

COUNCIL MINUTES

November 15, 2013

Present from Council: Linda Biemer, Thomas Doty, Anthony F. Fiala, Jr., Dennis McCabe, Matthew Salanger, and Andrew Topal

Present from the Community: President Stenger, Interim Vice President Benner, Professor Brown, Ms. Butler, Mr. Coker, Mr. Delviscio, Ms. Doyle, Director Elliott, Ms. Ellis, Ms. Hampton, Mr. Kane, Mr. McGoff, Dean Meador, Professor Mischen, Professor Morewedge, Provost Nieman, Ms. O'Neil, Ms. Navarro, Professor Pitarresi, Vice President Rose, Vice President Van Voorst, Ms. Westbrook Scarlett, Dean Strehle, and Mr. Yarosh

CALL TO ORDER:

The Binghamton University Council meeting was called to order at 8:37 a.m. on Friday, November 15, 2013 by Anthony F. Fiala Jr.

The minutes of the October 18, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Stenger is pleased that we were able to hold this meeting in the Art Museum and that Council member have been able to see different campus venues. Council members will meet in informal session immediately following this meeting in the Lindsay Room, named in honor of Dr. Kenneth Lindsay, a longtime member and chair of our Art History Department, who also has been recognized for his work as a "Monuments Man," helping to identify and restore art stolen by the Nazis during World War II. The location of the December Council meeting will be announced prior to that meeting.

President Stenger is happy to report that our school spirit is increasing. We witnessed an incredible basketball game on November 13.

It's been a very busy month, highlighted by several ceremonies that recognized University excellence. Foremost among these was our annual Excellence Awards Dinner which was held in October where we recognized 24 of our best faculty and staff for their work.

We also had the opportunity to recognize another type of excellence at the beginning of this month when we took time to recognize the service and commitment of the veterans on campus as part of our Veteran's Day ceremonies.

We also took note of the service of the University's many "first responders" yesterday, when University alumnus William Groner spoke at the Binghamton University Forum. Mr. Groner is a member of the Alumni board who provided admirable work on behalf of more than 10,000 first responders of the terrorist attacks on 9/11 in 2001. He represented them in their lawsuit to obtain compensation for the illnesses they developed as a result of working at the 9/11 sites.

This month we also recognized the donors who provide for student scholarships and other support. The annual donor-recipient scholarship luncheon celebrated the support that some of our best—and financially challenged—students receive through the generosity of the university's friends, alumni, and supporters. This year, more than \$2.5 million in student support will be distributed through the Binghamton University Foundation. This event is meaningful for the donors as well, who get to meet face-to-face with the students and learn about their hopes and dreams.

We also celebrated a different legacy this month as part of Family Weekend, hosting the families of approximately 340 legacy students whose parents also attended Binghamton University.

We are moving forward on recruiting and admitting our next class. We also have been moving forward with our Instant Admit Day in partnership with Broome Community College to bring some of their best students to our campus.

We recently participated in a "Men of Color" Summit that attracted college juniors and seniors from campuses across the Northeast. These are students who are in the process, or are interested in, applying to graduate school. Approximately 30 students from Binghamton were in attendance as well.

We have made a few organizations changes on campus recently. I am pleased to announce that Dr. Susan Strehle has been named Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School. She has been serving in an interim position since last January; we are pleased with the direction and progress the Graduate School has made over the past year. We also have appointed JoAnn Navarro as Interim Chief Information Officer to oversee our Information Technology Services. She also will continue in her role as Associate Vice President for Administrative Services.

We have secured the majority of funds for the Downtown Incubator facility, including \$2 million from the US Economic Development Agency for site preparation. Designers have been hired and have been speaking with faculty, community and business leaders to learn what features they feel are necessary in the building.

STUDENT REPORT:

Andrew Topal noted that, as witnessed at the Excellence Awards dinner, we have the best professors and the best students who set us apart and it was nice to see recognition of faculty and staff for all they do for us.

Andrew is participating on the Parking Advisory Committee with the Divisions of Administration and Student Affairs. A survey has been sent out to faculty, staff, and students to get feedback on how we all get to campus, where we park, where we drive around campus, what issues we see, etc. The committee expects to have a report completed by the end of the year.

Andrew is working with the Alumni Association on student engagement and how to keep students actively engaged once they graduate.

As previously reported, Andrew is working with other seniors on the senior class gift and the senior class challenge. Andrew will report on this at the December meeting.

There is a new program on campus where students can rent bicycles for use on campus. The bicycles are located near the Engineering Building. This pilot program will continue to the end of the semester. Watson School students are working on a permanent locking mechanism to be used on the bikes in the future.

REPORT ON ACADEMIC INNOVATIONS:

Provost Donald Nieman, Ms. Diane Butler, and Professor James Pitarresi reported on academic innovations. (see attached)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am.

The next meeting will be held on Friday, December 20, 2013.