

COUNCIL MINUTES

March 15, 2013

Present from Council: Dov Berkman, Linda Biemer, Patricia Cummings, Thomas Doty, Anthony Fiala, Jr., James Orband, and Matthew Salanger

Present from the Community: President Stenger, Vice President Craner, Mr. Coker, Professor Deak, Mr. Delviscio, Mr. Edouard, Director Elliott, Ms. Ellis, Mr. Kane, Provost Nieman, Ms. O'Neil, Vice President Rose, Vice President Sammakia, Ms. Scarlett, Vice President Van Voorst, and Mr. Yarosh

CALL TO ORDER:

The Binghamton University Council meeting was called to order at 8:33 a.m. on Friday, March 15, 2013 by member Matthew Salanger.

Chair Kathryn Grant Madigan, Esq. participated in the meeting via teleconference and welcomed the new members to Council.

The minutes of the December 21, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Stenger welcomed new members Linda Biemer and Patricia Cummings. We all look forward to the perspective of our new members and to their contributions. President Stenger thanked the outgoing members Brian Prew, Nathaalie Carey, and former Council chair John Spring for their many years of service to Council.

President Stenger noted that freshman applications have hit a record-high of 29,089 for fall 2013 admission, surpassing the previous record high of 28,963 set in 2009. Several factors attributed to the increase -- increased advertising, consistent high rankings for academic excellence and value, and the slowly improving economy.

Binghamton University has also seen a significant increase in applications for the Graduate School, receiving 3,402 completed applications for fall admission - an increase of 66.6% over last year.

The fourth annual Binghamton University Day at the Oakdale Mall was held on February 23. This included performances by student groups ranging from African drumming and Indian Dance to a Japanese Sword performance and hands-on craft projects and science demonstrations for children.

The annual Binghamton University Advocacy Day took place on March 6 in Albany with 60 Binghamton University faculty, staff, students and administrators meeting with legislative leaders to discuss our Road Map and the future of Binghamton University.

President Stenger and the Vice President held the State of the University forum in January where priorities for 2013 were discussed.

We are preparing for the launch of the implementation of the Road Map on April 8. The Provost, Steering Committee, and President Stenger ranked 176 proposals that were received and determined that 46 proposals would be immediately implemented. These proposals have been organized into five strategic areas. The Vice Presidents have developed implementation plans, budgets, benchmarks, and milestones. President Stenger is pleased with the amount of involvement and commitment of the campus and community throughout this process. Hiring of between 60 and 80 staff members is planned for the next two years.

The University is moving forward on its search for a new dean for Harpur College. The search committee has identified four candidates -- Elizabeth Spiller, professor of English and associate dean of Florida State University College of Arts and Sciences; Anne E. McCall, dean, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and professor, Department of French and Italian at the University of Denver; Scott Casper, interim dean, College of Liberal Arts, Foundation professor of history at the University of Nevada; and our current Interim Dean for Harpur College, Wayne Jones.

Distinguished Professor Susan Strehle has recently been appointed Interim Dean of the Graduate School.

President Stenger will be traveling to Korea, China, and Hong Kong next week. In Korea, he will meet with leaders of LG Healthcare and Samsung Display Corporation to discuss the development of internship opportunities. He will also be visiting KAIST University in Daejeon and SUNY Korea campus.

In China, President Stenger will meet with Madam Xu Lin, Vice Minister of Education and Director of the Hanban, which oversees the Confucius Institutes, and will travel to Zhenjiang International School, where he will meet with students who will be attending Binghamton University next fall. He will then go to Shenzhen University and also attend a Binghamton University Alumni reception.

The highly successful TEDx event was held last month with over 1,300 people in attendance. This event drew eight really interesting speakers.

Today, Vice President Van Voorst will be reporting on university safety and crime.

Mr. Salaniger added his thanks to the outgoing council members. Framed certificates and a small gift will be given to each of them with our appreciation.

STUDENT REPORT:

Mr. Dov Berkman also welcomed new Council members and expressed his appreciation of the outgoing members.

Mr. Berkman has been working on his Veterans project and is close to getting this student group chartered. He is looking forward to this organization allowing veterans to come together for companionship, advocating for themselves, and becoming a valued part of campus. The Veterans Coffee Hour is held every Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. and has been well attended by both student and faculty veterans.

Mr. Berkman will be presenting to the Faculty Senate in April about veterans and the challenges they face on campus. He will work with Provost Nieman on what would be beneficial for the faculty to hear.

Mr. Berkman noted that students in the Student Association have been trained in conflict resolution and are now able to assist in handling student conflicts.

The John McKenna 5K run will be held this Saturday. John was a student at Binghamton University from 1994 to 1998 and was on the crew team. Mr. McKenna served as a U.S. Marine.

Mr. Berkman noted that students feel safe on campus and value the Safe Ride vehicle and the presence of the University Police on campus.

Student Association elections will be held on March 20 and the Graduate Student Organization elections will be in April.

Mr. Berkman distributed a handout on the results from the poll to undergraduate students on how they feel about smoking on campus. The response was very good, in fact, so heavy that the server broke due to the high response. This poll allowed us to have insight into the decisions made by the Student Tobacco Policy Revision Committee, stated Mr. Berkman.

Mr. Doty thanked Mr. Berkman for his work with the veterans. Mr. Doty commented that he knows how challenging it is for veterans to continue with their education after war or service interruption.

REPORT ON BUILDING & GROUNDS:

On behalf of Vice President Van Voorst, Chief Tim Faughnan, University Police, presented a report on the campus safety programs and crime statistics. See detailed presentation attached.

Mr. Doty thanked everyone for their thoughts and prayers after the sudden passing of his wife, Jane, on January 5.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m. The next meeting will be held on April 19, 2013 in Room AD-148 in the Couper Administration Building.