

COUNCIL MINUTES

March 17, 2017

Present from Council: Linda Biemer, Anthony Fiala, Dennis McCabe (by phone), Matthew Salanger, and Ryan Sheppard

Present from the Community: President Stenger, Ms. Bennett, Mr. Borrego, Vice President Broschart, Mr. Coker, Mr. Delviscio, Mr. Elliott, Ms. Ellis, Mr. Ferrara, Ms. Gahring, Mr. Gantt, Dr. Ignarri, Mr. Kane, Vice President Navarro, Provost Nieman, Mr. Nocciolino, Mr. Osterhout, Mr. Parker, Vice President Rose, Mr. Sachdeva, Ms. Scarlett, Professor Starks, Ms. Strong, and Mr. Yarosh

CALL TO ORDER

The Binghamton University Council meeting was called to order at 9:12 a.m. on Friday, March 17, 2017 by acting chair Anthony Fiala.

The minutes of the December 16, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved.

Mr. Fiala announced that Mr. Nocciolino, after faithfully serving the Binghamton University Council for seventeen years, resigned from the Council in January. Mr. Fiala thanked Mr. Nocciolino for his many years of service and dedication to the Council. Mr. Nocciolino was presented a framed certificate of appreciation.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Stenger reported that the big news this week was the snow emergency after the area received a record-breaking 31+ inches of snow, and the resulting state of emergency declared by Governor Cuomo which canceled classes and allowed non-essential employees to stay home without charging their time off.

About 500 essential employees came to campus and pulled together to clear the snow. This was a monumental task, with most arriving at 3 a.m. on Tuesday and working until 6 p.m., only to go home and return at 3 a.m. on Wednesday and work again until 6 p.m. The campus is still trying to clean up all of the snow, but the essential employees did a great job and we are looking for a way to recognize them for their hard work and dedication during the snow emergency.

We have had some great visits over the last couple of months from Governor Cuomo, Lieutenant Governor Hochul, and Senator Schumer. Governor Cuomo and the Lieutenant Governor visited campus to provide overviews of the state budget and the State of the State address.

Senator Schumer was on campus last month to deliver a reimbursement check to Binghamton University for \$2.7 million from FEMA. These funds were to reimburse the University for damage to the University Downtown Center from the floods of 2011. Due to an error by FEMA, these funds were long delayed and Senator Schumer worked hard to get the funds released. The funds will be invested in ways which help the University to reach out to the community and we have designated two projects which meet this criterion. The funds will be used to support the Living Building at Nuthatch Hollow and to help build a new Welcome Center on campus.

Binghamton University has received several large donations over the last couple of months. We received an anonymous donation, over \$500,000, to establish a new Institute for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention. This Institute, housed in the College of Community and Public Affairs and the Philosophy Department, will offer an undergraduate minor as well as graduate certificate.

Last week we received a \$1 million donation from retired Air Force Colonel and alum, Jim Warner '60. This donation will support scholarships for local students who commute to campus.

We received a significant donation from Professor Emeritus Wu and his wife, Grace Chin-Fa, to establish a fellowship for graduate students pursuing doctoral degrees in the STEM fields. Another 7-figure anonymous gift will establish an endowed professorship in the Watson School of Engineering in memory of Distinguished Professor George Klir.

We also received a very generous donation from Mable Payne '71, an EOP alumna, who gave \$100,000 to support scholarships for EOP students, and a \$100,000 donation from Visions Federal Credit Union to create a Financial Wellness Center in the Fleishman Career Development Center to improve student financial literacy and financial wellness. We have experienced great momentum and these gifts show a sign of success for Binghamton University. If we are successful, people will want to invest in us, reported President Stenger.

Last month we held our 12th annual Celebrating Women's Athletics luncheon at the Events Center. This luncheon recognizes the achievements of Binghamton University's female student-athletes and raises funds for scholarships awarded to female student-athletes. Former WNBA player and two-time Olympic Gold winner, Swin Cash, who was recently named one of the "20 Greatest and Most Influential Players in WNBA History," spoke to a crowd of approximately 675. Over the past twelve years, this event raised over \$300,000 for an endowment that provides two scholarships annually for female athletes.

In January, the Alumni Association hosted their second annual Binghamton in the City week, where about 1,000 people gathered for a series of career discovery and networking events to strengthen connections. These events ranged from ice skating in Bryant Park, visiting local alumni-employers in New York City, alumni networking opportunities and receptions.

Binghamton University set another record for undergraduate applications. So far, we have received over 33,000 freshman applications for 2,600 seats. Graduate applications are flat from last year, but the last two years they were up significantly. Graduate applications are on track to generate about 1,000 new graduate students with a growth of about 150-200 graduate students next year.

We have been busy working with at-risk DACA students, whose parents are undocumented. The students are concerned about their ability to stay in the country, and for their parent's ability to stay in the country. We met with them and provided the legal resources necessary for them to understand things that can and are happening. As of today, no Binghamton University students have been asked to leave the University or the country. The University does not provide information about student citizenship as the University is not required and does not ask for this information from the students. We are working very hard to make sure that our potential international students know that we are still an internationally friendly school.

Last month, the Faculty Senate approved the merger of the Graduate School of Education into the College of Community and Public Affairs. The Graduate School of Education will become a department within the College of Community and Public Affairs. The merger will take place over the next several months.

We have completed the Harpur Dean search with the appointment, last week, of Dr. Elizabeth Chilton. Dr. Chilton will begin her role as Dean of Harpur College on July 15, 2017. She will be a wonderful addition to the Binghamton University campus and community.

We are on schedule with construction of the School of Pharmacy building and our plans to open it for fall 2018. We have started work on 48 Corliss, which will be the new home for the Decker School of Nursing. We expect completion on 48 Corliss to be in 2019.

STUDENT REPORT

Ryan Sheppard reported that the Student Association's elections were held and the polls closed at 9 p.m. last evening. The unofficial winners are: Jermel McClure Jr. as SA President; Glenn Avisado, the former Newing President and EVP will be the SA EVP; Libby Aliberti, an avid member of SAPB and its festivals committee, will be the Vice President for Programming; Raul Cepín is staying on as the incumbent Vice President for Academic Affairs; Joshua Gonzales, an experience Student Congress representative and Financial Committee member, will be the VPMA; and Rebecca Ho will be the new Vice President for Finance. These positions are expected to be confirmed on Monday, March 20. This group will provide a very solid and experienced e-board for next year.

The snow this week provided an exciting two-day break, in addition to the recent mid-winter break. Given the amount of snow and the unlikeliness that it will melt soon, many of the communities that were planning their annual spring field day events, such as Hinman Hysteria, are now moving them to late April.

REPORT ON STUDENT AFFAIRS AND INNOVATIONS

Vice President Rose reported on Student Affairs and Innovations.

REPORT ON COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Associate Vice President Delviscio reported on Communications and Marketing.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:21 a.m.