

COUNCIL MINUTES

December 18, 2015

Present from Council: Kathryn Madigan, Linda Biemer, Tony Fiala (via phone), Sarah Glose, James Orband, and Matthew Salanger

Present from the Community: President Stenger, Vice President Broschart, Mr. Coker, Director Elliott, Ms. Ellis, Ms. Fauci, Mr. Gantt, Ms. Hampton, Mr. Kane, Prof. Mischen, Ms. Mthombeni, Vice President Navarro, Provost Nieman, Ms. O’Neil, Vice President Rose, Ms. Sager, Vice President Sammakia, and Mr. Yarosh

CALL TO ORDER

The Binghamton University Council meeting was called to order at 9:20 a.m. on Friday, December 18, 2015 by chair Kathryn Grant Madigan.

The minutes of the November 20, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved.

PRESIDENT REPORT

President Stenger reported that the Southern Tier has been identified as a “Best Plan Awardee” as part of New York State’s Upstate Revitalization Initiative. There are so many outstanding projects that will improve the Southern Tier. For Binghamton University, this means projects from cyber security to trains to renovation of 48 Corliss Avenue in Johnson City for the Decker School of Nursing. This includes new programs, formation of new companies, and collaborative research.

Professor Libby Tucker, a folklore expert and children’s book author, has been promoted to Distinguished Service Professor. Professor Jeffrey Mativetsky has been awarded a National Science Foundation career grant. Only 10% of professors in the country receive this recognition and Professor Mativetsky is tops in his field.

Beginning next year, we will raise the stipend for incoming graduate students. Our current graduate students have felt left out and feel less valued. Provost Nieman will be providing \$500 for each current graduate student from our central funding and deans/departments will be

matching \$500 to give each continuing graduate student a \$1,000 raise in their stipends. We recognize that our graduate students are underpaid and this gives recognition of their work.

We have changed our branding symbol. People will recognize the “B” for Binghamton University. This is consistent with branding of other large major universities. We have begun work on the Events Center concourse project to reflect this new branding.

President Stenger attended a Sikh “Langer”, a Hanukah party, and a Hindu Diwali. It is fun to be involved and it’s nice to see our students learning about other cultures on our campus.

STUDENT REPORT

Ms. Glose reported that the nice weather has kept morale high, and tour guides are taking full advantage of the weather to encourage students to come to Binghamton! “Destress December” events are in full swing (puppies, snakes, food, coffee, chair massages, and more).

Some highlights from SA president Dillon Schade’s State of the SA address are:

- Two senior design ISE teams helped the SA to address issues related to OCCT, such as driver morale, the dispatch system, and sustainability.
- The SA formed a sexual assault task force and reinstated the High Hopes Hotline.
- Over 500 students attended the multi-cultural resource fair this year. There are four new committees related to issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion which are starting under the SA Vice President for Multicultural Affairs office.
- Big Sean was one of the biggest concerts ever and the fall speaker, Nev Shulman, had unprecedented turnout.
- The peer undergraduate advising program is growing.

These “by the students, for the students” initiatives set Binghamton apart from other Universities.

A big concern for graduate students is still the increased PhD stipends for incoming students. There has been progress. The town hall meeting with Provost Nieman and Dean Strehle was well-attended by students. The graduate students are all optimistic that we are moving towards a compromise that both parties can be happy with.

The GSO e-board has been very active this semester, engaging students in coffee hours, senators meetings, and other events. The turnout at these events, especially the social ones, has also been good. This shows the engagement of Binghamton University’s growing graduate population which we hope is a trend that continues.

REPORT ON PHYSICAL FACILITIES AND CAPITAL PLANNING UPDATE

See attached presentation made by Vice President JoAnn Navarro and Mr. Michael Kukawa.

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:07 a.m.