

COUNCIL MINUTES

October 19, 2012

Present from Council: Kathryn Grant Madigan, Dov Berkman, Thomas Doty, Anthony Fiala, Jr., Albert Nocciolino, James Orband, and Brian Prew

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

CALL TO ORDER:

The Binghamton University Council meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m. on Friday, October 19, 2012 by Kathryn Grant Madigan, Esq., Chair.

A moment of silence was observed honoring the memory of Mr. Robert M. Best, who recently passed away. Mr. Best was not only a champion in the local insurance industry and in the community, he was a former member of the Binghamton University Council, the founding Chairman of the Harpur Forum (now known as Binghamton Forum), he was instrumental in the development of the Thomas J. Watson School of Engineering and Applied Science, and he was the recipient of a University Medal from Binghamton University in 1988.

The minutes of the September 21, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Stenger reported that it has been an extraordinarily busy month since the last Council meeting. In the last month, the University officially celebrated the opening of the Bearcat Athletics Fields with a ceremony attended by Senator Tom Libous and Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo. This \$5 million project completes the development of the Bearcat athletics facilities which began nearly a decade ago with the construction of the Events Center. This complex makes Binghamton University the envy of other schools in the America East, reported President Stenger.

September is when college rankings come out. Binghamton University has done very well this year, moving up one spot in the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings. The *U.S. News & World Report*, ranked Binghamton 37th among public universities and colleges, and 89th among all public and private universities in its 2013 listing of "America's Best Colleges." *The Princeton Review* released its "Best 377 Colleges" guide ranking Binghamton University 4th on its "Top 10 Best Value Public Colleges for 2012." *Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine* ranked the University among the nation's best values in public colleges, coming in number two for out-of-state students. Binghamton University was ranked the 3rd most international-friendly campus by UNIGO, a college advice website that collects the opinions of

over 30,000 students. These rankings are important and provide recognition of the quality and commitment of Binghamton University's faculty and staff.

Last evening, Binghamton University honored 20 faculty and staff at the annual Excellence Awards Dinner. It was a wonderful event recognizing Binghamton University's remarkable faculty and staff for outstanding research, scholarship, and teaching, as well as internationalism and service to the campus community.

Last year, the University initiated a Mentoring Network focusing on first-year students, including freshman and transfer students, with the goal of connecting students with mentors and helpful resources on campus. This initiative reflects the University's commitment to mentoring and grew out of the Task Force on Undergraduate Education for the Digital Generation, chaired by Dr. Donald Loewen, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education. Studies have shown that close supervision and mentoring of these students significantly increases identification with the University, improved graduation and retention rates, and helps to guide students into career paths. This year, 1100 students and more than 100 faculty and administrators are taking part in this new initiative.

The second presidential forum took place on campus last week. This forum, focusing on Civic Engagement, sought ideas and proposals on how the University community can develop more connections with the Southern Tier. Approximately 50 faculty, staff, students and community members participated in this event which sought to answer questions such as how the University and the community interact, how interaction is different from engagement, and how do we get to engagement? President Stenger is hopeful that these conversations will generate proposals that will be incorporated into the Road Map process.

A Startup Weekend convention is being planned in downtown Binghamton on November 9, 2012. The goal of the convention is to encourage students in entrepreneurial activities that would lead them to become more invested in the community. Participants are encouraged to pitch their startup idea and the best of these will be used to develop proposals that will be judged by leading entrepreneurs from the community. Among the judges will be Mr. Eugene Krentsel, Assistant Vice President for Entrepreneurship and Innovation Partnerships, and Bioengineering Professor, Dr. Kenneth McLeod. It is hoped that new businesses will be launched as a result of this process.

Last week, Senator Gillibrand visited the University's Center for Autonomous Solar Power to advocate for the America Innovates Act. This Act would provide federal support to help scientist and researchers develop and market their discoveries with the goal of creating new companies and new jobs in promising high-tech fields. The Act would also help universities develop professional science master's programs and graduate degrees that will provide students with the skills they need to pursue careers in industry. The support provided through the Act would complement Binghamton University's efforts to establish pre-incubator space at the new Smart Energy Facility as well as the High Tech Incubator that will be established in downtown Binghamton.

The Road Map process continues to move forward and is at the half-way point. The teams have been meeting and have established vision statements and are beginning to narrow their proposals for presentations in mid-November. As the proposals are developed, they will be published on the Road Map website.

Homecoming Weekend was held last weekend and it was a very exciting and exhausting weekend. Nearly 1000 alumni came back to campus for this year's event where more than fifty separate events

took place including the Alumni Board Meeting, the School of Management's Mentoring and Networking Event, the Harpur Quad dedication, the Hall of Fame dinner, a tailgate party, soccer game, tours, concerts, etc.

During Homecoming Weekend, Binghamton University celebrated the successful conclusion of Bold.Brilliant.Binghamton: The Campaign for Binghamton University. This Campaign raised \$101.22 million for the University. At this celebration, the University surprised the Campaign Chair and Binghamton University Foundation Chair, Mr. Paul Turovsky, by presenting him with a University Medal for his exceptional service to the University and to the campaign. This is the highest honor the University can give and Mr. Turovsky was deeply honored. The University will now begin planning for the next campaign.

STUDENT REPORT:

Mr. Berkman reported that the Student Assembly meetings are now in session with meetings being held every Monday evening. Mr. Berkman plans to attend the Student Assembly meeting at least once a month as well as meeting monthly with the Student Association President and the Graduate Student Organization President to prepare for his report to the Council.

Binghamton University Junior, Anthony Galli, is running for the County Legislature in Vestal's 4th District. Mr. Galli has made a tremendous effort to register student voters and he is hoping that students will deliver and show up at the ballot boxes on campus.

Comedian Lewis Black will be performing on October 27th and Afrojack will be performing on November 8th on campus.

The New York Times program is back. Last year this program brought 400 copies of The New York Times to campus per day. This year, Aaron Ricks, Vice President for Academic Affairs, has worked hard at fundraising and has brought the program back to campus with 300 copies per day with the hope that the program will be restored to 400 copies per day soon. Current funding for this program is provided by the residential communities, the Dean of Students office, and the Provost's office. Students do take advantage of this program and find it valuable.

Mr. Berkman reported that he met with the Graduate Student Organization's (GSO) Senate, at the invitation of Ms. Laura Collins, GSO President. During this meeting, Mr. Berkman reported on his first report to the Binghamton University Council. The GSO's Senate was very humble and engaging and provided helpful advice for the smoking and the veteran's initiatives that Mr. Berkman is working on as student representative to the Council. The GSO Senate also expressed their concern about graduate assistanceships. They understand the limitations of the length of availability of the assistanceships, but hope that the offers and the expectations for the expiration of the offers can be better clarified upon admission.

Mr. Berkman has met with Student Association President, Mr. Mark Soriano, to discuss the smoking policy initiative. Together, they have developed tasks and deadlines for a committee of student that will be chosen to review the policy and to make recommendations. As has been reported, SUNY would like to ban tobacco smoking on all campuses by January 2014. The student committee is expected to be selected by next week and they will have a set of tasks such as educational marketing and meeting with the University Police, the Decker School of Nursing, Health Services. It is hoped that the committee

will complete their report and submit their recommendations on the smoking policy and efforts to enforce the policy by December.

Veteran's Day will be observed on Monday, November 12th, and there are a number of tentative events planned through the Veteran's Services Office. Tentative events include a kickoff, flag raising, luncheon for faculty/staff, and a Day of Service. The Veteran's Services Office is hopeful that these events will be a stepping stone to other events and services which will support student veterans.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Tom Doty reported that he was privileged and proud to represent Binghamton University at the annual Association of Council Members and College Trustees of the State University of New York (ACT) annual conference held October 12-14th in Lake Placid, NY. At the conference, Binghamton University senior, Alexander Hantman, was awarded the ACT's Excellence and Student Initiative Scholarship in recognition of his outstanding academic performance and extraordinary commitment to the campus and the community. Mr. Hantman is a stellar student with a 3.6 GPA and an extensive list of community service.

REPORT ON UNIVERSITY ENROLLMENT AND HOUSING:

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Donald Nieman, and Vice President for Student Affairs, Mr. Brian Rose, gave a report on Enrollment and Initiatives to Enhance Academic Affairs/Student Affairs Partnerships. See detailed report attached.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m. The next meeting will be held on November 16, 2012 in AD-148 in the Couper Administration Building.