

UTS Alumni meeting on January 7 is postponed

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The UTS alumni meeting in New York on Wednesday, December 14 was much more successful than I had anticipated. A weeknight meeting in mid-town Manhattan with New York City in the throes of holiday season does not sound like a recipe for a successful event; especially when there are ponderous financials to discuss or short and long term strategies to grasp. However, from my perspective, the evening proved to be a great success.

Over 25 brave souls ventured out that winter night and were present at 4W43 to listen to Dr. Michael Balcomb, chair of the UTS Board of Trustees, Dr. Michael Jenkins, chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee of the Board, and my powerpoint presentation on the future of the Barrytown property. Then we were all able to listen to a wide variety of differing views offered from the floor. That evening session was broadcast live to alumni/ae and friends throughout the world. Since then, over 160 alumni/ae have viewed the video broadcast of the meeting.

Dr. Balcomb managed the evening capably, and after my presentation called upon many of the alumni, faculty and staff present to respond. He even gave out a cell phone number for online viewers to call in and ask questions and give comments. If anyone had thought this would be a dull affair, then please watch the video. There is a lot of solid, honest information on Barrytown, and there are several alternative perspectives presented during the dialogue.

So why postpone the January 7 alumni meeting? There are several reasons:

UTS needs a professional feasibility study by an expert marketing company. Since the meeting, I have met with the principals of three marketing firms, including one company that is located in Mid-Hudson Valley. Soon I anticipate that the Executive Committee of the UTS Board will commission a marketing firm to conduct that feasibility study.

All options and proposals for the future use of the Barrytown property need to be evaluated by the Buildings and Grounds Committee of the Board. We are grateful to the UTS stakeholders (alumni, faculty and friends) who have made many suggestions regarding uses for the property.

Then the Building and Grounds Committee will report and bring their evaluation and recommendations to the full UTS Board of Trustees, hopefully by the Board meeting scheduled for May 2017.

Suggestions and proposals for the use of the Barrytown property are still being received from stakeholders. Many alumni are in the process of reviewing the broadcast, which is available at [UTS Alumni/ae Meeting](#)

Key UTS Trustees will not be available to meet on that date in January.

Though at first, I was concerned that holding the December meeting on a weekday would not reach enough people, in fact through online media, a large number of alumni and friends have been engaged. On top of the alumni and friends in the room and those listening live online, with the additional viewers watching through the UTS YouTube channel, over 200 people have attended or listened to the powerpoint presentation and subsequent dialogue.

I have determined that a follow-up meeting in January would be much too early in the process and not add much to the discussion and dialogue which is already underway. Another meeting will be scheduled once the feasibility study and various options and proposals are vetted by the Board. Hopefully, that can happen sometime this spring. No final decisions will be made regarding the future of the Barrytown property without further communication with UTS stakeholders, including alumni/ae. If you have additional options and proposals for the Barrytown property to present to the UTS Board, then please contact me at h.spurgin@uts.edu. I appreciate the interaction and feedback.

Here are the separate links to my powerpoint presentation on the economic realities that UTS is facing regarding the Barrytown property and to the entire video of the December 14 alumni meeting:

[Dr. Spurgin's Powerpoint Presentation: Alumni Presentation](#)

[The Meeting Broadcast: Dialogue with Alumni and Friends](#)