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10/01/2007 03:31 PM

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Subject Comments on Draft

Shirley,
Members of the Campus Environment Committee are providing you with the following Comments on the Draft Five Year Plan.
Gil

Draft Five-Year Plan: 2007-2012

The Draft Five-Year Plan recognizes SBU's status as "one of America's great research Universities (p.3) and as one that will "continue to develop its role as greater Long Island's research university, supporting a robust regional economy and contributing to a vital regional community, with *a focus on environmental sustainability* (p.3., italics added). However, SBU currently has a very large negative impact on the regional environment and quality of life, particularly in terms of traffic, but also on other dimensions such as housing, waste effluence, trash generation, and greenhouse gases emissions. It is well known that SBU's reputation as a neighbor to the surrounding communities and environmental steward is a poor one. The planned increase to 27,000 students, and associated increases in staff and faculty, will only serve to intensify these impacts. Furthermore, it is the role of great universities to show society the way to new and better ways of living, and this is a unique time for SBU to finally come into that role.

The goal of Priority 12 of the Draft Five-Year plan ("Support sustainability through a green campus initiative") is a significant step in the right direction. However, it does not reach far enough in that all of its action items are limited to simply adjusting the level (e.g. "increase, "decrease", "expand") of initiatives that are already underway. While laudable, they are modest, and shortsighted. Rather, SBU has the unique ability to play a leadership role because of our size, stability, intellectual and financial resources. SBU should work to bring together the many key players in the regional and state economy and government, in order to work in a coordinated manner not otherwise possible. Because SBU is a recognized regional and local entity, we have the clout as well as the intimate knowledge and sensitivity of our community not held by state or federal agencies. Regional environmental problems cannot be solved by uncoordinated, piecemeal efforts. SBU is in the ideal position to provide the needed leadership and coordination on Long Island. SBU needs to think outside the limits of our campus borders and five year time horizon in order to embrace this role.

Therefore, we call upon the University to include the action item under the Five-year plan of:
Stony Brook will initiate and lead the regional community in producing and implementing a long-range, regional master plan.

This plan will apply the most modern planning methods, including "form based planning", and other techniques designed to involve the regional community in developing a shared vision of

how they would like greater Long Island to be in 10 to 30 years. This will include developing sustainable transportation, waste management, housing, open space preservation, and other policies in an integrated manner, and then shepherd the implementation of these policies over the long term. Determining the specifics is a major part of this process, so the first step simply involves the bringing together of the relevant parties to achieve consensus needed to move forward. This could be done within the year and could dovetail on the momentum created by the decision of the University to become a zero-carbon emissions campus.

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