

COUNCIL MINUTES

March 18, 2016

Present from Council: Linda Biemer, Sarah Glose (by phone), Albert Nocciolino, and James Orband

Present from the Community: President Stenger, Senator Akshar, Ms. Bay, Vice President Broschart, Mr. Coker, Mr. Delviscio, Chief Faughnan, Mr. Gantt, Mr. Kane, Dean Meredith, Ms. Mthombeni, Vice President Navarro, Provost Nieman, Ms. O'Neil, Ms. Pitt, Mr. Priest, Vice President Rose, Mr. Rossi, Ms. Sager, Vice President Sammakia, and Mr. Yarosh

CALL TO ORDER

The Binghamton University Council meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. on Friday, March 18, 2016 by acting chair Linda Biemer.

The minutes of the December 18, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved.

PRESIDENT REPORT

President Stenger reported that we have received 32,000 applications (a new record) for 2,500 freshmen spots. The new application process (SLATE) makes it easier to apply and easier to follow up on applicants. We have had an increase in campus visits and we are on pace to hit 41,000 visits this year (a new record).

Buffalo Business First has ranked BU number one among New York public universities and 20th in the nation. *Open Doors* lists BU 15th in international recruiting, and greatest.com ranks us among top 25 healthiest universities.

Last week we recognized some of our best graduate students for excellence in research, teaching, and outreach. Among those recognized was Kate Ellenberger, a graduate student in anthropology, who is documenting and advocating for preservation of historic cemeteries in Vestal.

Our graduate students are drawn by the quality of our faculty who are doing an excellent job of attracting national attention. For example, Professor Nicole Cameron is examining the multi-generational impact of natal alcohol exposure to not only our children, but our grandchildren as well. Professor Carl Lipo's work on Easter Island's rise and fall of their civilization was featured on the cover of *National Geographic*.

New masters programs are helping to grow our enrollment. Our master's program in Sustainable Communities is the first MA program in the nation. Other new programs include TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages), Public Archeology, and Applied Statistics. We are also moving forward on masters programs in Arts and Applied Liberal Studies, Public Health, and Data Analytics.

We are nearing NYSUNY 2020 targets with faculty hiring of net 120. We have increased enrollment by 2,300 students. Governor Cuomo is proposing extending NYSUNY 2020 for five years. Rational tuition and maintenance of effort is being debated; the Senate and the Assembly do not favor tuition increases. The Assembly is also pushing for a five-year capital plan and support for critical maintenance.

President Stenger reminded everyone about the \$500 million we will receive from the Governor's URI competition. We will receive \$100 million the first year; 29 project applications are now being submitted.

We are moving forward on the School of Pharmacy building at 96 Corliss Avenue. We expect that the first class will be in this building in the fall of 2017. We have begun work on 48 Corliss Avenue in Johnson City for the Decker School of Nursing. We are hoping to recruit Upstate Medical University Clinical Campus for this building also. The Incubator and the Smart Energy building will both be opening in March of 2017.

We have 76 proposals that were submitted to the Road Map. We will be choosing the projects in July.

The School of Management held a fundraising gala in New York City which raised \$350,000 to support professional development activities for students and faculty.

For the second year in a row, we hosted the America East Women's Basketball championship tournament with about 5,000 fans on hand. Our women won their first game but lost their second game.

We will hear our annual crime and safety report from Chief Faughnan shortly. Binghamton remains a very safe campus. We continually work with the City of Binghamton to keep our students safe downtown and have established the Binghamton Police Partnership Initiative with a police officer serving as campus-community liaison.

STUDENT REPORT

Ms. Glose reported into this meeting via video.

The Student Association has had a tumultuous semester. Dillon Schade resigned as president of the SA, and Executive Vice President Zach Vigliani has taken over as president. Zach is doing a

great job, quickly catching up on everything Dillon was doing. Naomi Barnett has been filling in as interim Executive Vice President and her energy and hard work has been amazing. There will be an election next week for the executive vice president position to see who will fill the role the rest of the semester.

Election results for next year's executive board were approved this week; the new e-board will start to learn from the current e-board for a smooth transition into next year.

There have been plenty of concerns and accomplishments from our undergraduates this year. Students want better access to information involving crime downtown. Also, students were concerned about changes to the Counseling Center's new counseling model, but Johann Fiore Conte and Mark Rice have provided information on how the new model will ultimately benefit all students.

Comedian Andy Kindler will be here this weekend, BUMP hosted the band Cymbals Eat Guitars last weekend, and activist Janet Mock spoke as Binghamton's Black History Month speaker.

The GSO is still very focused on the issue of graduate student stipends, and will continue to work on increasing graduate stipends for current students. The University has offered to match up to \$500 per student if departments increase their stipends as a way to help mitigate the disparity.

GSO elections just took place, and the new e-board will begin learning the ropes of the GSO e-board positions this spring. Two members will be returning to their positions which will help with continuity and help it be a strong body.

The student activity fee was voted "voluntary" by graduate students, meaning that the University will not collect student activity fees from students next year. The Senate has voted to put this to a re-vote in order to provide students more information about what the student activity fee is. There is a concern that students voted to make the fee voluntary without proper information about how this vote affects the lives of graduate students. Without this fee, the GSO cannot provide conference and travel funds, pre-school funds, or any other social or academic events. Also, all departmental GSOs will become defunct, meaning that no department will have funds for student-run programming. Hopefully the revote will make the fee mandatory to continue the good work that the GSO and the departmental GSOs do for our students.

Graduate students have also been putting on some great events such as coffee hours, lunches, and Grad Night Outs where students go to an establishment downtown to de-stress and build a community of graduate students. By building this community, the GSO helps give graduate students a support system, which is really important for academic and personal success.

The entire student population came together around the issue of a contract negotiation between Sodexo and its employees. The GSO is very happy with the progress that has been made.

It is currently budget season for both student groups. Sarah acknowledged all of the time and work students put into creating budgets every year. It's a difficult job, but our student groups couldn't function without it. She commended everyone involved in the process.

SECURITY AND SAFETY REPORT

See attached presentation made by Police Chief Timothy Faughnan.

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:19 a.m.