

COUNCIL MINUTES
December 21, 2012

Present from Council: Kathryn Grant Madigan, Dov Berkman, Thomas Doty, Anthony Fiala, Jr., Albert Nocciolino, James Orband, Matthew Salanger, and John Spring

Present from the Community: President Stenger, Professor Brown, Vice President Craner, Mr. Coker, Mr. Delviscio, Director Elliott, Ms. Ellis, Mr. Geiger, Mr. Kane, Provost Nieman, Ms. O'Neil, Mr. Roma, 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 9:37 a.m. on Friday, December 21, 2012 by Kathryn Grant Madigan, Esq., Chair.

The minutes of the November 16, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved.

STUDENT REPORT:

Mr. Berkman reported that the Tobacco Policy Revision Committee is making headway and has recently met with University Police Lieutenant Madeline Bay, a representative from Residential Life, and the Student Association. The Committee has determined that their proposals will consist of designated smoking areas with areas split between the academic buildings and a designated area of the spine and will be focusing on residential areas, with sensitivity. The Committee is expected to present their final report during the spring semester.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Stenger reported that the past few weeks have been very busy! There was a great effort by various offices on campus including the Counseling Center, the Dean of Student's Office, and the Resident Assistants who worked together to organize various events and programs in an effort to help students reduce stress during the month of December. Daily activities designed to help students de-stress and cope included an art therapy program where students "painted away" their anxieties; contact with 9 therapy dogs – a very popular event; the Counseling Center provided free phone applications such as white noise and relaxing sound recordings and were ready to assist any student who felt overwhelmed; various Late Nite activities such as concerts, chair massages, stress balls, etc., were designed to take students' minds away from work; the Wellness program provided free Yoga classes; the University Libraries encouraged students to work with librarians to minimize the challenges of finding materials for research projects and in an effort to become more user-friendly; Sodexo provided free "stress busting" treats in the residence halls and at various locations throughout the campus; and the

President wrote an article, which was published in *Pipe Dream*, encouraging students to get daily exercise as a way to reduce stress and cope. All of these combined efforts were successful at decreasing stress levels on campus.

There were many special holiday projects taking place on campus in December. One such project, the Hand to Heart Project, allowed students to donate gift bags for local, needy children. Through this effort, more than 1,600 gift bags were packaged and delivered to the Wyoming Conference Children's Home and the local Salvation Army. The Chanukah Toy Drive collected and distributed toys to local children suffering from cancer. As part of this drive, more than 750 students participated in a dreidel "spin-off," narrowly missing the world record for the most spinning dreidels in one place at one time. The 23rd annual Student Association's Holiday Drive, "Operation SAnTa," provided offices and organizations with the opportunity to sponsor a local family in need from a list put together by the Binghamton City School District. The campus also collected food for CHOW, and the Physical Facilities department presented a check for more than \$5,000, along with dozens of toys, to the Toys for Tots campaign. Each year, Binghamton University employees hold a number of fund-raising efforts throughout the year to raise funds for this effort.

This past Sunday the University celebrated Commencement and granted 760 degrees. The highlight of Commencement was the awarding of an honorary degree to long-time university supporter James Carrigg, retired CEO of NYSEG, who spearheaded the efforts to build the Thomas J. Watson School of Engineering and Applied Science in the early 1980s.

We are still in the growth period for Admissions and are looking at the best applicants for fall 2013. We have admitted 425 freshman and transfer student for the spring 2013 semester to fill vacant seats and for some who requested delayed enrollment. While applications for fall are down, less than 1% over the same time last year, we are not concerned. Applications for early acceptances had been up by 10% prior to Hurricane Sandy.

Economic growth is on the rise with the announcement this past week that the Governor's Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council was one of four top-performing regions in the state for the second round of the Governor's competitive funding through the Councils. The Southern Tier Council received \$91.1 million, with approximately \$10 million earmarked for Binghamton University and \$7 million earmarked for the Southern Tier High Technology Incubator. This is a huge win for the University and for the communities in which we live.

Governor Cuomo visited the region earlier this month for the Regional Council's presentation of proposals. It was a good visit that made a great impression on the Governor. While here, the Governor announced President Stenger's appointment as the Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council's co-chair. In this role, the President will work alongside Tom Tranter, Jr., president and CEO of Corning Enterprises.

We are nearing the end of the Road Map process which began last April. Nine teams have been meeting and have recently presented 176 proposals of ideas, initiatives and innovations. The deans, vice presidents, co-chairs and the president will now begin the month-long process of ranking and voting on the proposals based on their priority and impact. The ranking process is expected to be completed by the end of January and, by the end of February, the complete results will be available and decisions will be finalized regarding budgetary appropriations and how we will invest the NYSUNY 2020 funds which will help Binghamton University become the premier public university of the 21st century.

Binghamton University has recently been ranked as the 8th most efficient university in the nation according to *US News and World Report*. This ranking is based on how much we spend per student compared to the quality of education we provide. This is a strong testimony both to the hard work of our faculty as well as the strong administration of resources at Binghamton University. This efficiency is something that benefits not only Binghamton's students and their families, but also the taxpayers of New York State.

Binghamton University has also recently been ranked in the top ten of all New York state colleges and universities for safety by the online site stateuniversity.com. This ranking is based on the incidence of crime on campus.

This month marks the completion of President Stenger's first year at Binghamton University. He thanked Binghamton University Council members for their attendance, counsel, questions, and support over the past year.

REPORT ON BUILDING & GROUNDS:

On behalf of Vice President Van Voorst, Mr. Larry Roma, Associate Vice President for Facilities Management, presented a report on the campus buildings and grounds. See detailed presentation attached.

Chairman Madigan reminded Council members that beginning with the March 15, 2013 meeting and moving forward, the formal Council meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. in AD-148 with the Council's informal session to take place at the conclusion of the formal meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:41 a.m.