

**COUNCIL MINUTES**  
November 16, 2012

Present from Council: Thomas Doty, Dov Berkman, Albert Nocciolino, Matthew Salanger, and John Spring

Present from the Community: President Stenger, Mr. Coker, Ms. Collins, Mr. Delviscio, Director Elliott, Ms. Ellis, Ms. Gahring, Mr. Geiger, Mr. Kane, Provost Nieman, Ms. O'Neil, Vice President Rose, Vice President Sammakia, Mr. Soriano, Professor Strehle, and Mr. Yarosh

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Binghamton University Council meeting was called to order at 9:29 a.m. on Friday, November 16, 2012 by Thomas Doty, Acting Chair.

The minutes of the October 19, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

President Stenger reported that campus is very busy with students completing their final projects and beginning to study for final exams.

In late October, Hurricane Sandy devastated areas in downstate New York where many of our students are from. As the hurricane approached the area, the University's Incident Response team closely monitored the situation and the decision was subsequently made to cancel classes in response to the state of emergency and based on the projected path of the storm. While the Southern Tier was spared the brunt of the storm, it did affect the University's Executive MBA classes held in New York City and a number of employer recruiting visits were postponed. The University extended its application and completion deadline for the spring 2013 admissions and fall 2013 early action admission by two weeks since this deadline coincided with the interruptions caused by Hurricane Sandy.

Binghamton University's students have rallied together with fundraisers to support the Sandy relief efforts in hard-hit downstate New York with events including a "Cloudy with a Chance of Pancakes" dinner that raised over \$1,000, a basketball tournament with the proceeds donated to the efforts, a benefit concert, and the Poker Club donated money from their tournament winnings to the relief efforts.

There were a number of events held on campus in honor of Veterans Day. President Stenger asked Mr. Dov Berkman to discuss the events during his report to the Council.

The annual Scholarship Luncheon was held last weekend and was very well attended. The University celebrated giving out over \$2.3 million in student aid and scholarships this year. Much of the support came from the University's Bold.Brilliant.Binghamton Campaign which raised \$45 million to support

scholarships and educational opportunities and which added an additional 102 scholarship awards. These scholarships are a crucial part of the University's efforts to attract the best students and find ways to make their education affordable and accessible.

The Road Map process continues to move forward. Nine teams have been meeting regularly and are now preparing their specific proposals, due December 15, outlining a plan to arrive at their vision for the future. The "3 I" proposals outlining their initiatives, innovations, and ideas, will point the way to making Binghamton University the premiere public university in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. By the end of January, budget decisions will be made to determine the projects which will be invested in over the next four to five years.

The SUNY Board of Trustees has approved the 2013-2014 proposed budgets. The budget calls for an overall increase of 13% in state support, which strives to make up for the cuts that have been taken over the past four years. The proposal also includes a request for \$53 million in additional direct tax support for SUNY colleges and universities for operational expenses and \$13.36 billion in capital funding for SUNY over the next 10 years which will support economic development. We now await the outcome of the process to see what the Governor and the legislature approve.

#### **STUDENT REPORT:**

Mr. Berkman reported that a flag raising ceremony, held in front of the Couper Administration Building, kicked off the Veterans Day celebration events on campus. A number of veterans from the community as well as Binghamton University faculty, staff, and students, and representatives from Binghamton University's ROTC program, attended the ceremony. Throughout the weekend there were many events to which between 70-80 veterans and veteran dependants were invited. These included tabling at various venues to ensure that veterans, ROTC members, or anyone considering enlisting in military service were made aware of the support provided by the University through the Veterans Services Office and the Veteran's Center downtown. There was a forum held to discuss how to make the University a better place for veterans; and, approximately 20 student volunteers, along with President Stenger, gathered to assemble 75 "hero packs" for children whose parents are serving abroad in the military. The "hero packs" were backpacks filled with treats, games, and letters. The campus was decorated with yellow ribbons tied around many trees and telephone poles in celebration and recognition of veterans. All-in-all, the University showed much support for veterans through the various events, reported Mr. Berkman.

Mr. Berkman met with Ms. Laura Collins, Graduate Student Organization (GSO) President, and he recently presented to the GSO senate. During the meeting with Ms. Collins, she discussed a recent conversation she had with the Provost and the exciting possibility of providing Provost Fellowship Scholarships to incoming graduate students.

Mr. Berkman is thankful for the support and interest from the GSO for various initiatives on campus including the veteran's initiative and the many graduate student volunteers from the Decker School of Nursing who have volunteered for the tobacco smoking committee.

The Student Association has just confirmed four candidates to the judicial board. Since there have been vacancies on that board, the new members have been a very welcomed addition. Mr. Mark Soriano, Student Association President, is working on a project to create stronger class councils.

The Student Association (SA) sponsored Afrojack in concert on November 8<sup>th</sup> and Childish Gambino will be performing on November 28<sup>th</sup>. Further information about these events and more are available on the SA's website which is frequently updated, looks great, and is a great resource for the students.

Efforts continue to raise additional funds for *The New York Times* program. Funding is available to provide approximately 300–350 copies per day to campus, with efforts underway to restore the program to 400 copies per day and to guarantee funding which will make the program sustainable for the future.

The veteran's initiative is going very well and is expanding. Mr. Berkman is working with Mr. Marty Wygmans, Project Director of the TRIO Program and Veterans Services, an AmeriCorps Fellow, and a graduate assistant, and they have their hands full with the initiatives underway. Their central focus is the need for space for a veteran's lounge where veterans can gather together, get to know each other, study, and a place where a veteran's student group can meet. President Stenger has made some suggestions and Mr. Berkman looks forward to pursuing them.

The committee is looking to establish a veteran's student group to provide passive support and safe zones for veterans and their families. In order to begin the chartering process, they will need ten committed members and three executive board members. There will be two general interest meetings held next week and it is hoped that veterans, ROTC members, family members of those serving in the military, and faculty, staff, and students will show interest in this group. The general interest meetings have been advertised on Dateline and other outlets, and they look for a good turn-out to these meetings.

The Smoking Committee, now known as the Tobacco Policy Revision Committee, is underway and has met a few times. The meetings are formatted similar to the Road Map, where various experts from UHS, Decker School of Nursing, and student groups will be brought in to speak to the Committee as they do their research. The Committee will also be polling students in the next week to see what students want on campus as far as the smoking policy. The results and suggestions from this process will not be known by December, but this process will ensure that students are thinking about it. It is anticipated that the Committee's recommendations will be presented next semester.

#### **REPORT ON ACADEMIC INNOVATIONS:**

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Donald Nieman, gave a report on Academic Innovations. See detailed report attached.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m. The next meeting will be held on December 21, 2012 in Room AD-148 in the Couper Administration Building.