

## **COUNCIL MINUTES**

April 17, 2015

Present from Council: Kathryn Grant Madigan, Esq., Linda Biemer, Anthony Fiala, Sarah Glose, Dennis McCabe, Esq., and James Orband, Esq.

Present from the Community: President Stenger, Vice President Broschart, Mr. Coker, Ms. Coker, Ms. Doyle, Director Elliott, Ms. Ellis, Ms. Fauci, Ms. Hampton, Mr. Kane, Dean Meredith, Professor Mischen, Ms. Mthombeni, Vice President Navarro, Provost Nieman, Ms. O'Neil, Vice President Rose, Vice President Sammakia, Ms. Westbrook Scarlett, Esq., Professor Sinclair, Dean Thompson

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

The Binghamton University Council meeting was called to order at 9:26 a.m. on Friday, April 17, 2015 by Kathryn Grant Madigan, Esq., chair.

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

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

President Stenger introduced Dean Gloria Meredith, Dean of the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. He also introduced Bathabile Mthombeni, Ombudsman, who started here in January. She has been busy meeting with everyone on campus.

Students have returned from a well-deserved Spring break; weather has taken a dramatic turn for the better this week, which means that students are finally out on the campus grounds. The nicer weather also means that our Physical Facilities people are hard at work repairing winter damage and sprucing up the campus in time for Commencement. President Stenger asked Vice President Navarro to thank Larry Roma and everyone involved in that effort.

We will be holding an Admitted Students Open House this weekend with an expected turnout of more than 2,800. Applications are at an all-time high. We will be admitting a smaller freshman class this year. We will be spending more time with these students to make sure they want to come here. This is a very popular campus to visit and we expect about 40,000 visitors this year for tours. This is a huge benefit for getting our name out.

We have hired a new Dean of Libraries. Curtis Kendrick comes from CUNY and will begin his duties on July 15. We have also hired a new CIO who will report to Vice President Navarro. Sharon Pitt comes to us from George Mason University. These are both crucial positions and both searches were very successful with good candidates.

The Campus Climate survey results have been released and President Stenger encouraged Council members to read through it. Valerie Hampton and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Office staff were in charge of this survey, which is the first time this type of survey was done. President Stenger noted that it may be beneficial for Council to hear a presentation from the DEI office every year as part of their regular agenda.

Groundbreaking for the Pharmacy School building will likely be in September with a scheduled December 2017 opening. Dean Meredith is currently hiring faculty and administrators and developing the curriculum. The first class will begin in the fall of 2017 with 80 to 100 students who will be housed on our main campus until the building opens.

It was announced last week that the University would take stewardship of the former NYS Inebriate Asylum, later known as the Binghamton Psychiatric Center. This is an amazing old building designed by Isaac Perry that was built in 1865. An initial \$12.5 M is being provided by Assemblywoman Lupardo to address the most urgent needs of the building -- repairs to the facade, heating system, and roofing. We are looking to develop a plan for its future use by the spring of 2016.

The University continues to work with members of the REDC to develop a winning plan for the governor's Upstate Revitalization competition. This competition provides for three winning entries among the seven upstate regions; top-performing regions would receive \$500 million for economic development. As you can see, the University has a prominent role to play in this third initiative.

Beginning in June, we will replace our current recreational field adjacent to Bartle Drive with a new 130,000 square foot high-tech turf. The new field will be lighted for extended use, allowing expansion of intramural programs. Over time, the turf field will save the campus money by reducing maintenance costs and will reduce the campus carbon footprint.

For the second time in two years, Baxter won SUNY's annual Mascot Madness, beating Cortland's Red the Dragon. This is just a fun competition between schools and it is great to see that Binghamton students support the University and its athletic teams.

### **STUDENT REPORT:**

Ms. Glose reported that Binghamton student Thomas Mastro was elected as president of the SUNY Student Association this past weekend. He will have a seat on the SUNY Board of Trustees. Baxter won Mascot Madness for the second year in a row.

The Student Code of Conduct is up for review today. The Office of Student Conduct worked hard to seek out student input at both the graduate and undergraduate levels, and Ms. Glose

thinks the document reflects the interests and needs of students while preserving the integrity of our campus community as a whole. Students are glad to hear that these revisions will be voted on today, and continue to support the addition of provisions to establish affirmative consent as the standard in cases of sexual assault.

Spring Fling will be May 2; we will be bringing Bad Rabbits, Sage the Gemini and White Panda to campus as well as hosting a carnival-themed festival. International Fest will be this Sunday during the Admitted Students Open House and we anticipate the event being a big hit with cultural performances and food from various ethnic cuisines for people to try.

Students have chosen to support Harpur's Ferry and OCCT, voting to increase the Student Activity Fee by \$3.50 to assist with increased costs to run these vital services for campus.

Additionally, the Student Association is hard at work preparing the E-board-elect for next year. We have just confirmed our next VPMA, which was up for a re-election and his name is Ruslan Klafehn. We are very excited for what he brings to the table for next year.

The OCCT buses had ID scanners installed over break. This should enable OCCT to gather some data on most used routes and adapt better to student demand for buses.

Binghamton's graduate students were recognized by the SUNYSA for promoting women's leadership.

Elections for GSO E-board took place this week, results should be announced soon.

GSO President Alison Coombs and Ms. Glose crafted a letter about the issues on campus that will go out in Pipe Dream today. It is their hope that it will draw attention to the tensions as an opportunity to have a productive discussion about issues of discrimination and direct students to the best resources to help them if they are having a problem.

The Southern Tier Economic Development Committee Business Plan Competition was very successful. President Stenger gave opening remarks and the judges and donors were very impressed with the professionalism of the students' plans. Community partners are interested in working with future GSOs on similar programs.

There has been some protesting and activism on campus organized around a group called Students for Change. This group is advocating for stricter policies around racism, sexism, and other forms of discrimination on campus. Ms. Glose has spoken with representatives from the SA and the GSO and the general feeling is that students are supportive of their ideas, but find their methods to be divisive. As we move forward, Ms. Glose thinks the whole campus community should try to come together to have real conversations about these issues and work to solve them. Her hope is that the new leadership in the GSO and SA will reflect on these issues over the summer and be prepared to lead our campus community forward in the fall.

In the wake of so much activity on campus, Ms. Glose had put her student project to work on campus communication with students on hold temporarily. However, she has been informed that

her candidacy for BU Council student representative for next year has been approved, so she hopes to continue working on it over the summer and into next year if she is re-elected (or even if she is not).

**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 2015-2016 CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT:**

Vice President Rose noted that some of the changes address the changes in Federal law and SUNY procedures regarding sexual assault definition, sexual violence and assault. We have adopted these procedures.

Vice President Rose suggested that we need an effective date for these changes and suggested August 10, 2015. This will provide clarity of the changes.

A motion was made and seconded to approve all changes. After no discussion, this was approved by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

The next meeting will be held on Friday, May 8, 2015.