

COUNCIL MINUTES

September 16, 2016

Present from Council: Kathryn Madigan, Linda Biemer, Anthony Fiala, Dennis McCabe, James Orband, Ryan Sheppard

Present from the Community: President Stenger, Vice President Broschart, Mr. Coker, Mr. Delviscio, Mr. Elliott, Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Gantt, Prof. Guzman, Ms. Ignarri, Prof. Loewen, Dean Meredith, Vice President Navarro, Provost Nieman, Ms. O’Neil, Vice President Rose, Mr. Sachdeva, Vice President Sammakia, Ms. Scarlett, Ms. Sirju-Johnson, Prof. Starks, and Mr. Yarosh

CALL TO ORDER

The Binghamton University Council meeting was called to order at 9:17 a.m. on Friday, September 16, 2016 by chair Kathryn Madigan.

The minutes of the May 13, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved.

PRESIDENT REPORT

President Stenger welcomed Ryan Sheppard, the new student representative to the Council.

Move-in day this year was on a Sunday, which worked very well. We welcomed 2,620 new freshmen to campus along with 1,060 transfer students; 32% of the new students are from upstate New York. We also have 700 international students from 45 nations. Our undergraduate enrollment is at 13,500. We have 1,200 new graduate students, bringing our graduate total to about 3,600, up by almost 800 over five years.

Approximately 115 freshmen will participate in the “Welcome Week Service Project” program which is now in its third year. Some projects include painting a mural in downtown Binghamton, preparing classrooms at the Family Enrichment Network, and helping seniors in Johnson City with new technologies.

A special Multicultural Extravaganza was held to educate our students about the value of diversity. The event included a keynote address by author and filmmaker, MK Asante.

We hosted a group of international visitors from 11 different countries as part of Education USA. The Education USA program provides guidance to students looking to study in the U.S. This visit gave us the opportunity to highlight our commitment to internationalization.

We have entered into a program with Corning Community College called Binghamton Express Program, similar to the Binghamton Advantage program we have with Broome Community College. Students from Corning Community College will be eligible for an automatic transfer to SUNY after meeting certain requirements. This will improve our pipeline from good community colleges.

We are pleased that SUNY has recognized two of our best faculty as distinguished professors. Professor Tim Lowenstein of Geological Services has been named Distinguished Professor for his innovative research on salt deposits. Professor George Catalano of Biomedical Engineering has been named Distinguished Service Professor for his work to improve the pedagogy at Binghamton. He was director of the Binghamton Scholars Program and helped establish the Center for Civic Engagement. Also, Prof. James Pitarresi has been named Vice Provost and Director of the Center for Learning and Teaching.

We will hold Family Weekend and Homecoming the next two weekends. We have more than 5,000 parents and siblings signed up to come for Family Weekend and have more than 1,000 people registered for Homecoming so far. The Bill T. Jones Dance ensemble will be a highlight of Family Weekend. We will also be awarding Mr. Jones with the University Medal.

The Road Map Steering committee has identified 10 proposals that merit funding, and we have identified 17 additional projects that will receive some level of funding.

This week the Southern Tier REDC held meetings to identify proposals that will be forwarded to Albany as part of the fifth round of REDC funding.

STUDENT REPORT

Mr. Sheppard told Council that it is a privilege to serve on the BU Council and he is very grateful for the opportunity.

Mr. Sheppard graduated in May with a BS in Accounting and a BA in Geographic Information Systems and is now pursuing a master's in Accounting on the taxation track. He has been heavily involved with the Student Association for the past four years as SA's Financial Council in his freshman year, Congress Representative in the Student Congress his sophomore year, Financial Vice President of Hinman College in his junior year, and as treasurer of the SA, leading the Financial Council and setting the SA's budget for all of the student groups on campus in his senior year.

This year he will be involved with the Student Culinary Council as their Executive Vice President. This council will act as the voice for students regarding dining and has partnered with Auxiliary Services and Dining Services to make our dining facilities the best they've been in our history.

Mr. Sheppard told of his love for Binghamton and his drive to serve the students that study here. He will try to stay in constant contact with as many student leaders and students as possible. Bridging different working teams is crucial, especially with the SA and GSO.

As President Stenger mentioned, move-in day went well aside from the deluge of rain. The only issue Ryan has heard of is that for some returning students coming back on a Monday was tough since many parents weren't able to help them move.

University Fest & Shindig at the Fountain went extraordinarily well this year with huge turnouts for both. The Garden to Grill event held by BU Acres was a huge success also.

The Graduate Student Library Space is set to be open the end of October. The Fleishman Center Advisor office hours for the GSO are set. The GSO is looking to gather more OCCT ridership information. The GSO Picnic was a big success with about 350 students in attendance.

SA President Nick Ferrara is looking through the Code of Conduct to see if any changes should be made. Ryan is working with the Vice President for Academic Affairs, Adam Wilkes, on some of the topics that students would like to talk about. They'd like to see more focus on the quality of teaching from professors, evaluating how well they are conveying knowledge to students, and they hope to see the SOOT Survey refreshed and incorporated into BU Brain. The SA is also beefing up their Advocates program and attempting to market it more heavily to inform students that it's there. The SA is also continuing the "It's On Us" campaign this year. The SA program board is presenting "Whose Line? Comes to Binghamton" with Brad Sherwood and Greg Proops tomorrow in the Events Center for Family Weekend.

STATE OF THE UNVIERSITY ADDRESS

President Stenger's State of The University address is online for Council members to see. He noted that we are in a year of uncertainty so we need to prepare a plan for what the outcome could be at the end of this year. We need to be able to measure our progress and are going to have a renewal process for our strategic plan. We will be organizing groups to discuss a roadmap renewal. We will be looking for about 400 volunteers (we have 90 so far) and will be forming teams who will meet in the spring to discuss projects/ideas that we want to invest in in order to become better in the following academic year. President Stenger noted that it would be great to have some Council members involved in this.

The property on Bunn Hill Road, called Nuthatch Hollow, was donated to the University by Mr. Schumann several years ago. We are starting to create "living building" via the International Living Future Institute. There are only 11 in the world so far; we hope ours will be number 12. It will take three years to design and build. The living building must have net positive energy and net positive water. Mr. Ed McGraw, alum and an architect in Syracuse, has agreed to do

architectural work pro-bona, and we have two engineering firms who have agreed to do engineering work pro-bona. Mapping density of the foliage in Nuthatch Hollow will take place on October 15.

REPORT ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

See presentation by Valerie Hampton, Chief Diversity Officer.