

# **STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY SENATE**

## **University Environment Committee**

Meeting of November 12, 2025, 12:30-2:00 pm

Virtual meeting on Zoom.

In attendance: H. Resit Akcakaya, Teresa Deasy, Tiffany Friedman, Jennifer Gilday, Timothy Gonzalez, Clifford Knee, Jessica Koos, Samuel Lavin, Christine Pash, Sian Piret, Christopher Sellers, Alicia Smith, John True, Frederick Walter, Tom Wilson, and Neha Yousuf.

### **AGENDA**

1. The meeting was called to order by co-chair True at 12:33pm who welcomed everyone..
2. The minutes for meetings from 6/25/2025, 9/10/2025, and 10/08/2025 were considered. Gonzalez moved and Gilday seconded to accept the minutes. The motion passed by unanimous consent.
3. True welcomed Teresa Deasy, Environmental Services Technician from the Auxiliary Services Association (ASA) to talk about dining-hall changes re:single-use plastics to meet the State's requirements. Deasy's presentation is attached.
  - a. Deasy started at SBU in July, graduated in May with Environmental Sciences and Biology Degrees.
  - b. Has completed multiple projects including replanting the living wall in Jasmine, plants in Campus store and Starbucks, native fern planting outside of West Side Dining, revive composting program.
  - c. Currently working on student composting initiatives, "weigh the waste" food waste awareness initiative, Dining Hall hydroponics, and sustainability in Campus Store.
  - d. Reusable takeout containers in the dining halls have avoided 219,000 single use takeout containers. Dine in is almost 100% single use free, should be 100% free by end of year.
  - e. Have eliminated most single use plastic cutlery, only used with "to-go" containers. Compostable or bamboo is expensive, and you have to change habits slowly for student acceptance.
  - f. Lid-free fountain beverage initiative for dine-in. The only single use is a to-go paper cup with a plastic lid.
  - g. Working on reducing plastic in take out at other locations, but still using Polypropylene (#5) clamshells. No point in spending on compostable if we are not actually composting.
  - h. Other ASA locations: paper bags only, paperless checkout. Only aluminum canned drinks at the stadium and arena. Suppliers are being required to align with SUNY single use plastic policy. We are mostly in compliance with 2025 guidelines and working on 2027 guidelines.
  - i. Developing a sustainability hub for campus store: more sustainable goods on offer.

Questions and discussion:

- j. Walter: Water and beer in single use containers are still being offered at football games. Deasy will look into this.
- k. Gilday: Are you in touch with Erin Kluge of Sustainability? Deasy: we are working together closely.
- l. Sellers: What is being done with regards to single use water bottles at catering events? Deasy: There are some blurred lines with regards to catering. They are supposed to use non single-use items when possible. Will look into this. Gilday: It is very simple to provide self serve jugs of water and ice tea and paper cups. Gilday requests paper cups but Culinar almost always brings plastic. Brigit Marron is the Culinar manager.
- m. True: Must be a higher level with other dining facilities that would be looking at these issues. Deasy: it is mostly procurement that has to follow guidelines. Working with ASA to meet guidelines but the Hospital does not work with ASA.
- n. Wilson: What is the relationship between ASA and Culinar? Deasy: Culinar is the food service provider, runs SBU Eats. ASA runs dining halls, present at every SUNY. Deasy is the first Sustainability employee at ASA.
- o. True: Thanks for your time and information.

#### 4. Remote versus in-person work.

- a. Sellers led a discussion of remote work.
- b. Wilson: In 2021, the Environment Committee conducted a study on the environmental impacts of remote work. This included a campus wide survey that gathered 531 responses. The central questions of the survey asked if given the option, how many days per week could a person work remotely and fully meet their academic or professional obligations. The report is available on the Senate website at:

[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)

Results indicated that allowing some remote work in appropriate circumstances could be a “win-win” for both employees and the University:

- i. For some employees some degree of remote work was possible at equal or even enhanced effectiveness.
- ii. For the University, some remote work would alleviate the parking crisis, assist the University in meeting carbon reduction goals, and allow breathing room to develop alternatives to accessing the campus via single occupancy vehicles.
- iii. Allowing appropriate levels of remote work could be an important tool to achieve worthy goals without compromising the vibrancy of a fully occupied campus.

Wilson: Perhaps it is time to revisit this report.

- c. Sellers: Revisiting this certainly seems reasonable given current interior space pressures for classroom and lab space, upcoming contract negotiations, and environmental mandates.

- d. Extensive questions and discussion ensued on the nature and reach of an updated survey.
- e. Sellers: moved and Gonzalez seconded that questions be sent through the Executive Committee to be included in the annual survey conducted by the Academic Review Committee (ARC). The motion passed by unanimous consent.
- f. Committee consensus was that the Undergraduate Student Government and the Graduate Student Organization could conduct their own surveys if they wish.

5. Bikes, scooters, and other personal mobility devices discussion.

- a. Chris Percival gave a bike-path presentation to the Executive Committee and to the full Senate - there were gasps from the audience.

Discussion on proposal for no-ride zones for cyclists and scooter riders, and on bike paths/transportation safety more generally.

- b. Walter: Those of us who spend time walking around campus suffer near collisions on a regular basis with bicycles and other wheeled vehicles, especially scooters coming silently from behind. It's only a matter of time until there are serious injuries. It is time for the University to designate dismount zones for wheeled vehicles as well as speed limits. Also the issue of low visibility at night, students wearing dark outfits. Pedestrians walk abreast on designated bike paths, need to be educated to let bikes pass and have situational awareness. Some roads have no bike paths, there needs to be signage to give bikes right of way where there are no bike paths on roads.
- c. Knee: working on micromobility policy with Greg Turchinano of MAPS. It is in draft form. Addresses dismount zones, parking, charging locations, fire safety requirements, prohibition of micromobility share operators. Meetings have included UPD, MAPS, Campus Residences, Student Life. It is progressing very slowly but does need to be addressed.
- d. Walter: The problem is getting worse. Perhaps a representative from this committee should be included in the policy group. Knee: Will talk to chair Greg Turchiano about that.
- e. Sellers: Can there be designated bike zones? Knee: Comes down to cost.
- f. Koos: There is a lack of charging stations and a fire hazard of scooter charging in common areas. Knee: Policy prohibits charging in unauthorized areas. Wilson: there is a lack of authorized charging stations, only one, located on east campus. Friedman: students are being sanctioned for unauthorized charging.
- g. Lavin: The solution is meeting the infrastructure needs. Knee: That is correct but is a matter of priorities. Lavin: how about a fee structure to license micromobility with a charge to build support infrastructure.
- h. True: sounds like it is timely to push this proposal to the Senate. Walter: send comments to me.
- i. Akcakaya: recommend that powered conveyance are not allowed on unpaved surfaces. Walter: will add.

6. Food-truck generators update.

- a. Walter: Four or five food trucks in the SAC Circle and in the lawn area by ESS. 8am - 6pm running generators. Smelly, noisy, polluting. Shouldn't there be an alternative to plug into the University power grid.
- b. Wilson: The technical solution would be using the same sort of transfer switches and power poles used at RV Parks and marinas.
- c. Gilday: If we do this then Stony Brook is paying for the electricity. Wilson: They must already be paying for permission to sell on campus so this can be taken into account in that charge.
- d. Knee: Had a meeting with Diana Kubik, Director of ASA. There are 7 food trucks total, 5 are here on any given day and use 3 gallons of gasoline per truck. Having discussed alternative power, the issue is cost. The location they chose was recommended by the Fire Marshal, and is the most lucrative location. Kubik expressed willingness to discuss with the committee.
- e. Wilson: The cost discussion ignores the external costs of aesthetics and health.
- f. True: Perhaps it's appropriate to push this to the Senate for brainstorming on how to proceed, opportunities for external funding. Walter: I will work on updating.

7. Other Updates

- a. Recycling and zero waste: follow up with students/BLARG visitors from last meeting  
Yousuf: Working with USG to identify Administration to contact. Working with other students to build engagement, I have had 100 more students sign the BLARG petition.  
Pash: Still interested in University Senate resolution toward a zero waste plan. True: There is a role for this committee in formulating a resolution. Pash: We will work on a draft for the next meeting.

8. Old business not previously considered.

- a. Ashley Schiff
  - i. Wilson: We have full signoff on the Ashley Schiff Report, will be posted on the Senate website as soon as it is updated for Title II accessibility compliance. I am working on that now. By April 2026 all documents posted on the Senate website after April 2024 have to be ADA compliant, I will be working my way through old Environment Committee minutes to ensure we are compliant. True: There are AI tools that can assist in making documents ADA compliant. Walter: This is a minor problem for this committee but a major problem for instructors, and the University is providing no resources to assist.
- b. Forest removal.
  - i. True: We have verbal guarantees from the administration as per recent committee and Senate meetings that there will be notice and engagement well in advance of forest removal. We need to be vigilant to ensure this commitment is met.

- ii. True: At an Arts and Sciences Senate meeting last week I asked the Provost whether the footprint has been established. He said it had not and the University would be transparent with shared governance.
- iii. Wilson: Chris Martin said he was going to be proactive on this issue, even to allow experts to identify ecologically significant tree species. Martin is planning to come in December

9. The next meeting will be: December 10, 2025, Wednesday, at 12:30-2 pm

10. Gilday moved and Gonzalez seconded a motion to adjourn.

11. By unanimous consent the meeting was adjourned at 1:56pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Thomas Wilson

Recording Secretary

# **Auxiliary Services Association: Plastic Reduction Across Our Campus Locations**

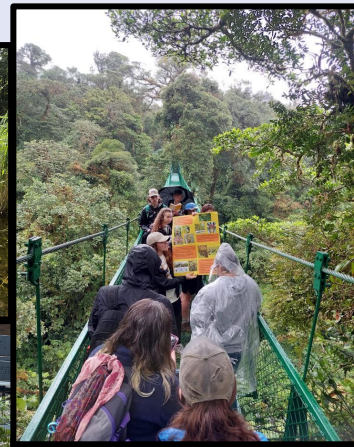
Teresa Deasy

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# Introduction

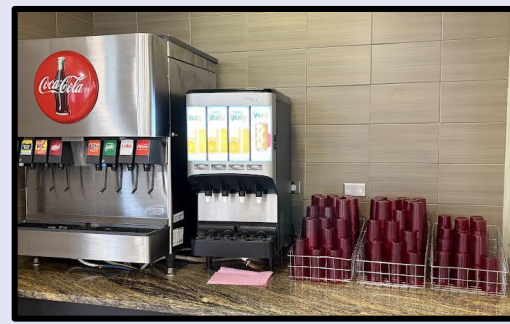
- Started at SBU in July
- Environmental Science and Biology Focus
  - With additional focus in Sustainability
- Interned at Caumsett State Park
- Completed Projects:
  - Jasmine wall upgrade
  - Campus store and starbucks plants
  - WSD Native Ferns
  - Compost Revival
- Current Projects:
  - Student compost initiatives
  - Weigh the waste
    - Food waste awareness bin wraps & awning
  - Dining Hall Hydroponics
  - Sustainability @ Campus Store





# In the Dining Halls

- Dine-In Takeout Containers
  - Has saved over 219,000 containers
- Dine-Ins are nearly 100% single use plastic free
  - Should be 100% by the end of this year
- Eliminated most plastic cutlery
  - Aiming to remove all in dine-in, still provided for take-out
- Lid-free fountain beverage initiative
  - To-go cups and lids provided upon request for accessibility/transport





# In our Other Locations

- Paper bags are offered, no plastic
  - Occasional reusable tote bag giveaways
  - Paperless checkout
- Only Aluminium canned drinks offered at the stadium and arena
- Tightened supplier/special compliance to align with SUNY's single use plastic policies (EO20, Policy 5200/5201)
- New sustainability hub plans for campus store!

