COUNCIL MINUTES
October 20, 2017

Present from Council: Linda Biemer, Anthony Fiala, Dennis McCabe, Kathryn Grant Madigan, James Orband, and Adam Wilkes

Present from the Community: President Stenger, Mr. Coker, Ms. Curtin, Mr. Delviscio, Mr. Deshmukh, Dr. Edouard, Mr. Elliott, Ms. Ellis, Ms. Fatima, Ms. Fauci, Chief Faughnan, Mr. Gantt, Ms. Gilroy, Ms. MacArgel, Ms. Medionte-Phillips, Ms. Mthombeni, Vice President Navarro, Provost Nieman, Ms. O’Neil, Mr. Parker, Prof. Plassmann, Vice President Rose, Ms. Scarlett, Dr. Stromhaug, Dean Tarhule, and Mr. Yarosh

CALL TO ORDER

The Binghamton University Council meeting was called to order at 9:18 a.m. on Friday, October 20, 2017 by chair Kathryn Grant Madigan.

Chair Madigan extended her congratulations to Martha Gahring on being awarded the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Classified Service which was awarded at last night’s Excellence Awards dinner.

The minutes of September 22, 2017 were approved.

PRESIDENT’S REMARKS

Approximately 1,200 alumni attended Homecoming weekend, October 6 - 8. Several events were celebrated during the weekend including Hinman College’s 50th anniversary and our Jewish students held a special ceremony for the installation of the new Binghamton Legacy Torah. Tom Moore and Garrett Waldron, two recent student athletes, were recognized. They are the third and fourth team sports athletes from Binghamton who have been named All-American. We also celebrated the life of Charlene Kramer, who was a consummate Binghamton alumna; she was honored with the dedication of the Kahlor Kramer Traditions Hallway in the Alumni Center reception area.

This month we recognized 75 faculty members who were promoted this past year.
Binghamton’s research has been the focus of some attention from Governor Cuomo, who was in Endicott to announce that Charge CCV will be at the center of a new consortium to develop and manufacture next-generation lithium-ion batteries for use in cars and other green applications.

We continue to move forward on the Health Sciences campus in Johnson City. President Stenger and Deans Meredith and Ortiz held a town hall meeting to discuss the development of the campus with Johnson City residents. The meeting was very successful and residents are very excited about the project.

President Stenger answered some questions from Mr. Wilkes relative to economic development.

Q: How much has the University’s presence increased regional incomes? Has its presence (and possibly Sodexo’s presence) suppressed the wage economy at all?
A: The average wage for the 229,000 employees in the Southern Tier has increased by 1.5%. Most likely many of our new hires’ salaries are above the region’s average. Sodexo employees represent about .3% of the Southern Tier workforce; Binghamton University about 3% of the workforce.

Q: Does Binghamton University, as one of the largest anchor institutions in the region, provide employer-assisted homeownership programs?
A: No, we do not. State funds would not be eligible for such a program, and our Foundation resources are too small to have an impact. Housing costs to salaries are modest compared to universities, such as MIT and Columbia, who may have programs.

Q: How much of the capital mobilized by the REDC and IDA is being invested towards non-profits?
A: President Stenger did not know, but we could find out from REDC.

Q: Are there any guidelines ensuring capital mobilized by REDC and IDA is distributed with equity and transparency?
A: All REDC members disclose all conflicts of interest annually and sign an oath to recuse themselves from discussions that would involve those conflicts of interests. All REDC meetings are open to the public and are routinely covered by the local press. Public comments are taken at all meetings, and all votes on funding decisions are done in the open meeting.

Q: Do REDC and IDA sponsored projects ever include mechanisms that spread wealth to working families which may include community benefit agreements, project labor agreements, or inclusionary zoning agreements?
A: Essentially all ESD and other state agency projects have community benefit agreements when they sign their contract with the state. Jobs, co-investments, and other public benefits are in that agreement and funds are not delivered until those agreements are met. We are required by state law to do a project labor agreement study for all major construction
projects. Inclusionary zoning agreements are part of many housing development projects where the developer agrees to make available housing for classes of people based on income or disability.

**STUDENT REPORT**

Mr. Wilkes thanked President Stenger for answering the questions on economic development. He also noted that one of his friends is employed by C4V.

Last month Mr. Wilkes brought up the issue of parking and transportation on campus. Students are happy that a new parking lot is being constructed near the West Gym. It is close to the science buildings, but is still far from busy facilities. Overcrowding on OCCT remains. Mr. Wilkes is discussing future options with various student organizations as well as members of the Parking and Transportation Stakeholders Group.

Mr. Wilkes continued by discussing some thoughts on economic development in the region. He is impressed with the hundreds of millions of dollars of capital re-investment by the REDC and IDA. However, the mode of economic development facilitated by these channels is clearly geared toward bringing business to the region, keeping business here, and helping businesses recapitalize and grow. This supply-side economics is not enough. If wage increases do not closely follow increases in the costs of living, and the purchasing power does not grow, private ventures will fail. Mr. Wilkes is worried that the monetary stimulus developed by the IDA and REDC bolters supply but ignores demand.

He also noted that social concerns of economic development persist as well. Growth of GDP does not necessarily indicate improvements in quality of life, reductions in poverty, and increases in opportunity.

Mr. Raviraj Deshmukh was elected president of the Graduate Student Organization and Mr. Wilkes looks forward to helping Mr. Deshmukh build a better relationship with the undergraduate Student Association.

**REPORT ON RESEARCH AND REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Mr. Parker, Ms. Curtin, and Dr. Stromhaug reported on the Division of Research.

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:18 a.m.