

COUNCIL MINUTES
September 21, 2012

Present from Council: Kathryn Grant Madigan, Dov Berkman, Nathaalie Carey, Thomas Doty, Anthony Fiala, Jr., Albert Nocciolino, James Orband, Brian Prew, Matthew Salanger, and John Spring

Present from the Community: President Stenger, Professor Brown, Mr. Coker, Vice President Craner, Professor Deak, Mr. Delviscio, Director Elliott, Ms. Ellis, Ms. Gahring, Mr. Geiger, Ms. Glover, Provost Nieman, Ms. O’Neil, Vice President Rose, Interim Vice President Sammakia, and Mr. Soriano

CALL TO ORDER:

The Binghamton University Council meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.m. on Friday, September 21, 2012 by Kathryn Grant Madigan, Esq., Chair.

The minutes of the May 11, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

President Stenger welcomed everyone to the first Council meeting of the 2012-13 academic year. He introduced the new student representative to Council, Yutzchak-Dov “Dov” Berkman. Dov is a senior majoring in political science and history. He is a second year resident assistant in College in the Woods, where he has served as the community’s Executive Vice President and representative to the Student Assembly. The President has assigned a special project for Mr. Berkman to work on, on behalf of the Council, and Mr. Berkman will discuss the project during his Student Report.

President Stenger reported that it has been a very busy and exciting summer. Binghamton University has just welcomed an excellent first year class including the freshman, transfer, and graduate students. As President Stenger has reported in the past, the University has a plan to grow enrollment, and this fall welcomed an additional 500 students to campus. This additional population is composed of approximately 400 freshman and transfer students, and 157 new graduate students. While the University’s target growth was for an additional 100 graduate students this fall, there were an additional 157 graduate students who enrolled. The University’s Enrollment Management Team, under the direction of newly appointed Provost Nieman, does an excellent job of managing the population and the growth.

With the added growth, there has been some housing issues which Vice President Brian Rose and his staff have worked very hard, and done an excellent job, to manage. Student Affairs, and the Residential Life staff, is working to make sure that students who were in triplets are moved to doubles as soon as possible.

The move-in process is always a huge task, but this year the weather was beautiful and the process went smooth with the help of 1,500 staff and volunteers. Move-in weekend culminated with University Fest where all of the student clubs have the opportunity to present what they are working on. The big draw at University Fest, however, is the thousands of books that are given away to the community and students. President Stenger believes that this sends the right academic message to the campus and to the community.

During the summer, 3,400 freshman and transfer students came to campus for one of 10 two-day Orientation sessions. The highlight, for one group, was the opportunity to hear alum, Billy Baldwin, who was on campus and stopped by to welcome the new students to campus.

Over the summer, we have been busy working on the Road Map process. There are approximately 400 faculty, staff, student, community and alumni volunteers which make up the nine "Road Map Teams." Each of the nine teams must complete their vision of aspirational goals by mid-October, with draft proposals for initiatives, innovations, and ideas submitted in mid-November, and final proposals due in mid-December. Provost Nieman and the President will then base their final budget decisions on these recommendations for fiscal years 2013-14, 2014-15, and 2015-16.

The Governor has approved and signed the NYSUNY 2020 proposal which provides funding for a new \$70 million Smart Energy Center at the ITC complex; allows for a gradual increase of student enrollment by 2,000 over the next four years (this year's increase is part of this plan); and allows for rational tuition for University Centers that allows funding for 150 new full-time faculty as well as new academic programs. The University has already started the hiring process and there have been 45 new full-time faculty hires thus far. The hiring will be spread broadly among the sciences, liberal arts, and professional schools.

Through a partnership with the Community, we have recently announced a new high-tech job creation Incubator which will be located at the intersection of Hawley and Carroll streets in Binghamton. This \$22 million project is funded by the Regional Economic Development Council, the IDA, and a federal grant and will provide space and professional support for up to ten new firms including financial, legal, and regulatory resources. This project, which is expected to bring new and exciting activity and vibrancy to the area, will allow new technology products to be designed and manufactured and will assist with getting these new products to market.

The campaign for Binghamton University, Bold.Brilliant.Binghamton, successfully concluded on June 30th and raised \$101.22 million. These funds will be used to enhance educational opportunities for students, foster innovative research by faculty and strengthen the University for years to come. The initial campaign goal was \$95 million, but when that goal was obtained in the spring, \$100 million became the new stretch goal. More than 30,000 donors contributed to this campaign, successfully pushing it past the new stretch goal.

The President recently met with alumni, current students, and parents of new students in the Albany, Syracuse, and the Buffalo areas. The purpose of these meetings was to give an update regarding changes at the University, to thank them for their support, and to encourage further involvement with the University. These intimate meetings, with approximately 30-40 people at each meeting, were very successful.

In the spring, there was a racially insensitive issue on campus. At that time, the President promised to hold a Diversity and Inclusiveness Forum to address concerns of racial insensitivity on campus. That Forum, organized by Valerie Hampton, Director of Affirmative Action, and Randall Edouard, Director of Educational Opportunity Program, was held on campus last evening. Several faculty members along with 53 students attended the 2 ½ hour long event which generated valuable discussions and allowed students to share perspectives and express challenges, develop lines of communication, and find ways to address the issues and become more inclusive. At the end of the Forum, the President encouraged attendees to start a new tradition at Binghamton, a tradition he labeled, “random acts of inclusiveness.”

Things are going well at Binghamton University, reported President Stenger, and the University is highly respected as a University Center within the SUNY System. The future looks bright at Binghamton University.

STUDENT REPORT:

Mr. Berkman began by thanking the President and the President’s Office staff for being so welcoming and accommodating to him in his new position with the Binghamton University Council.

It is a daunting task to represent the entire student body, reported Mr. Berkman. During the coming year he plans to work very closely with the Student Association and with the Graduate Student Organization in order to become the informed voice of the students and to learn the needs of the student body. Mr. Berkman also plans to attend a Student Assembly meeting at least once a month and will form his student report to the Council based on all of these meetings and interactions.

Mr. Berkman thanked President Stenger for the Road Map Teams and for including students in the process. Two of Mr. Berkman’s College in the Woods residents are members of the Infrastructure Team and they have commented that they truly feel included and that their voice is important in the process. The students are looking forward to the year ahead.

Mr. Berkman noted that he recently had a meeting with President Stenger; during that meeting President Stenger asked him if he wanted to speak to the Council regarding construction on campus. Mr. Berkman declined but mentioned that while construction on campus is inconvenient, student do appreciate and understand the benefits of the process. There have been some student concerns expressed about safety with the construction staff working so closely to the residential buildings. Another concern is smoking on campus. President Stenger encouraged Mr. Berkman to review the smoking policy and to work with the Decker School of Nursing and Health Services on ways to improve the policy. It was noted that SUNY would like to ban smoking on all campuses. Mr. Berkman believes that a smoking ban would be difficult to enforce but would improve the overall health of the campus.

As mentioned during the President’s Report, President Stenger has assigned a special project for Mr. Berkman to work on during the academic year. Mr. Berkman has a special interest in Veteran Services and would like to see a better environment for the student veterans on campus. President Stenger encouraged Mr. Berkman to work with the TRIO/Veteran’s Office to find ways in which the campus can improve the process for veterans. Mr. Berkman will work with the TRIO/Veteran’s Office on this project.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Chair Madigan reported that Tom Doty has agreed to represent the Binghamton University Council at the annual Association of Council Members and College Trustees of the State University of New York (ACT) annual conference which will be held October 12-14th in Lake Placid, NY. Binghamton University senior, Alexander Hantman, has been 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. This award will be presented to Alexander at the October 13th ACT luncheon.

REPORT ON 2012-2013 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Provost Nieman, President Stenger on behalf of Vice President Van Voorst, Vice President Craner, Interim Vice President Sammakia, Vice President Rose, and Director Elliott outlined their Division's 2012-2013 goals and objectives. See detailed Goals and Objectives 2012-2013 attached.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m. The next meeting will be held on October 19, 2012 in AD-148 in the Couper Administration Building.