

COUNCIL MINUTES

October 21, 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, Ms. Doyle, Mr. Elliott, Ms. Ellis, Ms. Fauci, Mr. Gantt, Prof. Loewen, Mr. Marley, Vice President Navarro, Provost Nieman, Ms. O'Neil, Vice President Rose, Ms. Scarlett, Ms. Thornley, and Mr. Yarosh

CALL TO ORDER

The Binghamton University Council meeting was called to order at 9:20 a.m. on Friday, October 21, 2016 by chair Kathryn Madigan.

The minutes of the September 16, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved.

PRESIDENT REPORT

The annual Excellence Awards dinner was held on October 20 where 23 faculty and staff were recognized. Chair Kate Madigan was present to assist in awarding the Council Foundation Award to Dr. Ramona Mazzeo, Assistant Medical Director of the Decker Student Health Services Center. We also recognized faculty for outstanding research, scholarship, and teaching as well as internationalism and service to the campus community.

Family Weekend was very successful with more than 5,000 parents and siblings on campus. This included more than 400 parents who themselves attended Binghamton University.

Homecoming Weekend was also successful with a record 1,400 alumni returning to campus. A celebration of campus radio station WHRW's 50th anniversary was held along with a men's soccer game win against rival University at Buffalo. The highlight of the weekend was Bill T. Jones Dance Ensemble. Bill T. Jones was awarded the University Medal in recognition of his work and his role in raising the University's profile. Homecoming also saw the dedication of the new Zurack Family Center located in the Center for Learning and Teaching. Mark Zurack has

provided support to the Center for Learning and Teaching to find ways to use technology to create a more collaborative, team-centered and student-centered learning process. The new learning studio is equipped with glass white boards and Cisco “Telepresence” technology that allows students to connect with faculty and alumni for collaborative learning.

We are moving forward with a significant upgrade to our baseball field, thanks to an anonymous donation of \$2.2 million from an alum. This is the largest gift ever given to Binghamton Athletics.

We have named the lounge in the Alumni Center the “Jay and Jeanne Benet Alumni Lounge” in honor of Jay and Jeanne Benet who have been outstanding alumni advocates.

Recently we welcomed members of the first Binghamton sorority, Delta Tau, here for a special reunion. Also returning to campus recently was alumnus Aaron Mair who is currently president of the Sierra Club, the nation’s oldest environmental organization. Mair is the group’s first African American president.

President Stenger spoke to a group of promising chemical engineers along with students in other STEM disciplines when we hosted a group of minority undergraduates from throughout the northeast. They were here participating in the GEM Grad Lab conference, a series of workshops and networking events put on by the National GEM Consortium.

Dr. Terrell Strayhorn, a noted diversity scholar at Ohio State University was here to speak about diversity in the classroom. He noted the importance of the “sense of belonging” and developing connections between students and faculty. This is the second talk Dr. Strayhorn has given on campus this year.

STUDENT REPORT

The GSO is looking to re-locate their office to a more central location on campus for more presence. Graduate students are currently working with the Fleishman Center for Career and Professional Development and Information Technology Services to see if there are more employment opportunities for graduate students.

The GSO has received ridership data from OCCT which shows that most graduate student riders are concentrated mostly on the WS and DCR lines. The GSO hopes that servicing graduate students will improve as the numbers of graduate student riders are significant. They also hope that the DCL will be restored as soon as possible.

The new Graduate Student Library space is moving along; furniture will be installed soon and the opening is expected in early to mid November. Graduate students are very happy about being able to have this space.

The SA held a Congress meeting with President Stenger where students were able to share things on their mind directly with President Stenger. Several topics were discussed. One topic that students expressed concern about is that eating healthier options cost more than the popular food. The Student Culinary Council is assisting in this effort to see if this is true. The Student Culinary Council will be meeting with Sodexo to present their findings.

Another topic of concern was the Harpur Dean search. In the past, there has been an undergraduate student on the search committee. The SA feels there should be a more democratic approach (i.e. election) to choose these students. President Stenger has agreed that consultation with SA and GSO will be done in the future before choosing students to serve on Dean search committees.

ATHLETICS

See attached presentation by Patrick Elliott, Director of Athletics.

STUDENT ADMISSIONS

See attached presentation by Prof. Donald Loewen, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and Enrollment and Greg Delviscio, Associate Vice President of Communications and Marketing.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.