

## **COUNCIL MINUTES**

November 20, 2015

Present from Council: Kathryn Madigan, Linda Biemer, Sarah Glose, Albert Nocciolino, and Matthew Salanger

Present from the Community: President Stenger, Mr. Coker, Mr. Delviscio, Ms. Doyle, Director Elliott, Ms. Ellis, Ms. Fauci, Ms. Hampton, Mr. Kane, Dean Meredith, Ms. Mthombeni, Provost Nieman, Ms. O'Neil, Vice President Rose, Ms. Sager, Vice President Sammakia, Ms. Scarlett, Mr. Schade, Dean Strehle, and Mr. Yarosh

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The Binghamton University Council meeting was called to order at 9:20 a.m. on Friday, November 20, 2015 by chair Kathryn Grant Madigan.

The minutes of the October 16, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved.

Ms. Madigan noted that Nicholas Doran, one of the five ACT scholarship winners, and Ashley Prewitt, who is one of our students but won an ACT award representing Cortland, attended the informal session with our Council members.

### **PRESIDENT REPORT**

President Stenger reported that students are looking forward to their Thanksgiving holiday.

During Family Weekend in October, we welcomed over 2,000 parents and family members to campus. An annual legacy reception was held where multiple generations of BU alumni and students got together. This year over 400 alumni families have students here. We also found out that about 8,000 alumni are married!

President Stenger recently made alumni connection trips to Austin, Texas, and New York City.

Dr. Bai Lee provided a \$1 million gift to support our athletics program. The Events Center basketball court has officially been named "Dr. Bai Lee Court."

Earlier this month we held a kickoff ceremony for our newest Organized Research Center, The Center for Collective Dynamics of Complex Systems (CoCo). We also held an inaugural event for another research center, The Center for International Business Advancement.

We recently recognized staff members that have completed our Leadership Development Program. To date, 240 staff members have gone through this program which is designed to give promising staff members a better background in leadership theory, self-assessment exercise, and improvement planning. Also this month we recognized more than 50 faculty who received promotions this year. These included Professor Zu-yan Chen and Professor Mark Fowler who were promoted to Distinguished Teaching Professor, and Professor Jessica Fridrich who was promoted to Distinguished Professor. We also just learned that Professor Elizabeth Tucker has been promoted to Distinguished Service Professor.

We held our annual Excellence Award dinner in October, which Council member Linda Biemer attended, where 24 individuals received awards.

We continue to work on the issue of diversity. As Professor Ricardo Laremont recently said in a Faculty Senate meeting, we need to think about our “community” spirit and work with students to overcome biases. Valerie Hampton is implementing some approaches and programs to promote inclusion on our campus.

Our Veteran Student Organization (VSO) and the Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) hosted a Veteran’s Day ceremony and wellness event. Guest speakers included US Marine Corps General Juan Ayala and US Army Sergeant Rick Yarosh.

Last month the Southern Tier REDC submitted its URI proposal. We have applied for \$21 million to rehabilitate 48 Corliss Avenue in order to move the Decker School of Nursing from the main campus to Johnson City. Decisions will be made in early December.

## **STUDENT REPORT**

Sara reported that Nev Shulman from the show “Catfish” came to campus and the Eskimeaux show is tonight. Spring Awakening was held last weekend and will be held again this weekend.

There are two Binghamton University undergraduate students on the SUNY Student Association Executive Board and an undergraduate student on the executive committee. This is a big change from a few years ago when our students were not involved. The Student Association is excited to see what will come of this renewed involvement with SUNY.

The Graduate Student Organization (GSO) held a coffee hour last week and will hold another in December. GSO’s senate meetings have been lively; it’s great to see so many passionate and interested students. A big concern for graduate students is the increased stipends for incoming PhD students. The graduate students plan to meet with Provost Don Nieman and Dean Susan Strehle to discuss options moving forward. There is confusion and tension, and hopefully this meeting can address some concerns and at least clarify points for students. Sara stated that she is

proud to be attending a University where dialogues can occur between students and administrators.

Current events at Mizzou, Yale, Harvard, Ithaca College, and other institutions have led to various activist activities on campus and online. Students feel that issues of race and identity on college campuses are important discussions that we, as a community, need to be having. Sara reported that she looks forward to the administration's continued work on issues related to diversity, tolerance, and acceptance, and feels now is an ideal time to reflect on our successes, missteps, and in-progress activities to understand where we are strong and where we are weak.

As far as Sarah's student project, she deferred to Greg Delviscio who will be presenting later about Communications and Marketing.

### **REPORT ON ACADEMIC INNOVATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING**

See attached presentation made by Provost Nieman and Mr. Greg Delviscio.

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.