

## **COUNCIL MINUTES**

April 18, 2014

Present from Council: Linda Biemer, Patricia Cummings, Thomas Doty, Dennis McCabe, James Orband, and Andrew Topal (by phone)

Present from the Community: President Stenger, Interim Vice President Benner, Ms. Coker, Ms. Curtin, Director Elliott, Ms. Ellis, Ms. Gahring, Ms. Hampton, Professor Mischen, Ms. Navarro, Ms. Palmeri, Mr. Parker, Vice President Rose, Vice President Sammakia, Ms. Westbrook Scarlett, Esq., Mr. Stromhaug, Ms. Thompson, Vice President Van Voorst, and Mr. Yarosh

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

The Binghamton University Council meeting was called to order at 9:13 a.m. on Friday, April 18, 2014 by Thomas F. Doty, acting chair.

The minutes of the March 21, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

President Stenger noted that it is Spring Break and the campus is a little quieter than usual as most of the students are gone. Our student representative, Mr. Andrew Topal, is participating in the meeting by phone from his home today.

Binghamton University's campus has been very busy over the last month with a range of talks, lectures, and seminars, visits from international students, Admission's open houses, and progress on several areas related to our Road Map process. Speakers have included alumnus Jeff Yass, from the class of 1979, founding partner of Susquehanna Investment Group, who met with current and former Zurack Scholars in the School of Management, and Alexis Ohanian, co-founder of Reddit, who spoke to students about the future of the internet. Other lectures have included Stephen Smith, ESPN analyst; Professor David Cohen who teaches secured finance and bankruptcy at Pace University School of Law; and bioethicist Jonathan Moreno who gave the keynote address at the University's Research Days celebration.

The campus recently hosted its third annual TEDx event. This event which is organized by the students with the support from University staff, brought together seven different speakers including

mathematician and complexity scientist Hannah Fry who spoke about the “Mathematics of Love;” Anna Holmes, founder of the website “Jezebel,” who discussed the relationship between gender politics and pop culture; and actor, writer, director and alumnus Ruben Santiago-Hudson '78, who spoke about the need to conform to rules while developing as an individual.

At the beginning of the month, the Binghamton University Forum presented a panel discussion on the impact of the Affordable Care Act with panelists including Susan Arbetter, host of the leading New York State political radio program, “The Capitol Pressroom,” who moderated the event; James Tallon, President of the United Hospital Fund of New York; Kyle Brittingham, director of the Small Business Assistance Program; and Jeff Davis, a health policy consultant.

The student-run EMT squad, Harpur’s Ferry, held an EMS training conference on campus. This event drew EMT’s and other first responders from around the Southern Tier and provided information about the latest methods for responding to health issues ranging from burn management, trauma, and drug overdoses.

Yesterday, the Binghamton Forum sponsored a talk by alumnus and Honorary Degree recipient, Mario Paniccia, who spoke about the revolutionary impact that the use of silicon-based optical semiconductors has had in the industry. Dr. Paniccia received the R&D Magazine’s “Scientist of the Year” award in 2008 for his work on photonics.

The campus has also been busy hosting next year’s students as part of our Open House program. Binghamton University received nearly 29,000 applications for approximately 2,400 freshman spots for fall 2014, as well as about 775 transfer students. The goal for the Open House program is to help students decide that Binghamton University is the best campus for them. Since the Open House program started in February, more than 5,600 students and their families have visited campus to learn more about our academic programs, residential colleges, and student activities. This is all part of Binghamton University’s plan to grow to 20,000 students by 2020.

The Admission’s Office has been busy meeting with admitted students in receptions held in Boston, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Maryland, and other cities across New York State.

We have been getting acquainted with a group of high school students who have come from Zhenjiang International School, China, as part of a partnership program we have with their school. Under this program, Binghamton University faculty and students teach at their high school, and then students from Zhenjiang take college courses at Binghamton University after they graduate from high school.

Another local group of students from Binghamton, Johnson City, and Union Endicott high schools were on campus last week as part of a new competition – Bright Spots Challenge – a competition meant to encourage civic engagement and personal accountability among the students. This competition was proposed by a group of Binghamton University Road Map Interns. Teachers at the high schools selected teams from their best juniors for this competition. Through this program, the student teams of four will have a month to create a unique and feasible community development project. At the end of the month, we will meet to choose the winning group. The four students in the winning group will share a \$2,000 scholarship to Binghamton University and will be part of our freshman class in 2016, if they so choose.

In our efforts to enhance the diversity and inclusiveness of the Binghamton University community, Chief Diversity Officer, Valerie Hampton, has prepared a comprehensive 15-minute on-line confidential survey. The survey was designed to help evaluate the current campus climate regarding diversity, equity and inclusion. This survey should provide valuable data that can be used to make Binghamton a better, more inviting and equitable campus. Participation is voluntary, but we are encouraging participation by offering prizes to randomly chosen participants. The survey will be open for one more week.

We are moving ahead with our Road Map budget process for 2015-2016 and encouraging the campus community to submit proposals for consideration. After the May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline, the proposals will be refined by the Road Map Steering Committee, reviewed by the Faculty Senate Budget Committee, and ranked by the Steering Committee. Final budget decisions will be announced mid-summer.

### **REVIEW/APPROVAL OF 2014-2015 CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT:**

Vice President Rose noted that most of the proposed changes to the Code are related to developments in federal legislation including the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus SaVE Act, and SUNY guidance. Ms. April Thompson, Dean of Students, met with students and staff this spring to solicit their input to the proposed changes. Vice President Rose thanked Ms. Thompson for her work on revising the code noting that Mr. Milton Chester, former Director of Student Conduct, has taken another role in Student Affairs and the Division is currently searching for a new Director of Student Conduct.

Prior to the meeting, Council members had received a copy of the suggested revisions to the Code and the rationale for these changes (see attached).

A motion was made and unanimously carried to approve the 2014-2015 Code of Student Conduct.

### **STUDENT REPORT:**

Mr. Andrew Topal reported that students and faculty are enjoying their time off during Spring Break and before the final push for the end of the semester.

Relay for Life's 12-hour fundraising event was held on campus on April 5<sup>th</sup> and more than 1,000 students participated to raise money for the American Cancer Society. At the end of the event, there was a moving ceremony where students spoke about their own personal experiences with cancer.

At the end of March, Binghamton University hosted a TEDx event which was a great, sold-out event. Mr. Topal noted that it was good to be there with other students to learn and hear different perspectives on various topics.

Student elections for new officers, and to select the next student representative to the Binghamton University Council, are in full swing and a new representative to Binghamton University Council is expected to be selected following Spring Break.

Vice President Sammakia will be giving a presentation about research at Binghamton University today. Mr. Topal noted that Binghamton Research Days was held the end of March and approximately 80 students presented their research in poster sessions during this three-day event. Research at Binghamton University is what sets Binghamton University apart from other institutions, noted Mr. Topal. Mr. Topal thanked Vice President Sammakia for his commitment to research at Binghamton University.

**REPORT ON RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

The next meeting will be held on Friday, May 9, 2014.