

**COUNCIL MINUTES**  
December 20, 2013

Present from Council: Kathryn Grant Madigan, Patricia Cummings, Thomas Doty, Anthony Fiala, Jr., Dennis McCabe, Albert Nocciolino, James Orband, Matthew Salanger, and Andrew Topal

Present from the Community: President Stenger, Interim Vice President Benner, Mr. Coker, Mr. Delviscio, Mr. Edouard, Director Elliott, Ms. Ellis, Dean Ferrario, Ms. Gahring, Ms. Hampton, Mr. Kane, Mr. Kukawa, Professor Lees, Mr. McGoff, Professor Mischen, Professor Morewedged, Ms. Navarro, Provost Nieman, Mr. Roma, Vice President Rose, Vice President Sammakia, Vice President Van Voorst, Ms. Westbrook Scarlett, and Mr. Yarosh

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Binghamton University Council meeting was called to order at 8:39 a.m. on Friday, December 20, 2013 by Kathryn Grant Madigan, Esq., Chair.

The minutes of the November 15, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

President Stenger welcomed everyone to the University Downtown Center and the College of Community and Public Affairs. President Stenger noted that the University Downtown Center is now seven years old and was closed one year due to repairs necessary when 18' of water flooded the basement of the building.

Today marks the last day of the fall semester and the students are mostly done. We are thankful that Andrew Topal is still with us to present his report.

For the second year in a row, there was great effort by various offices on campus including the Counseling Center, the Dean of Students 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. Several activities were available each day designed to help students de-stress, cope, get exercise and take their minds away from work. In addition to the 2600 seats available in the Library, which the students used for studying 24 hours a day, the Dean of Students Office opened up extra classrooms as more space for students to study. All of these combined efforts were successful at decreasing stress levels on campus.

There were many special volunteer 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 1,000 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. The 24<sup>th</sup> 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 \$3,700, 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 fall Commencement and granted 700 degrees. Despite the inclement weather, approximately 400 students and their families attended the ceremony. Sarah Kopitko addressed her graduating class as the student speaker, and alumna entrepreneur David Berkowitz '00 was the invited speaker. We were also privileged to have former President Lois DeFleur in the audience for Commencement. While she was here visiting campus, she also had the opportunity to tour the campus. Dr. DeFleur was impressed by the new and recently completed construction -- most of which was started during her tenure at Binghamton University.

The Governor's Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council (STREDC) recently learned that they were designated a "top performer" by the state and were awarded \$81.9 million for 87 projects. President Stenger, the STREDC's co-chair, reported that this is a widespread win for Binghamton University and the communities in which we live and work. In addition, the STREDC also competed for, and was awarded, \$250,000 as an "innovation Hot Spot." These funds will help support the Southern Tier High Technology Incubator along with incubators associated with Cornell and Alfred University.

This month marks the completion of President Stenger's second year at Binghamton University. "It has been a very busy, successful, and fun year in which we've achieved a number of significant accomplishments," reported President Stenger. Among the accomplishments, we have grown our student population by over 1,000 students and we have added more than 60 new faculty. The Road Map Steering Committee recently met and is confident that we can do more than the goals that were originally set. We are challenged to stretch farther, faster, to help Binghamton University become the premier public university of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. President Stenger continues to be amazed by what we do at Binghamton University stating, "We have a very strong campus with talent and visions, and a strong Council to help guide us. "

President Stenger announced that he will present the State of the University address on January 31<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in the Anderson Center's Osterhout Theatre.

### **STUDENT REPORT:**

Mr. Topal reported that today marks the last day of finals for students.

De-stress December events were wonderful and helped students to take a step back from finals. Mr. Topal thanked Vice President Rose and his team for their part in these much appreciated opportunities for students to de-stress.

Students are very excited about the opening of the University Union's Marketplace when they return to campus in January.

Earlier this month, the Student Association sponsored their 5<sup>th</sup> annual Frost Fest in the University Union. This is a fun event and an opportunity for students to celebrate before finals; it was very well attended.

It has been a very busy December and students are very much looking forward to a well-deserved break.

**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.

**REVIEW/APPROVAL OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO PART 566 - BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY TRAFFIC AND PARKING REGULATIONS:**

Vice President Van Voorst presented the suggested amendments to part 566 of Binghamton University Traffic and Parking Regulation to Council. See detailed document attached.

A motion was made and carried to approve the proposed amendments to Part 566 of Binghamton University Traffic and Parking Regulations.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

The next meeting will be held on Friday, March 21, 2014.