

COUNCIL MINUTES

December 16, 2016

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

Present from the Community: President Stenger, Vice President Broschart, Mr. Coker, Mr. Delviscio, Mr. Elliott, Ms. Ellis, Ms. Fauci, Ms. Gahring, Mr. Gantt, Prof. Guzman, Ms. Ignarri, Mr. Kane, Ms. Mthombeni, Vice President Navarro, Provost Nieman, Mr. Parker, Mr. Roma, Vice President Rose, Ms. Scarlett, and Mr. Yarosh

CALL TO ORDER

The Binghamton University Council meeting was called to order at 9:18 a.m. on Friday, December 16, 2016 by chair Kathryn Madigan.

The minutes of the November 18, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Stenger asked Council members to observe a moment of silence for BU student, Stefani Lineva, who was tragically killed in a hit and run accident on December 3.

Losing a student is one of the toughest parts of the job of being President. It caused us to wonder if there was something that could have been done to prevent the tragedy. The campus community will continue to remember Stefani, and will use this tragedy to find opportunities to educate the students about being safe off campus and will work with student groups to promote safe behaviors.

The Binghamton University Foundation stepped forward with a \$5,000 reward to help find the driver of the car that struck Stefani, and this reward was quickly matched by the Mayor of the City of Binghamton. Throughout the coming days, others stepped forward and helped grow the reward to over \$30,000. The growing reward kept the tragedy in the news and a tip which led to an arrest.

On a happier note, Senator Fred Akshar was on hand December 6th to recognize two Harpur's Ferry student Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) who were responsible for saving the lives of two members of the University community earlier this semester. Both individuals suffered

cardiac events in separate incidents and both are alive and well today thanks to the quick response of the student EMTs. The individuals were on hand to personally thank the EMTs.

Lieutenant Governor Kathleen Hochul was in Binghamton the end of November to announce that two Binghamton University startup companies, Charge CCCV and ChromaNanoTech, were among six winning companies in the U.S. for the 76West Clean Energy Business Competition. 76West is focused on growing entrepreneurs from the U.S. and worldwide to build clean energy businesses and to create jobs in the Southern Tier. Charge CCCV will receive a \$500,000 award to advance its initiatives, and ChromaNanoTech will receive a \$250,000 award.

Earlier this week, Lieutenant Governor Hochul returned to campus on December 12 to announce \$2.8 million in NYSUNY 2020 awards for Binghamton University to support the development of a state-of-the-art renewable energy research and development facility. This facility will be located in the Center of Excellence and will promote energy efficiency by testing current research efforts that focus on battery life maximization. The grant will foster collaboration among SUNY campuses and will provide student research opportunities and workforce training in energy conservation throughout the state.

Kiplinger's Best College Values rankings were released earlier this month and Binghamton University rose in the rankings to #8 for out-of-state value and tuition and #15 for in-state.

The Doctor of Pharmacy degree program received approval from the New York State Board of Regents to award the Doctor of Pharmacy degree this week. This is the final step before the Department of Education registers the program. Once the program has been registered, we can recruit students and accept applications. We hope to matriculate the first pharmacy class of 80 students in the fall 2017.

Last week we kicked off the Road Map renewal with a team of approximately 350 faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community members. The renewal will build upon the existing structure and processes of the Road Map. We are looking for activities and initiatives that will move the campus forward and have a broad impact on the University community. We are encouraging the teams to think big.

STUDENT REPORT

Ryan Sheppard noted that today is the last day of finals. Many students have been studying very hard as evidenced by the record number of students in the Hinman Success Center this week.

On behalf of the entire student body, Ryan offered heartfelt sympathy to the family of Stefani Lineva. Long after we graduate and move on, Stefani's family will be left with a permanent hole in their lives. President Stenger and I offer whatever support that we can to help those who are struggling because of this tragedy.

The beautiful new Graduate Study Lounge has been completed and was celebrated with an opening ceremony earlier this month. The new Lounge is located on the south side of the Bartle Library and will be a very popular, much needed space for graduate students.

As reported last month, Ryan and President Stenger have discussed a project to reformat the Student Opinion of Teaching (SOOT) surveys to make them more uniform and to find a way to get more students to participate. After meeting with Provost Nieman and Vice Provost Loewen, it is apparent how much the SOOT surveys, and the data that they provide, are relied upon especially for tenure cases. However, many of the questions and the form of the survey (electronic or paper) vary by department, by school, and by class within the school.

After break, Ryan will be working with Information Technology Services to determine whether or not it is feasible to create a central platform for SOOT surveys. This could be done through a system requiring that a student complete a SOOT survey before they are able to access their final grade for the class. The next step will include working with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the Dean of each school to make the content of the survey as uniform as possible across all schools and departments. The ultimate goal is to gain a more accurate read on the student's opinions of their professors through a more uniform and fair metric. If feasible, Ryan hopes to introduce the new system mid-semester so that professors can gain student feedback and adjust their techniques while they still have the same students in their classes who can benefit from it.

The Student Association recently elected Raul Cegin as the new Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA). Raul is a senior double majoring in Latin American and Caribbean studies. He has been a passionate member of the SA Congress and has introduced legislation to bring more inclusiveness to the SA through cultural leadership councils and student group event collaborations.

The main goal of the VPAA, under Raul's leadership, will be to focus on improving academic advising. The general consensus is that there are gaps between advising for each school and, as more students pursue tracks that cross school lines, there is a greater need for a centralized advising source that is knowledgeable on Gen-Ed requirements, what classes count for each, what requirements are needed to move between schools or double major/double degree, etc. More students are trying to become knowledgeable in multiple areas to better prepare for future challenges. It is important that areas like Computer Science are expanded so that more students can take classes and learn outside of their major. The strength of advising students on their future path is an important task.

Another concern for the VPAA is that certain departments do not adhere to the requirement that final exams are to be given only during finals week. SA representatives will be looking over course syllabi to make sure that finals are scheduled during finals week. They will approach department heads if finals are scheduled outside of this requirement.

PHYSICAL FACILITIES AND CAPITAL PLANNING UPDATE

Vice President Navarro and Associate Vice President for Facilities Management, Larry Roma, reported on Physical Facilities and presented a Capital Planning Update.

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