COUNCIL MINUTES
April 19, 2013

Present from Council: Dov Berkman, Linda Biemer, Patricia Cummings, and James Orband

Present from the Community: President Stenger, Vice President Craner, Ms. Coker, Mr. Coker, Mr. Delviscio, Director Elliott, Ms. Ellis, Mr. Geiger, Ms. Gilroy, Mr. Kane, Provost Nieman, Ms. O’Neil, Vice President Rose, Vice President Sammakia, Vice President Van Voorst, and Mr. Yarosh

CALL TO ORDER:

The Binghamton University Council meeting was called to order at 8:34 a.m. on Friday, April 19, 2013 by member James Orband.

The minutes of the March 15, 2013 meeting will be approved at the May meeting when there is a quorum.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

At the end of March, President Stenger spent two weeks traveling to Korea and China. Along with Vice President Sammakia, Dean Hari Srihari, and Professor Daryl Santos (IEEC), they met with leaders of LG Healthcare and Samsung Display Corporation with the goal of developing research partnerships and internship opportunities for students. They also visited KAIST University in Daejeon, Korea where they discussed enhancements to the current student exchange program and increasing research collaboration. In Beijing, China they met with the Directors of the Hanban, who oversee the Confucius Institutes, which is one of the centerpieces of Binghamton University’s Asian and Asian-American Institute. President Stenger also traveled to Zhenjiang International School, where he met with students who will be attending Binghamton next fall. President Stenger’s personal highlight of the Korean visit was the reception they received from 100 Binghamton alumni in Seoul, where they discussed the future of the University and the University’s desire to strengthen connections with its international graduates.

In early April, an orientation for admitted students was held in our Executive MS in Health Systems. This program is part of the Watson Institute for Systems Excellence with Professors Nagan Nagpur and Mohammed Kasawneh. This is a hybrid course in which students take the majority of their classes on-line; the purpose of the orientation was to get the students acquainted with the University and make them a part of our community. Students visited the campus and received tutoring in the
We also held a general open house for admitted freshmen, earlier this month, with a similar goal of acquainting them with the campus and encouraging them to attend in the fall. Many high-quality students are accepted at multiple colleges and we want to impress on them why Binghamton is their best choice. The open house included performances by campus music groups, information sessions and tours, tabling by student groups, as well as opportunities to meet with faculty. The event was very successful with nearly 4,000 students attending.

Research Days will be held today showcasing student-involved research and scholarship. The event involves nearly two dozen presentations, colloquia, tours, lectures, and panels to highlight student research opportunities.

As part of our Research Days events, we will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Department of Social Work. This department, housed in the College of Community and Public Affairs, is one of the most visible sources of connection with the Southern Tier community. Students pursuing their MSW and faculty who conduct research and oversee field assignments are actively working to make the Southern Tier a better place, working with area residents who are facing significant social, economic, or health-related challenges in area hospitals, schools and prisons.

Last week NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority), who promotes clean energy and energy efficiency in New York State, recognized our Engineering and Science building as a high performance building. This recognition is based on our success in incorporating such features as photovoltaic solar cells, passive solar energy, geothermal heating and cooling methods, and natural lighting. This building saves the University nearly $400,000 per year compared to a standard building. Significantly, the building is home to much of our alternative energy and energy efficiency research that is part of our Smart Energy initiative. This recognition helps cement the University’s reputation as a campus that is committed to sustainability and to being accountable to our students and taxpayers.

President Stenger attended a School of Management networking event in New York City in early April. This event brought together 131 for an event designed to strengthen connections between students, recent graduates, and SOM alumni who have well-established careers. The highlight was a keynote address by SOM alumnus Terry Bienstock ’75, who has built a career as a leader in the telecommunications and entertainment industry.

Next weekend the University will host our first ever Alumni Leadership Conference where approximately 200 alumni are expected to participate. Participants will tour the campus, focusing on some of our newer research facilities, and have the chance to choose from 20 different conference panels and breakout sessions. Topics will include research, athletics, media, and University funding, with panels made up of alumni as well as University deans, vice presidents, and staff. The
concluding event will include the Alumni Association Awards ceremony with a keynote address by New York State Congressman and Binghamton alumnus Hakeem Jeffries.

The Road Map implementation launch was held on April 8. Approximately 350 faculty, staff, students, and community members were present. The Road Map strategic plan is designed to help us move from being very good (where we are now) to becoming great. President Stenger has emphasized the transparency open-endedness of the Road Map process, in which the final destination isn’t preordained, but was decided by the participants themselves. There are five strategic priorities that developed out of the process:

1. Engage in path-breaking graduate education, research, scholarship and creative activities that shape the world.
2. Provide a transformative learning community that prepares students for advanced education, careers and purposeful living.
3. Unite to foster a diverse and inclusive campus culture.
4. Enhance the University’s economic, social and cultural impact through engagement from the local to the global level.
5. Optimize the acquisition and allocation of human, technological, financial and physical resources.

Importantly, the University has committed significant dollars (drawn from NYSUNY 2020 resources and other operational funds) for each of the strategic priorities. Most importantly, the University will be hiring approximately 150 new tenure track faculty as part of this plan. This will reduce student-to-faculty ratios and add significantly to graduate education, research, and scholarly output.

We have identified five TAEs, each of which addresses important, complex questions that can only be answered by drawing on perspectives and techniques of faculty from a multitude of disciplines including the natural, social, and physical sciences, humanities, and the professions:

- Citizenship, Rights, and Cultural Belonging
- Healthcare
- Material and Visual Worlds
- Smart Energy
- Sustainable Communities

As part of the Road Map process, one of the questions that kept coming up was how can we strengthen support for faculty teaching? Towards this end, Provost Nieman has appointed James Pitarresi, distinguished teaching professor of mechanical engineering, as assistant provost and executive director of the Center for Learning and Teaching, with a commitment to revitalize and focus the University’s commitment to student learning and providing faculty support for educational excellence. One of the areas that the CLT will be looking at is how to harness technology for education, such as teaching webinars and “flipped” courses, where students attend the “lecture” online in their dorms or homes, and do class-based homework in the classroom. We want it to be a one-stop shop for teachers to learn about innovations and best practices in teaching.

This past month we also announced the appointment Dr. Anne McCall as new dean for Harpur College. Dr. McCall is a scholar of 19th-century French literature and, for the past five years, dean of arts, humanities and social sciences at the University of Denver. Her background in the liberal arts
and sciences, her experiences in international education, and her extensive leadership experience are very impressive. McCall will assume her duties on August 1, 2013.

President Stenger regrets that Dean Ingraham has announced her retirement effective June 12, 2013. Provost Nieman is seeking nominations for Interim Dean and a national search is pending.

President Stenger announced that Marcia Craner, Vice President for External Affairs and Executive Director of the Binghamton University Foundation, has announced that she will be leaving this position to join the College of Community and Public Affairs where students will benefit from her more than 30 years of experience leading the University’s fundraising and communications efforts. Marcia has played a key role in helping the University complete its first two comprehensive gifts campaigns, significantly enhanced its endowment, and helped promote the University’s reputation for excellence.

President Stenger will be chairing the search for SUNY’s next provost. The current SUNY provost, David Lavallee, has announced that he is retiring

STUDENT REPORT:

Mr. Dov Berkman reported that he enjoyed watching alum Scott Diamond pitch at a recent Binghamton Mets game. Party with a Purpose, created by graduate students in CCPA, held their event last month and raised $3,000 for local charities. GSO elections are this week. The Student Association has completed their elections and Eric Larsen has been elected as next year’s president. Spring Fling will be held on campus the weekend of May 3-5. Undergraduate students are invited to attend a Binghamton Mets games on May 2 at no charge. A celebration for Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel’s Independence Day, was held and there was a good turnout; it was a nice celebration with students from many backgrounds. Student Organization for Veterans was chartered last week and Mr. Berkman has met with Provost Neiman to discuss their broad and short term goals. Mr. Berkman will be presenting today at Research Days. Tour guides will meet with prospective students at the upcoming Open House. Mr. Berkman met with Milton Chester, assistant dean of students and director of student conduct, to review the changes to the Rules of Student Conduct. The election for the next student representative to Council will not be held until fall 2013.

REPORT ON RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Vice President Bahgat Sammakia presented his report on research and economic development. See detailed presentation attached.

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF 2013-2014 CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT:

This review will be done at the May 10, 2013 meeting when there is a quorum.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m. The next meeting will be held on May 10, 2013 in Room AD-148 in the Couper Administration Building.