

COUNCIL MINUTES

April 21 2017

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

Present from the Community: President Stenger, Ms. Ellis, Ms. Fauci, Chief Faughnan, Ms. Hampton, Dr. Ignarri, Vice President Navarro, Provost Nieman, Ms. O'Neil, Mr. Parker, Vice President Rose, Ms. Scarlett, Professor Starks, Ms. Thompson, and Mr. Yarosh

CALL TO ORDER

The Binghamton University Council meeting was called to order at 9:12 a.m. on Friday, April 21, 2017 by chair Kathryn Grant Madigan.

The minutes of the March 17, 2017 were unanimously approved.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Stenger first congratulated Patrick Elliott on being named the Athletic Director of the Year by Under Armor.

Students have returned to campus from their spring break. Finals will begin in just three weeks.

The University has experienced a great tragedy with the accidental death of freshman student Conor Donnelly on March 18. Conor was a bright, talented young man from Pearl River, NY who was well-liked and respected by his fellow students. President Stenger and other staff and administrators have reached out to Conor's family, and the Counseling Center is providing counseling and other services to students.

President Stenger highlighted the work of our counseling and academic support teams who play an important part in helping students succeed when facing emotional challenges in their lives. This Student of Concern Committee helps students who are in distress by helping coordinate and engage a plan to address problems. This approach has proven very successful; last year 95% of the students they counseled completed the semester.

With the passing of the New York State budget came the Excelsior Scholarship program which will pay tuition for students from families earning less than \$125,000 per year. We at Binghamton recognize this is a major change in funding for students and a significant commitment to higher education. The change in funding structures will add some new challenges to the fiscal outlook of the University. This will be somewhat offset by a provision that allows campuses to increase tuition by a maximum of \$200 per year for the next four years for students who are not part of the Excelsior program.

Another aspect of the budget that we are viewing favorable is the inclusion of Maintenance of Efforts funds to support operational needs of the campuses, as well as critical maintenance funds totaling \$550 million. Binghamton will be receiving \$6.9 million to fund a research center at our Health Sciences campus. We will also receive \$10.6 million as part of a high priority fund for necessary maintenance projects.

The announcement of the Excelsior program has added a bit of excitement to the annual admissions process. We will so know how the Excelsior program will impact next year's admissions. Open House this Sunday will have 4,800 students and families attending.

There is still a concern for international graduate students; whether they can stay here in the U.S. to work is a question.

Professor Guy German, Biomedical Engineering, has received a prestigious NSF Early Career Development Award for his research that focuses on the biomechanical aging process and the development of a drug delivery system that uses skin creams and ointments.

Binghamton has been named a member of the Industrial Hemp Agricultural Pilot Project, which will allow University researchers to explore way to develop industrial and medicinal products from hemp.

We had a soft opening last week of the newly dedicated Koffman Southern Tier Incubator. This facility was one of our key priorities of our Regional Economic Development Agency.

We are also moving forward on a unique research project with the Living Building at Nuthatch Hollow on Bunn Hill Road. There are 11 of these buildings so far in the U.S. This building will produce more energy than it uses with minimal water resource usage.

Road Map renewal projects are due May 1. It will be up to the Road Map Steering Committee to rank these proposals. Final decisions should be made in June.

Congratulations to the men's Lacrosse team who has been having an excellent season. They will face #1 ranked Syracuse on Saturday.

The Binghamton University Debate Team has gained national rankings as third best public university debate team and sixth overall by the Cross Examination Debate Association.

STUDENT REPORT

Ryan started by asking for a brief moment of silence for Conor Donnelly. Ryan echoed the sentiments of President Stenger and offered his sincerest condolences to the Donnelly family and all of Conor's friends. After living in residential community for three years, Ryan said he knows how tough a shock like that can be on a community especially when the student is the President of a building.

Students just returned from spring break. Having the two breaks in the middle of the semester was a big help.

The GSO has just finished wrapping up their elections. Ryan congratulated Tom Mastro, the new President of the Graduate Student Organization; Joy Li, the new Vice President; and Shengsheng Zhou, the new VPMA.

Ryan outlined the Student Association Programming Board events -- On April 23, Van Jones, a prominent political commentator, will be speaking at Osterhout Concert Theater. On April 28th, Aidy Bryant, a comedian from SNL, will be coming to perform in Lecture Hall 1 with her own stand-up routine. The biggest event that students put on each year is Spring Fling, which will host Mac Miller as the headliner, Ty Dolla Sign, and Clockwork DJ. The student band that will be featured is POOL.

Ryan told Council that he felt the Southern Tier High Technology Incubator was very cool and he is very excited to see the types of businesses that come out of there and any expansion of our Entrepreneurship department here.

The theme of today's meeting is campus safety; a topic that has recently been brought up is the installation of a west side blue light system. From what Ryan can see, this sounds like a great idea that will help increase safety to students that live on the west side. Unfortunately, the reality is that Binghamton is a depressed city and at night, the streets are quite empty. It would be a welcome addition if students had an extra layer of security in case they run into trouble.

We are approving the Student Code of Conduct today. Ryan has reviewed the revised version of the Code with the Student Association and the Graduate Student Organization and it looks good from a student perspective.

Kate asked when the BU Council elections for our student rep will be held. The election will be May 4, and Ryan said he would highlight the importance of this election to students.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

Vice President Brian Rose reported on the proposed changes to the Code of Student Conduct. It was moved and seconded to approve, and after no discussion, it was unanimously approved.

REPORT ON SECURITY AND SAFETY

Chief Timothy Faughnan reported on security and safety on campus.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:20 am.