

Binghamton University Faculty Senate Meeting April 14, 2020

HARVEY G. STENGER
PRESIDENT

BINGHAMTON
UNIVERSITY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Recently announced appointments

John Koch, ~~Interim~~ Vice President of Advancement



Karen Jones, Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion



New York State Budget and the financial impact of COVID-19

- \$177 billion budget passed April 3
- \$10 billion estimated tax revenues lost due to COVID-19, in addition to ~\$6 billion structural deficit
- State will receive several billion in federal stimulus support, including \$1.2 billion targeted for schools and higher education
- Budget authorizes Gov. Andrew Cuomo to withhold/reduce payments to schools and local governments if revenues lag
- We need to plan for a \$4M to \$8M mid year reduction



Budget impact on SUNY and Binghamton

Good news. . .

- Education funding remains essentially flat
 - Some increases in construction
- Increased support for Opportunity programs – EOP, HEOP, Discovery, STEP and CSTEP
- Excelsior Scholarships continued, but not expanded beyond family income of \$125,000
- Funding for New York State Dream Act to support undocumented workers applying for college through the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)
- Federal CARES act is scheduled to provide \$13M to Binghamton University
 - Half goes to students half to the university.

And not so good. . .

- Mid-year budget cuts are possible if tax revenues fall
- No Maintenance of Effort support for operating costs, utilities, TAP gap, etc.
- No support for negotiated salary increases
- Centers of Excellence (COEs) and Centers for Advanced Technology (CATs) receive reduced funding
- Students refunded for 45% of their spring semester housing, meal plan and fees

Budget impact on SUNY and Binghamton

Campus construction

- Funding for construction and critical maintenance same as last year
 - Binghamton will receive \$10.7 million (our share of SUNY distribution)
 - Project competition for \$396.6 million in state distributed funds
 - A new matching program could create a growth in construction projects
- Construction was temporarily on hold, restarting with guidelines
- Projects underway
 - Science 2 and Science 4 renovations
 - Engineering Building
 - 48 Corliss
 - Hinman Dining Hall
- Projects bid or in design
 - 48 Corliss 5th and 6th floors
 - Pharmacy R&D facility
 - Library Innovations Center
 - Baseball stadium and training facility



Impact of pandemic on undergraduate education and calendar

- Students were given option to return home in mid-March (~300 remain on campus).
- Classes went fully online on March 19.
- Changes to Pass/Fail policy*
 - Up to 12 credits may be taken P/F in spring 2020; grade of “P” will satisfy prerequisite requirements.
 - School and college semester P/F credit limit restrictions are waived for spring 2020.
 - Students may choose P/F after grades have been assigned.
 - University withdrawal deadline was moved to June 5
- All synchronous classes are taught at their scheduled time.
- GPA-based probations, suspensions and dismissals are suspended for spring 2020.
- Fall registration moved to April 13.
- Commencement ceremonies for spring 2020 have been postponed
 - survey results: date TBD.

Impact on graduate education

- Graduate School policy on S/U grade option will mostly follow the undergraduate policy (except in nursing, pharmacy, clinical psychology and TLEL because of licensing requirements).
- Students are urged to consult with graduate program directors regarding possible adverse affects.
- S/U graded courses will count toward residency and degree completion requirements.
- Continuous registration policy will be waived upon petition.
- Requirement of no incomplete and withdrawal grade for funding eligibility is waived.
- 3.0 GPA requirement for graduation is still in effect.
- Students who cannot meet degree conferral deadline due to COVID-19 complications may petition for 2020 summer continuous registration waiver.



Impact on Faculty

- Faculty's ability to convert to online has been outstanding
- Need to focus on teaching for an uncertain amount of time
- The impact on scholarship is difficult to predict
- Tenure decisions will be more difficult
- We will extend the tenure clock for 1 year for all candidates who are scheduled for tenure review in 2020-21, unless they ask to be evaluated in 2020-21
- Decision for those in subsequent years will be made annually in each fall semester

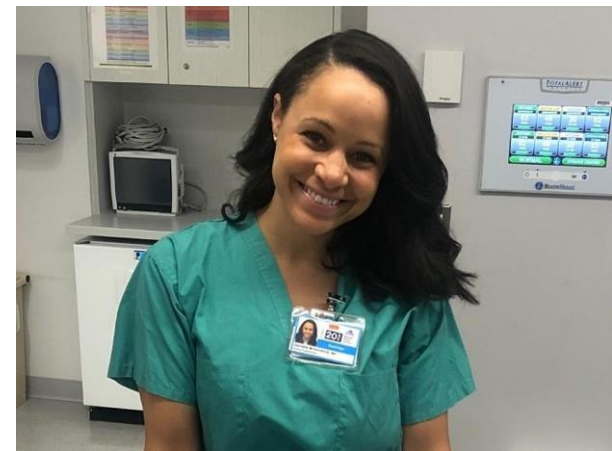
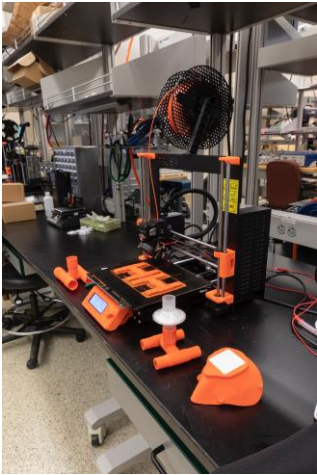
Binghamton's response to COVID

- Current number of COVID-19 cases/deaths April 12
 - U.S. – 587,337 / 23,649
 - New York state – 195,031 / 10,056
 - Broome County – 133 / 6
- 2 employees have reported as positive for COVID-19, as have 15 students (none on campus).
- Campus is working to provide support to students
 - Faculty and staff have intervened to provide support to students who “fell of the grid” during transition
 - Fewer than 100 students are currently considered “of concern”
 - ~1,400 students in vulnerable populations are being contacted by faculty and staff
 - Hundreds of laptops provided to students who lacked technology for online learning
 - Binghamton Fund for Excellence provided My-Fi hotspots for students lacking internet access



The University responds to COVID-19

- Faculty and departments contribute Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to hospitals, rehabilitation centers and nursing facilities
- Pharmacy students working at local pharmacies
- Faculty and students developing prototype ventilators, ventilator adapters, PPE and sterilization equipment, some produced in brand-new “FAB-LAB” established as part of Engineering Building renovations, modeling efforts to help predict case load in Broome County
- Humanities faculty providing online readings and lessons for families confined at home
- Harpur’s Ferry providing supplemental EMT services for local communities
- Binghamton University Foundation and Alumni Association establish emergency fund to support students in need
- Sodexo provided free food to Binghamton Dining Services employees



Appreciation for our faculty's work through difficult times:

- Adaptability and creativity
- Compassion and concern for students
- Commitment and dedication to the University

Thank You!

