

COUNCIL MINUTES

November 18, 2016

Present from Council: Anthony Fiala, Dennis McCabe, Albert Nocciolino, Matthew Salanger, and Ryan Sheppard

Present from the Community: President Stenger, Vice President Broschart, Ms. Coker, Mr. Coker, Mr. Delviscio, Mr. Elliott, Ms. Ellis, Ms. Fauci, Mr. Gantt, Prof. Guzman, Ms. Hampton, Mr. Kane, Dean Meredith, Ms. Mthombeni, Vice President Navarro, Provost Nieman, Ms. O’Neil, Mr. Sachdeva, Vice President Sammakia, Prof. Smart, Mr. Stromhaug, and Mr. Yarosh

CALL TO ORDER

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

The minutes of the October 21, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved.

PRESIDENT’S REMARKS

Governor Cuomo visited our new campus in Johnson City last Tuesday. He was joined by Senator Fred Akshar and Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo. Governor Cuomo announced that the state will be providing \$21 million in URI funding to renovate the former Shoebox factory at 48 Corliss Street, adjacent to the School of Pharmacy. This building will be the new home of the Decker School of Nursing.

We presented our REDC proposal in Albany at the beginning of the month. Our proposal was based on two possible outcomes – one, that the state would fund all initiatives with \$25 million, or two, that we would receive only \$10 million in the competition. We will learn the outcome of this round of the REDC next month.

The big news is the outcome of the 2016 presidential election. Here on campus, student voting set records and many student organizations participated in “get out and vote” activities in the weeks leading up to Election Day. On Veterans Day, President Stenger sent out a notice to students recognizing our veterans and the role they played in safeguarding our values and rights, especially the right to vote, and protecting free speech. President Stenger emphasized that it is important to engage in respectful conversations regarding current events.

Prof. Douglas Holmes has been promoted to the rank of Distinguished Professor of Anthropology. Prof. Holmes is a pioneer in using anthropological methods to analyze the working of central banks.

Prof. Sarah Laszlo of Psychology and Prof. Zhanpeng Jin of Electrical and Computer Engineering have just received a \$900,000 NSF grant for their work on biometric technology.

Vice President Sammakia has been named Interim President of SUNY Polytechnic Institute beginning in early December. We are confident that he will do well and that his appointment will help their campus significantly.

SUNY Chancellor Zimpher was in Binghamton yesterday to address a SUNY Conference on Applied Learning. President Stenger participated in a panel discussion and outlined our High Impact Learning Experience program. Our goal is to have every student graduate with at least one HILE by 2020.

The University depends on many partners who create internships and educational experiences along with supporting our students through scholarships and grants. Luncheons were recently held to recognize the scholarship support provided by Sodexo (\$67,000 to 33 students) and Barnes & Noble (\$31,000 to 31 students).

We also held the donor-scholarship luncheon. The event's guest speakers were Randy and Ron Ehrenberg. Together they have decades of educational experience and Ron has authored and co-authored seven books on the status of higher education. They emphasized the importance of a liberal arts education and encouraged donors to continue their support in order to keep Binghamton accessible to a wide range of students.

The issue of campus parking has become increasingly challenging. We are working to address this and will be constructing a new parking lot off Bartle Drive near the visitor's center that will have 200 additional parking spots.

Now that we are moving into the winter months, there are always questions about the decision to cancel classes during heavy snowstorms. This is a complex decision that is made both by President Stenger's personal examination of the conditions as well as in consultation with the Emergency Management Team.

STUDENT REPORT

Ryan Sheppard noted that the Events Center looks awesome and the new JumboTron is beautiful. Ryan thanked President Stenger for inviting him to the beam signing ceremony at the new School of Pharmacy in Johnson City. We, as a university, are literally bringing this city back to life and that deserves some recognition of the work of President Stenger and the administration.

The GSO library space is completed and will be open on December 7.

The largest topic of conversation that students both undergraduate and graduate alike have been talking about are the recent election results. Many students are not happy about the situation and last Friday a peaceful protest and march was held on campus to voice students' dissatisfaction over the results. Ryan believes that the message from students is that it should never be OK for any student to feel unsafe on this campus.

Ryan met with David Husch, Director of University Transportation, and President Stenger about the overall vision of transportation on campus. One of the projects Ryan wanted to undertake was widening the road around the brain, simply due to how close the buses get to each other and the threat to pedestrian safety. However we are now revisiting the idea of having a central transportation center on campus behind the new admissions center that utilizes the already widened Glenn Bartle Drive.

Ryan has been working to restore the DCL bus route. He attended the Binghamton Traffic Board meeting to hear the progress on the needed change on Beethoven Street, and it is moving steadily. The hope is to have the DCL back by January.

A topic that Ryan and President Stenger have discussed is a new project to reformat the SOOT surveys so that they are centralized and are uniform across the board. Right now there is a lot of variation between different departments, online versus paper, student response rate, etc. Ryan will be working with various areas of campus on this along with researching how other campuses accomplish the same mission. Ultimately, the goal is to gain a more accurate read on student opinions of instructors and how they are performing, especially when up for tenure.

The next big event for the Student Association is Frost Fest on December 4 and the BUMP events such as the comedian Moshe Kasher tonight.

The SA is spreading the message about Project SAnTa, a program that finds sponsors for in-need children from the Binghamton school district. We have received a wish list from local social workers of over 130 children to sponsor. The gift collection culminates in a big gift-wrapping event in the Mandela Room on December 7. The SA is seeking sponsors who are willing to bring the light of the holidays to children in need. In the past, a sponsor would typically spend \$50 to \$100 per child, but this year the goal is simply to make sure each child's wish is covered to the best of the sponsor's abilities.

REPORT ON ACADEMIC INNOVATIONS

Provost Nieman reported on academic innovations in Academic Affairs.

REPORT ON RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Vice President for Research Bahgat Sammakia reported on activities in the Research Division.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.