

## STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY SENATE

### University Environment Committee

Meeting of October 8, 2025, 12:30-2:00 pm

Virtual meeting on Zoom.

In attendance: H. Resit Akcakaya, Tiffany Friedman, Jennifer Gilday, Timothy Gonzalez, Angela Gupta, Joanna Kaczorowska, Clifford Knee, Jessica Koos, Samuel Lavin, Christopher Martin, Christine Pash, Christopher Percival, Sian Piret, Michelino Puopolo, Chris Sellers (co-chair), Alicia Smith, Fred Walter, Tom Wilson, and Neha Yousef.

1. The meeting was called to order at 12:30 pm by Co-chair Sellers. Co-chair True had an emergency meeting so could not attend. Sellers welcomed all to the meeting and called for introductions.
2. Consideration of minutes was deferred.
3. Presentation by Christopher Martin; Associate Vice President for Campus Planning, Design & Construction; regarding development and tree removal around campus. Martin prepared a slide deck, appended to these minutes:
  - a. Six major projects in the upcoming year, Fall 2025 through Summer 2026. Some have been on hold since COVID:
    - i. Campus Residence Warehouse, adjacent to Baruch Hall. Construction beginning Fall 2025.
    - ii. Tabler Hall Residence - 310 beds, adjacent to Tabler Center. Construction beginning Fall 2025.
    - iii. Math Physics Plaza renovation. Construction beginning Spring 2026.
    - iv. I-DIME (Institute for Discovery and Innovation in Medicine and Engineering), R&D Park. Construction beginning Spring 2026.
    - v. Campus Residence Administration Expansion, in Irving College building. Construction beginning Spring 2026.
    - vi. MDE (Multi Disciplinary Engineering Building), adjacent to the Computing Center building. Construction begins Summer 2026, possibly Fall 2026.
  - b. Campus Residence Warehouse is being constructed on an existing parking lot. Tree clearing will be required for Tabler Hall Residence, I-DIME, and MDE.
  - c. There is a detailed tree removal plan for Tabler Residence. Intent is to do minimal clearing.
  - d. Pause for discussion and questions from the committee:
    - i. Wilson: Can you share the presentation? Martin: Yes.
    - ii. Wilson: most of these projects are not on the Facilities and Services website:  
Current projects:  
<https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/facilities/projects/current-projects/Current%20Projects%20Home%20Page.php>  
Future projects:  
<https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/facilities/projects/future-projects/Future%20Projects%20Home%20Page.php>

Can this site be brought up to date and kept current? Martin: We have hired Kate Duggan as communications person, among other things she will be updating the website. She reports directly to Bill Herrmann.

- iii. Wilson: There is nothing in your presentation regarding the emergency dormitories going up north of the Student Health Center, can this be put on the Facilities website. Martin: We are expecting to complete these and have them open for residents in the spring of 2026.
- iv. Walter: In addition to cutting down trees we are concerned with parking issues. The Campus Residence Warehouse will be constructed on a parking lot, are there any plans to add parking for the new resident students in Tabler? Martin: no additional parking in Tabler Quad.
- v. Akcakaya: Do you know what species of trees are being removed? Martin: No information on species. Akcakaya: If they are non-native no point in saving. Multi month advance notification so trees can be identified and special trees can be conserved. Martin: It is our intention to begin notifying you months in advance.
- vi. Sellers: We have expertise to talk about tree species, more versus less valuable to preserve. If you can leave us some room to have a discussion and give input that would be helpful. Martin: We can do that and come while design is still fluid.
- e. Complete renovation of the Math and Physics Plaza including ADA compliance.
- f. I-DIME building: trees will be taken down. Has been designed, will bring tree removal plans to the committee.
- g. Campus Residence Administration: minimal tree removal, perhaps one or two if necessary.
- h. MDE Building: heavily treed area, it is in design. Can look at getting an advance tree removal plan.
- i. Additional discussion and questions from the committee:
  - i. Wilson: With respect to MDE Building, the highlighted area is only part of the wooded area. The implication is that only a section of the trees will be removed. Is that an accurate assumption? Martin: This is the footprint of the building, there will be some additional parking and solar panels. This will be the first building on campus to meet Executive Order 22 efficiency standards:
   
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/executive-order/no-22-leading-example-directing-state-agencies-adopt-sustainability-and>
  
We can provide additional advance detail to allow this committee to make recommendations.
  - ii. Sellers: This committee meets monthly, what interval makes sense to you to give updates. Martin: December makes sense to give an update on MDE, the website, and Seawolves Village. Sellers: We will pencil you in for December.
  - iii. Wilson: When you refer to Seawolves Village, are you talking about the construction north of the Student Health Center? Martin: Yes. Wilson: as a point of information, Seawolves Village was the name of another development proposed some years ago:
   
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WjnVmScEsXUgxHmiegXS8hs1X\\_40PFng/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WjnVmScEsXUgxHmiegXS8hs1X_40PFng/view?usp=sharing)
  - iv. Sellers thanked Martin for his presentation, Martin thanked the committee for the opportunity.
- j. Discussion of Martin's presentation.
  - i. Akcakaya: What is this committee's role? Are we just being informed or do we have a say in what happens? Sellers: This is the first time we've had even this much notice. Wilson: The University Senate is an advisory body, however the University

Administration has made public commitment to the concept of shared governance. This is more information than we've ever gotten and further in advance than we've ever gotten. Having any kind of engagement and discussion and having advance notice so we can for example as you suggested go out and look at species is a real advance. In my experience if you can come up with good ideas and good advice the Administration does pay attention. Sellers: we seem to have a foot in the door, we just have to keep working to advance communication and having the University community being informed.

4. Discussion of University Senate President Brenda Anderson's request to our committee and the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA) to take on problems with the allocation of lab and classroom space.
  - a. Anderson's emails and Sellers' responses are appended.
  - b. CAPRA will create a subcommittee on allocation of lab and classroom space.
  - c. Wilson: Over the years there has been discussion of the appropriate boundary between CAPRA and the University Environment Committee. UEC has plenty to do already and should stay focused on smart growth, preservation of natural areas, energy efficiency, some human health issues, and let CAPRA think about how to renovate spaces.
  - d. Walter: After the email exchange, the discussion at the Senate Executive took about 30 seconds. Brenda Anderson was amazed at all the work UEC is doing, and the consensus was to have UEC handle the outside and CAPRA the inside.
  - e. Friedman: Thanks for sharing the emails. There are space allocation changes all around campus. One solution would be to authorize more remote work for employees when appropriate. This solves space issues and parking issues, but the Administration is not very receptive to the idea.
  - f. Sellers: There are environmental advantages to remote work as well: for example reduced carbon footprint.
  - g. Wilson: This committee published a report in April 2021 on the Environmental Impacts of Remote Work at Stony Brook University:  
[https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/univ-senate/senate/\\_committees/SBUUEC\\_Remote%20Work\\_20210429.pdf](https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/univ-senate/senate/_committees/SBUUEC_Remote%20Work_20210429.pdf)
  - h. Friedman: The Administration will bring up the economic impact on local businesses if workers are not on site at the same time as they have difficulty providing office space.
  - i. Walter: The only employees who need to be on campus are the ones who are student-facing.
  - j. Wilson: Part of the 2021 report was a survey of faculty and staff asking how many days a week could they work remotely and still be fully effective.
  - k. Sellers asked for interest in a working group to update the 2021 report. Walter: Go to the Senate Executive with a request that the Academic Review Committee include the questions in their next survey. Volunteers for a working group to formulate an ask to the Senate Executive: Tiffany Friedman, Timothy Gonzalez, Angela Gupta, Tom Wilson. Walters will carry the request to the committee.
5. Fred Walter led a discussion about proposing no-ride zones for bicyclists and scooter riders.
  - a. Walter: Walking across campus is becoming more and more dangerous, especially because of scooters which come up from behind and weave in and out between pedestrians. Recommend that before there is a major accident, some areas of campus that are crowded or narrow should be walk only zones, for example the academic mall and beside the library.

- b. Discussion on no-ride zones:
  - i. Knee: Environmental Health and Safety is working with Greg Monaco in Mobility and Parking Services to put together a micromobility policy to address use of scooters and related devices. EHS is also looking at policies for golf carts and utility vehicles. There have been a number of injuries, there is also danger from the fire hazard posed by charging lithium batteries. Will get a status update and follow up with the committee.
  - ii. Wilson: Will policies also address standard bicycles and non-powered skateboards? Knee: There is already a policy in place for non motorized vehicles.
  - iii. Gilday: We need signage. Are injuries people hitting objects or people hitting other people? Knee: all of the above. Gilday: Can we put up signage based on current policy? Knee: probably need to wait until policies are finalized before putting up signage.
  - iv. Akcakaya: I have seen usage of dirt bikes on campus. Is there a policy or signage prohibiting motorized vehicles? Knee: The State has not caught up with a lot of the technology.
  - v. Gonzalez: One problem is people weaving in and out of people.
  - vi. Sellers: Is Stony Brook liable for injuries? Knee: You can try to sue. Wilson: The State has a pretty good liability shield.
- 6. Fred Walter pointed out that food vendors are back and are all running generators. The University should provide power outlets for vendors for esthetic and environmental reasons.
  - a. Discussion on generator issues:
    - i. Walter: Are there technical impediments to powering the food trucks from grid power? Knee: It's something we can talk to Auxiliary Services about. Knee will reach out to ASA.
    - ii. Friedman: Similar to use of gas blowers by landscapers. Walter: Still use gas blowers but they are done by 8am so do not disturb classes.
    - iii. Lavin: Having power stations outside of SAC would be useful not just for food trucks but for campus events.
    - iv. Walter: Will draft a resolution for consideration at the next meeting.
- 7. Follow up from last meeting with students and visitors from Brookhaven Landfill Action and Remediation Group (BLARG):
  - a. Pash: We have more signatures on the petition to go to zero waste. We have a potential resolution to be passed by the Undergraduate Student Government. Request that this committee draft a resolution and pass it to BLARG for comment.
  - b. Yousef: There is now a biweekly BLARG SBU meeting, inviting anyone interested to attend. Sellers: Please send me the link for the biweekly meetings.
- 8. Sellers announced that the UEC faculty representative on the SBU Recreation and Wellness Board will be Joanna Kaczorowska.
- 9. Update on Sustainability / C4E, raising SBU's environmental ranking.
  - a. Gilday: met Sustainability Coordinator Erin Kluge regarding getting rid of single use plastics on campus. Priorities have shifted to solar and geothermal from plastics. Single use plastics ban is a SUNY mandate but is not funded. Sellers: Can we invite Erin Kluge to our next meeting?

Gilday: Will see if Kluge is open to this. Wilson: Where is the pain point? Who will be in the crosshairs if the mandate is not met?

- b. Percival: Article in the South Shore Press about sustainability efforts:

<https://southshorepress.com/stories/675114850-stony-brook-s-sbu-eats-expands-sustainable-dining-with-micro-farms-and-food-recovery>

Perhaps we can invite the Auxiliary Services Administration to a UEC meeting. Gilday will invite Diana Kubik of ASA to the November 12th meeting.

10. Update on the Ashley Schiff report.

- a. Wilson: The report has been updated with additional detail on the legislative process to add the preserve to the State Trust, hopefully ready to publish.
- b. Wilson: Professors Jeff Levinton and Malcolm Bowman are interested in promoting this legislation. I will be meeting with them and recommending they not get ahead of the Senate's efforts.

11. Discussion of the President's invitation to a Town Hall.

- a. Wilson: Tried to sign up and found the event filled up in less than an hour.
- b. Walter: President wants to have small Town Halls - 15-20 people max. Hopefully she will do a lot of them.

12. The next meeting will be November 12, 2025, Wednesday, at 12:30-2 pm.

13. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Wilson  
Recording Secretary

# STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

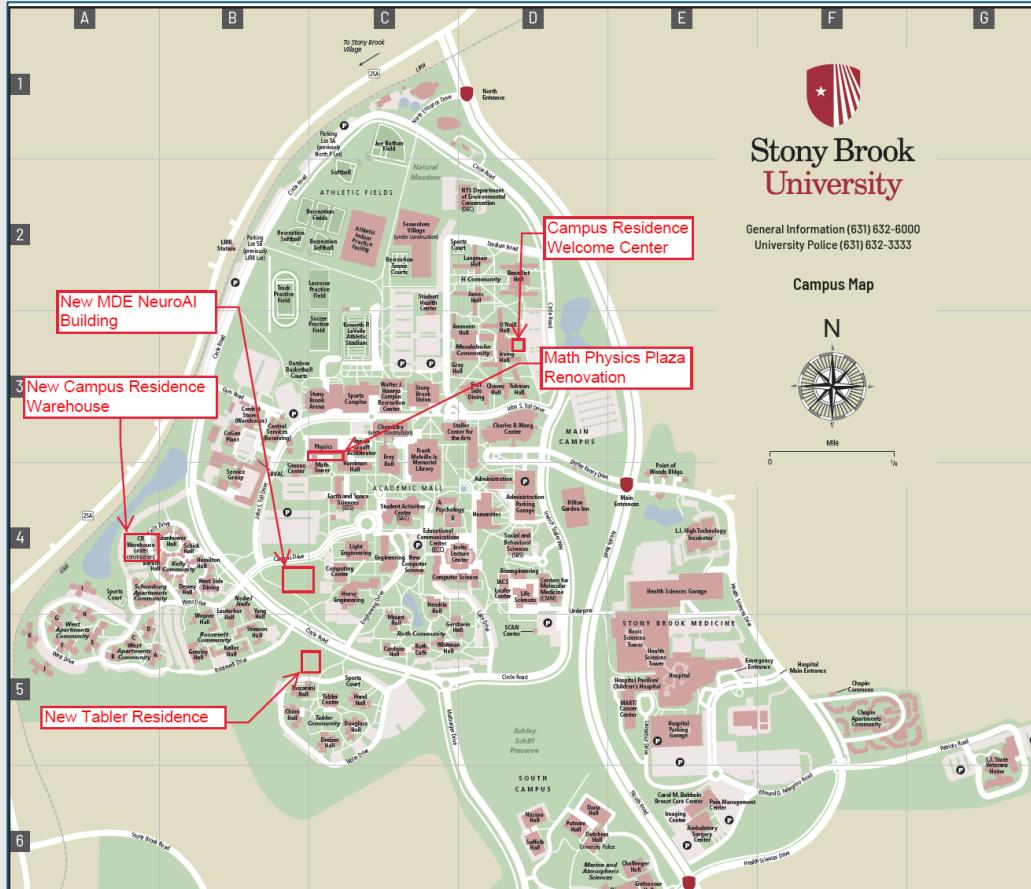
CPDC Upcoming Major Projects Update

October 8, 2025

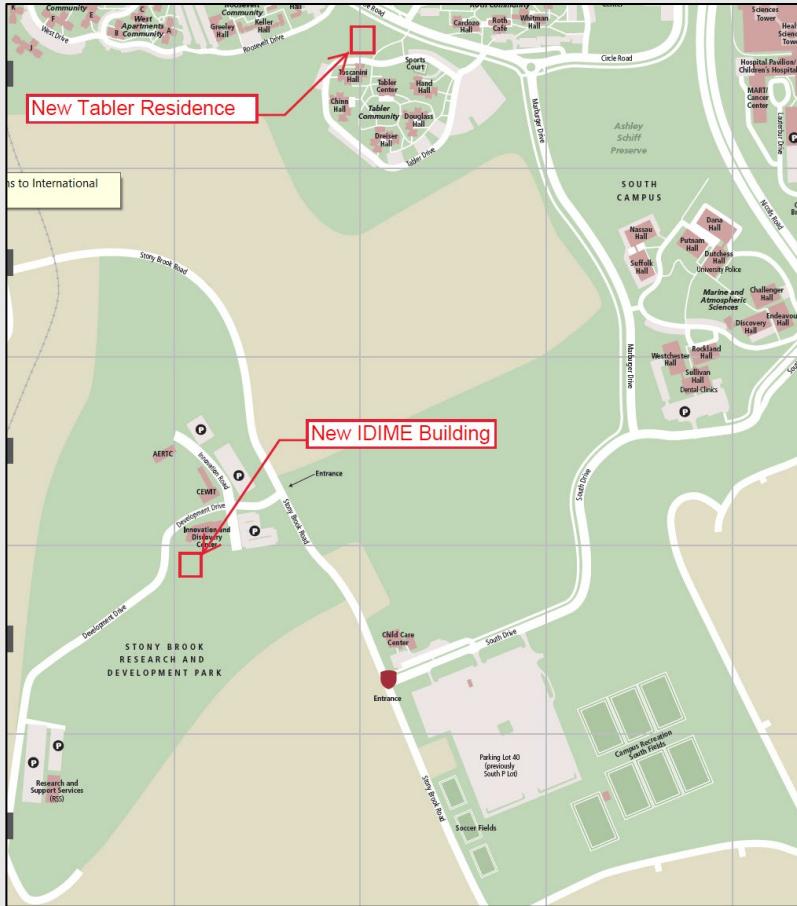
# UPCOMING MAJOR PROJECTS OVERVIEW

Major Project Name	Project Location	Construction Start
Campus Residence Warehouse	Adjacent Baruch Hall	Fall 2025
Tabler Hall Residence	Adjacent Tabler Center	Fall 2025
Math Physics Plaza	Math Physics Buildings	Spring 2026
I-DIME (Institute for Discovery and Innovation in Medicine and Engineering)	Research and Development Park	Spring 2026
Campus Residence Administration Expansion	Irving College Building	Spring 2026
MDE - Neuro AI (Multi-Disciplinary Engineering Building - Neuro AI Institute)	Adjacent Computing Center Building	Summer 2026

# CAMPUS MAP WITH PROJECTS LOCATED – MAIN CAMPUS



# CAMPUS MAP WITH PROJECTS LOCATED – SOUTH CAMPUS



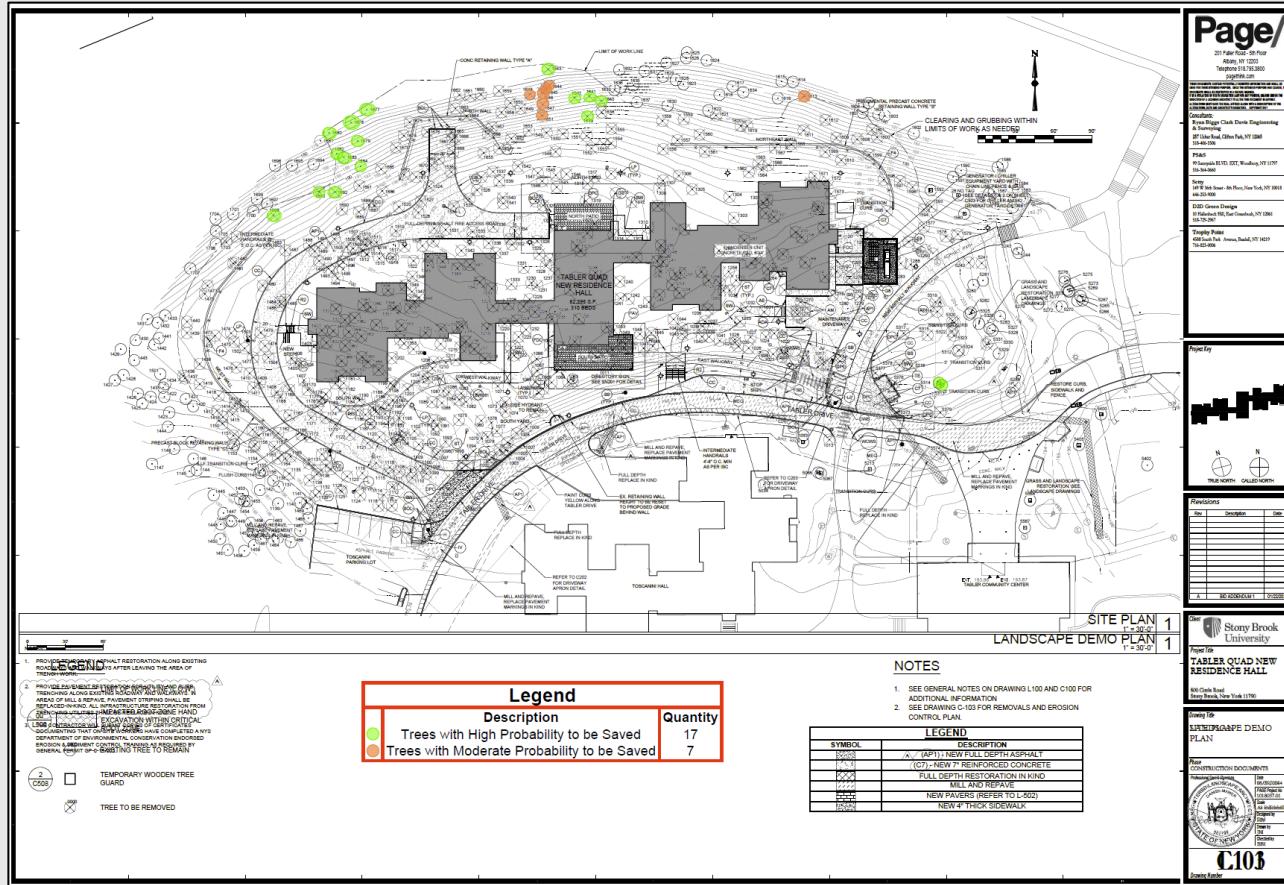
# CAMPUS MAP – CAMPUS RESIDENCE WAREHOUSE



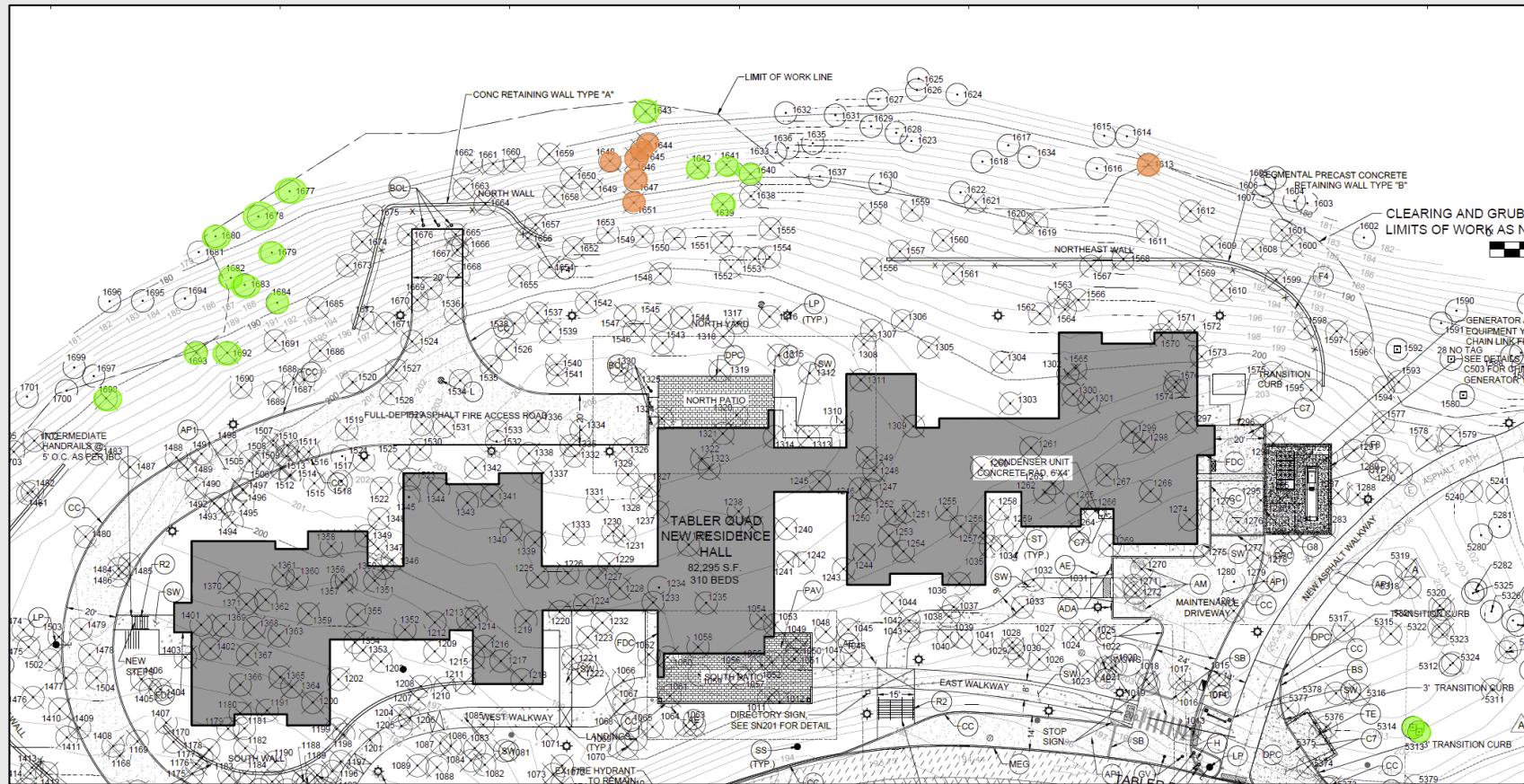
# CAMPUS MAP – TABLER RESIDENCE



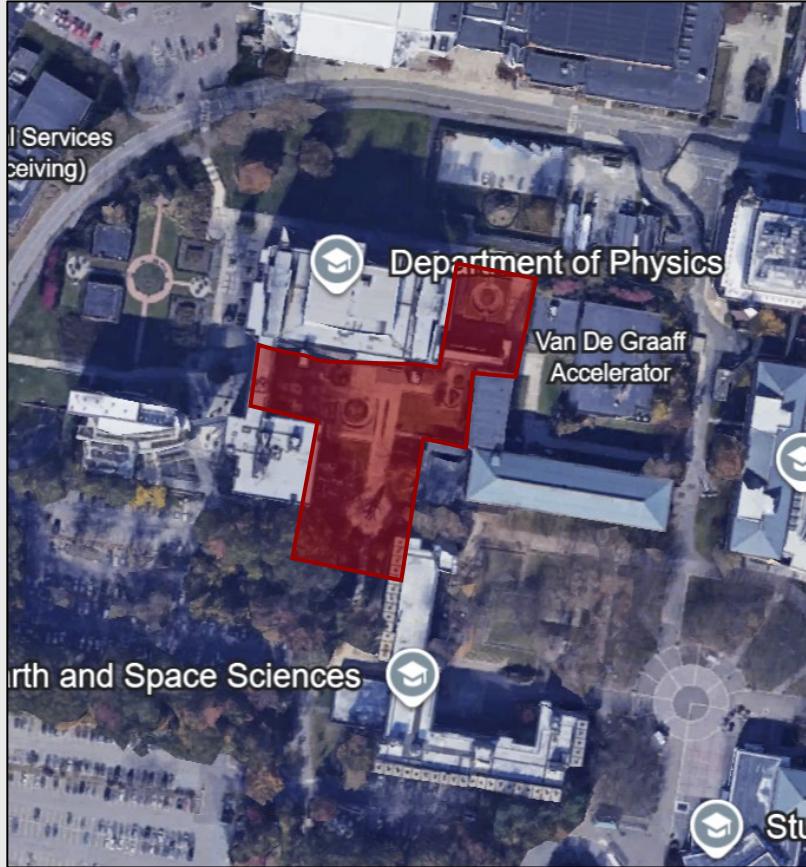
# TABLE RESIDENCE TREE REMOVAL PLAN



# TABLE RESIDENCE TREE REMOVAL ENLARGED PLAN



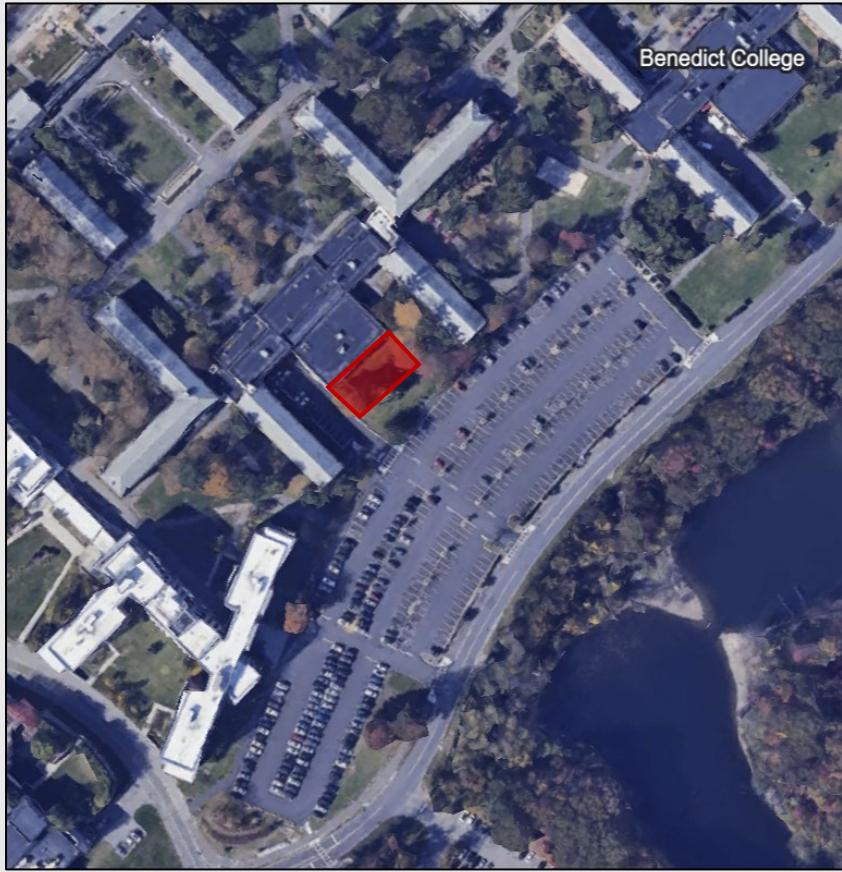
# CAMPUS MAP – MATH PHYSICS PLAZA



# CAMPUS MAP – I-DIME BUILDING



# CAMPUS MAP – CAMPUS RESIDENCE ADMINISTRATION EXPANSION



# CAMPUS MAP – MDE NEURO AI BUILDING



# QUESTIONS?

# Anderson Request to UEC and CAPRA, 10-5-2025; CS Response

## Anderson Email #1

Brenda Anderson  
Oct 3, 2025, 9:32 AM (4 days ago)  
to John, Alfredo, me

Dear Chairs of CAPRA and the Environment Committee,

I am writing to you in your capacity as Chairs of the Senate standing committees that oversee campus space issues: the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA) and the Environment Committee.

As you know, our standing committees are essential to the Senate's role in shared governance, serving as our primary means for building institutional knowledge on critical topics. Recently, campus space planning has become a subject of interest. Concerns have been raised regarding accommodations for classroom and lab space when facilities are taken offline for renovations. In addition, the university has acquired new off-campus administrative space near SCCC. Further, we are aware of concerns that space is being taken away from departments without a full understanding of their needs.

I am writing to ask you to use your committees to start deeper conversations on these topics, and build a structure for conversations on these topics within your committees, have these conversations frequently and build the trust necessary to ensure the conversations continue. This will allow us to understand the administration's plans, ensure they address faculty and student concerns, explain the context to our colleagues, and advocate effectively when appropriate. Last, I hope you will keep the Executive Committee informed of the information you gain.

I am available to discuss this further. Please feel free to call me anytime today or on Tuesday. My office number below is forwarded to my cell phone.

Thank you!

Brenda J. Anderson, Ph.D.  
President, University Senate  
Professor, Integrative Neuroscience in Psychology

[Both Alfredo Fontanini and Chris Sellers then ask for “more specifics” about recent problems with lab and classroom space]

## Anderson Email #2

Brenda Anderson  
Oct 3, 2025, 1:42 PM (4 days ago)  
to me, Alfredo, John

Hi All,  
Thank you for the quick attention.

Generally, the specifics don't matter. The goal is to build a communication structure that makes it clear where people like Bill Herrman and John Kent go for faculty input, and development of the expectation that they use these committees to obtain that input, and do so frequently. We are at a good point for doing this.

Let me share my experience and mistakes from serving as the Chair of the GC. Our Cognate Administrator attended every meeting. For that reason, we had a productive relationship with the Grad School. We built the GC meeting schedule around the Cogn Admin's schedule. And the Cogn Admin gave a report each time at the end of the meeting. When something was going to change, the Dean shared the gist of it and asked for input. Once the plan was fleshed out, it was given to us for detailed feedback. Sometimes, we were even charged with developing the plan. At one point, however, one of the deans gave reports that were vague and sparse, and he rarely, if ever, asked for input. The next thing you know, grad admissions was moved to East Campus. Even then, we weren't told. It was a disaster that was later reversed. I take some responsibility, in that I made the mistake of not insisting on better communication, and not explaining our expectations and the traditions that worked well for our system. I gave too much deference to the dean. I'm asking you to step back and consider your expectations, what we need at this moment, what your priorities should be given your mandate, and then to make all of that clear to your cognate administrator.

Across institutions, senates have different structures (ours is definitely unique), and some institutions have no senate. Accordingly, it is our responsibility to explain our structure and what is expected to the Cognate Administrator of a standing committee at Stony Brook University.

This is a great moment to do this. We started off the year working WITH the administration. When the Pres of the SUNY Faculty Senate visited, Bill Herrman, John Kent, Michael Arens, and Patrick Lloyd arranged amazing tours that helped Bruce see the side of Stony Brook that isn't covered in press releases. Hearing \$1.8B in deferred maintenance doesn't do justice to what is needed. On the tour with Bill and John, we saw mold, falling ceilings, \$75,000 equipment ruined from floods, air flow shafts for fume hoods deforming from the numerous shut offs required for renovations and building repairs, and walked into a staff kitchen from the 70s.

In the kitchen, it became clear that Bruce was revising his perceptions of Stony Brook, which was our goal. That means we have started the year working WITH the administration to get the information about our maintenance needs to SUNY. That serves as a stepping stone for more interactions with people like Bill and John, and continued building trust.

UECs mandate includes facilities, and since Bill Herrman is the Cognate Administrator for UEC, I'm hoping the UEC can expand their focus to include indoor facilities, including labs, and classroom space. I'd like to make it clear to Bill and John that their interactions with the senate, and especially the UEC, should be frequent reports and requests for input/feedback. Provide feedback that is constructive, and be understanding of the constraints they work under. If this is too much for the committee, then consider subcommittees.

I don't see this as competition with CAPRA, whose Cognate Administrator is Jed, and therefore the focus is on funding. Further, at this point they have much to consider w/r/t the New Economic Framework. Perhaps you can pick representatives that attend the other committees meetings, or simply chairs keep one another apprised on relevant information.

Now for specifics:

I repeatedly hear concerns about space reassignment by Kent. I hear there is no input from anyone. This is just hearsay. Chairs of standing committees can add ad hoc members at their discretion. So the UEC may want to consider John Kent as an ad hoc member, attempting to start conversations about reallocation of space. You can add any other member that gets you to the details you aren't getting from Bill.

More generally, I am concerned that admin, which is full of people who aren't scientists, don't understand that lab space is built for unique needs. When space is reallocated it is changed, and can't easily be assigned back. I am happy to say our President does understand this, but her influence will be more global. I have less assurance that those making decisions in existing space understand the myriad of problems that come from shuffling people beyond department space.

Rumors of the old King Kullen space in Setauket being considered for some surge class/lab space. On location there is no indication of this.

The active learning spaces rightfully prioritize lab sections, but that leaves people who want to fully flip a class (meeting 2-3 times per week) without options for classroom space.

Sorry for the long message.

I'm happy to entertain feedback on this strategy for increasing communications and input.

## Sellers Email Response

Christopher Sellers <christopher.sellers@stonybrook.edu>  
Oct 5, 2025, 4:31 PM (2 days ago)  
to Brenda, Frederick, Alfredo, John

Hey Brenda and also Alfredo, and bringing in Fred Walter here too, as our liaison to the Senate,  
Just wanting to inform everyone what's already on the UEC's plate for upcoming months,  
Newer Issues

--After repeated concerns brought to us by faculty since early 2025, securing a role for our committee receiving and reviewing plans for tree cutting and land clearance ("cognate administrator" Bill Hermann):

--Developing a plan brought to us by faculty sponsors and Setalcott Nation for tribe members to gain access to some SBU acreage (we hope to endorse and pass along to you all; have also put them in touch to begin talks with appropriate administrator(s))

--A project brought to us by SBU student members of the community-based Brookhaven Landfill Action and Remediation Group (BLARG), to encourage more recycling and a zero-waste goal for our campus (we're setting up working group with faculty advisors, building on the support we've long provided to student-led recycling projects in the dorms) (the actual "cognate administrator(s)" have been in food services)

--Also on the above front, we're seeking information on SBU's plan to conform to NYS laws outlawing single-use plastics (actual "cognate administrator(s)" in Office of Sustainability and also likely in food services)

Continuing issues:

--We're continuing to address faculty and student concerns on access and safety issues surrounding pathways for bikes as well as mixes of pedestrians, scooters and skateboards. (actual "cognate administrators" in Transportation)

--clean energy: we continue to follow SBU's lagging efforts to build out solar and other alternative energy sources, in accordance with deadlines in New York State's Executive Orders and laws, also to electrify the transportation of SBU faculty, staff, and students (e.g., charging stations for EVs) (actual "cognate administrators" include Sustainability, Transportation, also to some extent Bill Hermann)

--land preservation: Ashley Schiff's protections are still not fully secured; we continued to explore and promote these ("cognate administrators" to some extent Bill Herman but also those above him; possibly even NYS legislature).

--working with "cognate administrators" in C4E and Sustainability to raise SBU's standing in various national indexes of campus "greenness"

So you see, we do have our hands full, with ongoing issues solidly within our existing charge. And as I look back at that versus CAPRA's on our respective Senate webpages, it does look like CAPRAs to "review budgetary procedures and priorities for planning and resource allocation" should make it the lead committee for spatial "resource allocations." Ours for the environment committee does include "all aspects of the physical campus environment" but of course we can't do "all." And in our long list of specific charges, "facilities" is mentioned, but only in the context of "planning"; i.e. "facilities planning." I also see nothing in our charge that involves allocating or adjudicating between the spatial or any other resource needs of the various departments or

other divisions on campus; so not surprisingly that's a kind of work we're also pretty unaccustomed to undertaking.

Thanks for your suggestions about working with administrators, Brenda. As I hope you'll also see from the above, we've developed our own model of working with what for us is a more complex array of administrators, often difficult to decipher. And we've sought to balance that with our allegiance to important constituencies of faculty, staff, and students, as well as community-based groups with strong SBU ties.

Alfredo and I have already begun discussions about how to address and apportion the new concerns you raise.

Good Wishes,  
Chris