to give adequate prior notice before the clearing of any forest areas.
6. Remaining agenda items were deferred to the September meeting, ensuring continuity in discussions around key projects. Next meeting: September 10, 2025, Wednesday, at 12:30-2 pm
7. Timothy Gonzalez moved to adjourn at 1:07 pm. Without opposition the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Wilson

Recording secretary