MINUTES

Attendance: Liisa Laine, co-chair; Sarah Aneyci; Sarah Brown; Geeta Chougule; Dawn Cummings; Laura Dobler; Kristine (Newson) Dodd; Daisy Ferreira; Catherine Hanni; Joel Hernandez; Marguerite Joutz; Annemarie Kennedy; Michael Leitao; Derek Lisi; Laura Pleasants; Jennifer Quiroz; Felicia Raton; Barbara Simoneau; Maria Sokolova; Ray Windsor; Yi Vizard

Absent: Tara Greenwood; Abigail Peterson; Jessica Pontarelli; Beth Travers; Grace Young

1. Acceptance of meeting minutes: June 27, 2019

There were no objections to the minutes and they were accepted by all present members.

2. 2020 Co-Chair Updates

SAC received many nominations and several acceptances for next year’s co-chair. If you have been informed that you’re nominated, please let Liisa Laine or Grace Young know before the next SAC meeting whether you are interested in accepting. The next SAC meeting will include presentations by the nominees on what they would focus on next year as co-chairs. Mike Leitao added that the 2020 co-chairs will have a lot of help from the current and past co-chairs, as well as Marguerite Joutz being a phenomenal resource.

Upcoming events:
- Meet n Mingle Volleyball Games on Wed, July 17th from 4-6pm
- Parent Networking Event, Thurs, August 15th from 12-1pm
- Staff Summer Reading Program, Thurs, August 22nd from 9am-1pm
- SAC Recruitment Lunch, Tues, Oct 15th from 12-2pm

SAC Committee updates:
- The newsletter should be completed tomorrow evening; send along any news or flyers to Mike. Yi Vizard will come up with a flyer for the SAC recruitment lunch to be included. Mike asked people to limit how many links are included in flyers due to MailChimp’s non-clickable layout.
- Daisy Ferreira reported that the Roger Williams Zoo has another event coming up, Brew at the Zoo. She also wants to start a drive for cats and dogs at the start of the fall semester. The Epiphany Soup Kitchen can help Providence; she would love to work more with Providence-focused places that genuinely need our help.
She’ll talk more with Erin Royal about sustainable opportunities at and near Brown.

- Because of schedule changes, the lunch with the President now will be held on Monday, August 26th at the Faculty Club.
- It was asked whether there be a cultural potluck elsewhere on campus aside from South Street Landing. It’s a consideration, but the people at SSL feel disconnected and SAC would like to connect with them. It’s a trade-off, as many events are usually held on College Hill. If we hold two cultural potlucks every year, we could consider splitting the locations between SSL and College Hill. Perhaps SAC could designate a point of contact for people on College Hill to get their food to SSL (Laura Dobler volunteered to bring the food in her car if people dropped them at CIT). It was also noted that there should be more outlets in the space for people to plug in crock pots and wider parameters for the event because not everyone has positive associations of childhood meals.

3. **Staff Concerns/Updates**

- Liisa is still waiting on a response from Deputy CIO John Spadaro on the technical internship previously mentioned.
- Derek Lisi reported that a recent Union meeting unearthed that several members had experienced parking or ticketing issues. The Union had a conversation about being respectful, in light of the recent SAC conversation about how parking and transportation employees have been abused by Brown employees.
- It was asked what is going on with the new Performing Arts Center, as a construction crew member had revealed to a Brown employee that they were stopping the project because of “dirty soil.” Liisa reported that the project was put on hold first for Commencement in May, then for blasting for rock removal, and now for an issue of where the blasted rock could be transported. While that is going on, there’s also another project (relocation of the Sharpe House that was in that space), which is on schedule. Blasting notices will be sent to transportation@brown.edu to notify that department, and there are also project status updates online.
  
  Liisa will ask John Cooke, the project manager, to provide SAC with a formal statement that could be shared with people curious about the construction status.

*Update: Immediately following the SAC meeting, Liisa distributed this statement from John Cooke:*

“There has been a few weeks delay in removing material from the site. The issue concerns the bedrock that was uncovered, which was expected. The material wasn’t as hard as was originally determined and therefore it couldn’t be processed into smaller material that could be reused or sold as was planned. Brown had to come up with an alternate location for disposal of this rock, and it took time because there are very few sites in RI where this much material can be brought to; activity has now started back up at the site and the rock will be hauled away in lifts. They will install rock stabilization anchors as the foundation hole continues downward. This work will happen over the next couple of months.”
• Brown University recently settled for $3.5 million in response to a class action lawsuit alleging that the University’s 403(b) retirement plan managers breached their fiduciary duties and cost Brown employees millions of dollars in excessive fees. The Union is following up with Amanda Bailey in Human Resources to seek an assurance that the issue won’t happen again.

• Catherine Hanni asked whether SAC could be involved with helping track who at Brown is a notary public, where s/he is located, and potential funding to ensure that there are strategically located active notary publics on each corner of campus. There used to be a web page containing this information but that no longer seems to be the case. It costs $80 per person for four years, plus $30 for the stamp if they don’t already have it. She feels it would be an important service and would be happy to take on the project. A concern was noted that SAC is transitional; could the Council assist in identifying/publishing notaries without taking full responsibility/ownership? What is the appropriate office that would; perhaps general counsel? Marguerite volunteered to look into which office would best oversee this process. SAC could ask in its newsletter for notaries to identify themselves. It was cautioned that some people may be hesitant about being published by name if they did not become notaries for Brown’s benefit, so their permission would need to be obtained before they are listed anywhere.

4. John Luipold, Vice President of Real Estate & Strategic Initiatives

Vice President John Luipold, who has worked at Brown since 2007, spoke to SAC about the operations that he is charged with improving around the University, from managing the travel process to procuring vehicles, many of which are linked into the President’s goal to reduce emissions. His main reason for being invited to today’s meeting was to address traffic concerns in the Jewelry District.

Brown owns the garage adjacent to the Warren Alpert Medical School but not the one next to South Street Landing. Some people park in garages or Lot 85 if they can’t fit into the garage next to SSL, so there are many pedestrians crossing streets in the area to get to work. SSL is home to 450 people, plus 150 people next door at Davol Square. On the west side in addition to the medical school Brown has multiple other operations, plus the School of Professional Studies moving to 225 Dyer Street by November; there will also be a new hotel just after the new SPS building that will break ground in fall. Eddy Street was designed to get cars out of Providence quickly, which is in contrast to the number of people trying to cross the street on foot. Brown has been unable to install signalized crosswalks around SSL like on Waterman and Angell Streets and must work with the city, the state, the owner of SSL, the nursing association, and other stakeholders to work to calm traffic and allow Brown employees to walk back and forth. There is a blinking yellow light for pedestrians, but the blinking yellow light is difficult to see in summer and drivers who miss it don’t tend to slow down. Brown is still contracting with the Providence Police for paid detail at two intersections from 7-11 a.m. and 3-7 p.m. to allow Brown employees to cross safely. The University has also engaged a traffic consultant on a more long-term plan, then will meet with stakeholders to identify costs and build a consensus to invest in a safer pedestrian access. It will take some time to address both sides of the street. Many administrators at Brown are aware that this is an issue, including President Christina Paxson and Executive Vice President
Question: They’re installing a new RIPTA downtown connector line by the end of this calendar year. Once that is done, will speed bumps become permanent?
Answer: We’ve been told that RIPTA stops will include one right in front of SSL and will compress three lanes on Eddy Street into two lanes plus a dedicated bus lane. There will be bus shelters with signal information on when the next bus is coming. RIDOT needs to confirm more details, but those will be part of Brown’s calculations for pedestrian safety.

Question: Was pedestrian safety an expected concern in the move to SSL?
Answer: Yes, but Brown hoped that the city, state and developers would move more quickly to solve the problem because the university lacked control itself.

Question: Has a tunnel been thought out?
Answer: You get involved with a high water table when you go to dig underground at that location, and an overpass is extremely expensive to build. (Mike noted that signage helped on Point Street to help slow traffic for pedestrians working over there.)

Question: Will the permanent speed bumps be installed by winter?
Answer: Yes, that's what we've been told.

Question: Will the pedestrian bridge change things?
Answer: The city and state is waiting for the grass to grow in stronger before being walked on and creating a park management plan, but they hope to open the bridge by the end of the summer, with an eventual signalized, on-demand access to cross to the west side of Eddy Street where SPS will be located. There are also some cranes behind SSL to rebuild the seawall. Once the seawall is rebuilt, hopefully by the end of winter, the riverwalk will extend beyond 200 Dyer Street to follow the river and connect behind SSL.

Question: What will happen with 200 Dyer Street?
Answer: We will continue using the building, with Admissions staying on the second floor and something else on the ground floor. SPS is moving into the 5th floor and half of the 4th floor of the District Hall building, along with Cambridge Center space aimed at life science and technology startups, plus a commercial tenant on the top floor.

Question: Who is responsible for snow removal on the pedestrian bridge? 121 South Main Street employees would park at 71 Ship Street and then slip trying to cross the bridge; does Brown communicate with the city?
Answer: Brown asks the city to do a better job with snow removal but cannot take on the removal due to liability issues. Many property owners on Thayer Street also fail to clear snow well for people moving from Brown building to Brown building on College Hill; it’s an ongoing problem for the entire campus.

SAC will meet next on Tuesday, July 23rd at 12 p.m. in the Engineering Research Center.