

## **COUNCIL MINUTES**

May 9, 2014

Present from Council: Linda Biemer, Thomas Doty, Anthony F. Fiala Jr., Dennis McCabe, Kathryn Grant Madigan, Esq., Matthew Salanger, and Andrew Topal

Present from the Community: President Stenger, Ms. Bean, Interim Vice President Benner, Mr. Coker, Mr. Delviscio, Ms. Doyle, Director Elliott, Mr. Edouard, Ms. Ellis, Chief Faughnan, Ms. Frierman, Ms. Glose, Mr. Kane, Professor Mischen, Provost Nieman, Ms. O’Neil, Vice President Rose, Ms. Westbrook Scarlett, Esq., 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, May 9, 2014 by Kathryn Grant Madigan, chair.

The minutes of the April 18, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved.

### **PRESIDENT’S REPORT:**

President Stenger noted that it’s been very busy on campus this past month. Today marks the last day of classes, with a brief reading period before final exams begin on Monday. Students have spent the past couple of weeks finishing final projects and papers. Although our students are very good at what they do, there is an undercurrent of excitement and stress that is evident in conversations you hear in the dorms and dining halls.

Recognizing that stress gets in the way of both the physical well-being and the quality of academic work, the University has increased its de-stress efforts. The program is run through the Office of the Dean of Students, but involves all areas of the campus including Sodexo. Our Student Association also sponsored a number of events including Spring Fling that lightened the mood on campus.

Students also have been very busy in other end-of-the-year performances as part of their academic work. The Theater Department is conducting a performance of “Anne Boleyn” as well as a student directed and produced staging of the play “Orlando”; students in our music performance program are completing their Masters recitals, as well as holding public performances of the Nukporfe African

Drumming; and Dance Ensemble and Grammy-Award Winning vocal guest artist Jacqueline Horner-Kwiattek will perform this coming Sunday.

This also is the time of year when we recognize the academic achievements of our best students as well as the contributions they make to our campus and community. In April, we celebrated the successes of our Binghamton University Scholars along with the faculty and staff mentors who help them. The scholars are among the University's most select students and they were recognized for their innovation, leadership, dedication, and academic excellence.

The Provost's Office hosted ceremonies recognizing students who were nominated or selected for awards recognizing undergraduate research, service to the campus or community, and academic excellence and leadership. Winners of the President's Awards for Undergraduate Excellence automatically have their names entered as candidates for the Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence at SUNY.

Student Affairs held its Leadership Awards Reception to recognize Binghamton's outstanding student organizations and the leaders who guide them. Binghamton currently has more than 160 student organizations from "Active Minds at Binghamton" to the "Zombie Student Association" so students have many opportunities to develop leadership skills and to contribute to the campus social and cultural life as well as provide service to the community.

One of the highlights for President Stenger was presenting Andrew Topal with the Paul Battaglia Outstanding Student of the Year Award for his work as a campus leader.

President Stenger also noted that Ralph Garruto, research professor of biomedical anthropology, has been awarded the SUNY Medallion of Distinction. This is a SUNY wide recognition for faculty who are not eligible to receive the Distinguished Faculty rank. Professor Garruto came to Binghamton to develop our Biomedical anthropology program, the first such program in the world. Congratulations to him and to SUNY for recognizing his work.

SUNY also recognized another of the University's representatives. Baxter, our University Mascot, won the SUNY Mascot of the Year Award. He received 27,481 points by way of online votes and social media bonus points, defeating the Brockport mascot by just over 1%. Baxter received the award at a ceremony held during SUNY Day in Washington, D.C. and will hold a victory lap today.

We also held an Alumni Leadership Council that brought over 120 of our most engaged alumni leaders to campus. Sponsored by the Alumni Association, and working closely with a wide variety of campus partners, sessions were meant to inform participants of the Alumni Association's strategic goals and to solicit their input regarding ways to foster greater alumni engagement. During the conference, President Stenger gave a presentation on the status of the University's Road Map and the alumni's role as we advance our growth initiatives. Culmination of the weekend was the presentation of the Alumni Association Special Recognition Awards. Among those honored were Geraldine Knoll MacDonald '68; Keith A. LaScalea '94; and Justin Joseph '05, MBA '06.

This week the University will hold Commencement Ceremonies. More than 3,200 students will receive degrees from our six schools, including over 700 master's degrees and PhD degrees.

Honorary doctorates will be awarded to Carol Harter, '64,'67,'70, educator and the first female to receive three Binghamton degrees, historian Deborah Gray White' 71, and public policy scholar Eric Schwartz '79. In addition, William Berical will receive the University Medal, while David Penski, Keith Gorham, Michael Garcia, and Sheri Pfleeger will each receive the Alumni Award. The ceremonies also will include speeches by nine of our graduates who were selected based on the range of their experiences and the quality of their academic work.

Preparing for the ceremonies involves people from across the campus from Physical Facilities and University Police, to faculty and staff from each of the schools, to Sodexo and our publications offices. President Stenger thanked everyone on campus for their efforts this year.

Our graduates are fortunate to be entering a job market that is the strongest it's been in the past few years. Binghamton graduates always have an advantage as they enter the workforce as a result of the quality of the education they receive here, but also because of the opportunities they have for international and experiential education. Over the past 26 years, 360 Binghamton students have benefitted from more than \$440,000 in scholarships that provide support for overseas study from this fund, a remarkable testament to Dr. Rosefsky's vision and commitment to the University.

At the same time, students also benefit from the many opportunities to participate in the community as volunteers and in experiential work. Earlier this month President Stenger spoke to the Broome County Council of Churches, where he emphasized the role that our students play in local organizations as volunteers and interns. In purely monetary terms, students' volunteer work is estimated at over \$3 million per year, but their impact is far greater than what those dollars will buy. In this work, they learn valuable career skills—leadership, communication, time management and organization—that makes them in high demand by employers. Earlier this month, President Stenger attended Professor David Campbell's Philanthropy Incubator class, as it handed out \$12,000 in awards to local organizations; some of this money was provided by the Learning By Giving Foundation, while about \$2,000 was raised by the students themselves. Grants were awarded to Family Planning of South Central New York, CHOW, Mom's House, and Center for Employment Opportunities and Rise, which helps victims of domestic violence. Student here not only learn about the challenges facing the community, but also learn about the philanthropic profession. In this work they become the public face of the University.

As we conclude the academic year, there are as always several personnel changes that take place as the University prepares for the challenges of the next year and as individuals move on to other positions.

The University will be seeking to find a replacement for Dean of the Libraries John Meador who will be leaving Binghamton to become inaugural dean of the University of Alabama at Birmingham Libraries. John came to the University in 2004 and has helped guide our libraries into the digital age. Under his leadership, Binghamton became the first North American library to use the Rosetta digital preservation system. That allows us to preserve University photos, research materials, theses and dissertations, and publications such as Inside, Dateline and the Online Journal of Rural Nursing and Health Care. The University will miss his leadership.

Vice President James VanVoorst has taken a position as vice president for administration and finance at the University at Albany beginning in July. Jim has been at Binghamton since 2000 and was named

vice president in 2005. He has been a very strong leader at Binghamton and has helped guide us through some very difficult fiscal challenges and has helped establish the organizational and fiscal foundation that will allow us to grow in the coming years. His work has been much broader than simply managing our budget; he has overseen the University Police, our Auxiliary Services, Physical Facilities, and a host of other responsibilities. All of us at Binghamton will miss him and his sense of humor. We thank him for his service and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

Chair Kathryn Madigan thanked Vice President VanVoorst for his service to the University. His departure will be a great loss to the campus.

### **STUDENT REPORT:**

Andrew Topal introduced Sarah Glose, next year's student representative. Sarah is graduating this year as an English major and will be a graduate student in the fall in the MPA program. Sarah said she looks forward to working with the Council next year.

Andrew reported that Spring Fling weekend was fun with beautiful weather. Today is the last day of classes. Students are participating in some of the de-stress programs. Andrew particularly enjoyed the plate smashing! Broken plates are being donated to the Art Department. BU held its first hackathon with 250 students from all over the country participating. The HackBU team will soon participate in an event at Cornell.

Andrew described the My Binghamton BU portal where students will be able to access everything online from one place which will be very helpful. Andrew is looking forward to graduation and thanked the Council and administration for his experiences this past four years. While on Council, he learned a lot about how the university runs and met many great people. He looks forward to coming back as an alum.

Chair Madigan read and presented the Council resolution to Andrew and thanked him for his work while on Council.

### **REPORT ON ADVANCEMENT:**

Interim Vice President Rebecca Benner reported on the development activities of the Advancement Division and Sheila Doyle, Associate Vice President and Interim Executive Director of the Binghamton Foundation, talked about activities of the Alumni Association and the Binghamton University Foundation. (See attached presentation.)

### **REPORT ON COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING:**

Greg Delviscio, Associate Vice President, Katharine Ellis, Senior Director, and Ryan Yarosh Director of Media and Public Relations reported on the activities of Communications and Marketing (see attached presentation).

### **PART 566 TRAFFIC AND PARKING REGULATIONS:**

Vice President James VanVoorst reminded Council members about the changes to the parking regulations approved at the December Council meeting. During the required comment period, a comment was received from Kenneth Zebrowski, Chairman of the Assembly Administrative Regulations Review Committee who made a suggestion that we make the electric vehicle charging available for non-registered vehicles. We explained to his staff that we limit charging of vehicles to our properly installed charging devices as a health and safety issue and they are intended to allow all registered vehicles on campus to use the devices. Assemblyman Zebrowski commends our campus for being a forerunner in the installation of these devices and administration of the program.

**SUNY SHARED GOVERNANCE CONFERENCE:**

Council member Linda Biemer attended the SUNY shared governance conference on April 23 and 24. Attendees included university faculty, administration, Council members, and students. She noted that only three Council members from Albany, Binghamton, and Cobleskill attended. It was a well-run conference.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 am.