CALL TO ORDER

The Binghamton University Council meeting was called to order at 9:22 a.m. on Friday, March 9, 2018 by chair Kathryn Grant Madigan.

The minutes of December 15, 2017 were approved.

PRESIDENT’S REMARKS

President Stenger reported that a lot has happened since the last Council meeting in December. In the interest of time, he will present an abbreviated report and he asked Ms. Gahring to include his full report in the meeting minutes.

The semester has gotten off to a good start. Students are now in the thick of their academic work, preparing for midterms and developing class projects.

Unfortunately, the semester started with sad news when we were informed of the death of one of our students, sophomore Aaron “AJ” Dannenbring, who died near his home in Westchester. AJ was an undeclared student in Harpur who was well-liked by his teachers and peers. Responding to these types of incidents is really one of the hardest parts of my job as it is heartbreaking to speak to parents in these situations. That is why we work so hard to keep our students safe and to provide strong mental health support.
This week students have been on their Winter Break. Originally, the break was scheduled to run from Saturday until Wednesday, but the winter storm that hit the region and which was particularly severe in the New York Metro and Long Island regions, where many of our students live, caused us to extend the break for an additional day. We were concerned about students traveling back to Binghamton in inclement conditions and felt, in an abundance of caution, that it would be best to postpone classes. So, the students are back today. In somewhat of a scheduling anomaly, they will have another break at the end of the month.

We are working hard to keep students healthy. That has been especially challenging this year due, in part, to a greater than normal incidence of flu, both nationally and at Binghamton. Last month Governor Cuomo declared the flu a public health emergency. This is considered one of the worst years for flu in several decades, and student visits to the Decker Health Center are up significantly. Harpur’s Ferry transported more than a dozen students to hospital emergency rooms during the month of January. Decker offered a free flu vaccination to students through a grant from United Healthcare Insurance. More than 1,100 students took advantage of it, but unfortunately the vaccine has proven only partially successful this year. We have had a lot of flu cases on campus, but we were responsive and encouraged faculty to work with students who are ill and to be flexible with attendance and coursework deadlines. We want students to stay out of class if they are ill to avoid spreading the virus.

Decker also offered free "Cold and Flu Packs." The pack contains Tylenol, Advil, Peppermint Tea, Chicken Noodle Soup, Vitamin C, Cough Drops, disposable thermometers, surgical masks, and other “cold related” items. We have had a brisk response and to date have sent out almost 300 packs. Dr. Michael Leonard, Director of the Decker Health Center, believes that we are over the hump, as flu cases are trending downward.

Our faculty has been very busy with their research and scholarship and they are getting great visibility for the University in the popular and scientific press. Anthropology Professor Ralph Quam was featured in the news for his role in helping to discover the world’s oldest human skull outside of Africa. The skull is believed to be 175,000 years old.

Mechanical Engineering professor Congrui Jin has found that adding fungi spores to concrete can help concrete “self-heal” as it develops cracks and chips. As cracks develop in the concrete, the spores are exposed to air and precipitate calcium carbonate which helps to heal the cracks. The idea of self-healing concrete would do wonders for our infrastructure.

Significantly, the most recent BBC World Service Radio Program, “Science in Action,” featured stories on Professor Quam and Professor Jin in its hour-long programs. This meant that Binghamton University cornered the market with two out of the four segments on the show focusing on our faculty research.

Psychology professor Matthew Johnson received lots of press for a short piece he wrote for the academic research aggregator, “The Conversation,” which was picked up by hundreds of other news services including USA Today, CNN, and Salon.com. Johnson’s article was a summary of
psychological research that dispels the notion that opposites attract, showing instead that people are drawn to similar personalities when choosing a mate. While articles like this get visibility in the popular press, these large, mass market stories help bring Binghamton into people’s homes across the country, and put our faculty on the radar for larger, more important recognition. We saw this recently with, Materials Science Professor M. Stanley Whittingham, who was identified as a Thompson-Reuter Laureate a couple of years ago, putting him on the list of potential Nobel prize winners. He was just named a member of the National Academy of Engineering for his pioneering work on lithium-ion batteries. More than 200 members of the National Academy are Noble laureates.

Our faculty is also deeply involved in hands-on research that is impacting our communities, both in the Southern Tier and across New York State. For example, the Decker School of Nursing in collaboration with the Watson School just opened the Southern Tier Telemedicine and Mobile Health Research Development and Training Center. This will allow for expanded simulation and clinical experiences for students and expose them to telemedicine and technologies that they may or may not have a chance to experience during their clinical rotations. The school is also working with hospitals in six surrounding rural communities, some more than 60 miles away from Vestal, to train their healthcare providers to help deliver high-quality care to underserved patients.

There are a couple of research programs being developed at Binghamton University and they are seeking federal funding to develop Research Centers. One proposed Research Center is in the area of opioid use and disorder treatment, education, and community harm. This Center is being developed in collaboration with SUNY Upstate Medical University and community leaders. A Lyme Disease Research Center is also being proposed. This Center would focus on the disease’s Epidemiology and Ecology, Diagnostics, and Public Health and would be headed-up by faculty from the Pharmaceutical Sciences and Anthropology.

Earlier this month, State Senator Fred Akshar and the Joint Senate Task Force on Heroin and Opioid Addiction were on campus to host a public forum on opioid abuse. This is a crisis across the nation, but it has been especially hard on the Southern Tier. More than 100 people participated, splitting into five panels concentrating on advocacy, prevention and recovery, treatment, law enforcement, and the business community. Many of the speakers were representatives from regional health care, nonprofit and rehabilitation centers, or had dealt with substance use disorders themselves. Senator Akshar is taking the lead in addressing this issue in New York, and it’s important that the concerns of the community be addressed. We appreciate the role that our campus can play in working with community leaders to address hard challenges.

The University’s increased visibility led to a surge in applications. We have had over 38,000 applications for admissions for the fall class of 2018 – a 15% increase over last year. The offer letters were mailed and we are waiting to hear back from them. These decisions are very difficult for parents and students, but we expect to hear back from the offers within the next couple of months. There are many open houses and yield events taking place to recruit the best possible class.
We continue to see a drop in international enrollments due in large part to the perception that the U.S. is less receptive than it has been; this is damaging to the campus both in terms of our international reputation and to the campus’s fiscal situation, as most international students pay full tuition. Graduate recruitment remains a priority but here, in particular, the challenge of recruiting international students is hurting us, with the number of international applications down by over 25%. To offset this, we are working hard to get offers out early to our domestic graduates, and we’ve seen a 54% increase in deposits paid by our domestic graduate applicants.

Not only are we getting better students on our campus, we are working hard to ensure that they succeed. Last month the University’s Associate Vice Provost for Institutional Research, Effectiveness and Planning Nasrin Fatima posted a tweet that showed that Binghamton outperforms our peers in terms of the six-year graduation rate. What was significant about her post was the fact that it showed that this was true for every racial and ethnic demographic group, and that the distance between our campus and others was often very large for black students, 78% of Binghamton students graduate, compared to only 67% for our peers; for Hispanic students the difference was 85% compared to 65%. Overall our graduation rates exceeded our peers by 10 percentage points, 85% compared to 75%. It’s clear that we are doing things right.

The Johnson City projects are moving along very well. The School of Pharmacy building is almost complete and will be ready for a July move-in with the first- and second-year Pharmacy students making their new academic home there. The Research and Development facility adjacent to the school is in the design phase with the construction scheduled to begin later this year. The Decker School of Nursing facility is also on track; interior design work is on-going and all of the remedial asbestos removal and environmental work is completed. We have received $1.5 million in funding to provide for the demolition and removal of buildings located across the street from the campus at 42-46 Corliss Avenue. What is most exciting about this project is that we are already seeing significant private investment in the community surrounding the campus. A private developer, Reagan Properties, has secured rights to 59 Corliss Avenue, a building that has been an eyesore in Johnson City, and is proposing a $32 million renovation featuring moderate income housing. Other developers have purchased properties for mixed-use development, and we are hopeful that Johnson City, Binghamton, and Endicott will see some State funding to support street enhancement and other mixed-use development. These State investments should generate between $20 and $30 million in private investments in these communities.

As the University has gotten bigger, we’ve outgrown our current library facilities, and have needed to place a portion of our holdings in storage, where it can be retrieved on an as-needed basis. Toward this end, we’ve been working with the Broome County IDA to take possession of a property on Park Street, near the Health Sciences Campus. We had been in earlier negotiations to obtain the facility, but the owners have basically disappeared, and the county is moving forward with eminent domain proceedings. Prior to this, we were working with Senator Chuck Schumer to arrange a lease arrangement with the U.S. Postal Service for a facility in downtown
Binghamton, but these negotiations fell through due to unmanageable delays in the leasing process.

These types of activities are beginning to show the returns we expected. A recent report by the Broome County Chamber of Commerce highlights growth in construction and healthcare, both of which have been fueled by the University’s growth and strategic directions. Infusions of State funding for economic development are beginning to pay off as indicated in a report by Gary Keith, a Buffalo-based regional economist for M&T Bank, who reported that for the first time in ten years, there are upturns in employment, incomes, and the area’s gross domestic product.

The role that colleges and universities play in regional economic development was highlighted by SUNY Chancellor Kristin Johns during her State of the University address as well as in her remarks at State budget hearings in Albany. She is asking for increased support for the University-led Small Business Development Centers that support regional economic development. She also emphasized the role that SUNY plays in New York’s sustainability efforts. In her funding request, she asked the legislature to support the Governor’s proposed $350 million investment in critical maintenance funding, as well as restoration of $5.9 million to the State’s EOP program that was cut in the Governor’s executive budget.

The SUNY budget has some challenges this year but they are not insurmountable. The Governor’s budget includes funding for further implementation of the Excelsior Scholarship program. Overall, the Governor’s budget proposal for SUNY is essentially the same as last year. The Legislature has held its hearings regarding the budget and the Senate and Assembly will go into conference in a couple of weeks to develop a budget to present to the Governor. The budget will have to be finalized by March 27. It looks like we will be fine as a University, although we may have to take some small cuts next year. We are looking at some programs that might need to be reduced slightly, not academic programs, but mostly Operations, Student Affairs, and Research. However, we believe that if we can grow our graduate enrollment slightly, we may not have to take any cuts at all.

We recently submitted a proposal to SUNY that would allow for the development of a new academic program in Human Rights. This new Masters of Science program developed out of our new Human Rights Institute, co-directed by Professors David Cingranelli of our Political Science department and Alexandra Moore from our English department. The program will focus on training advanced students for careers in human rights advocacy and research and, if approved, will also complement the work of our interdisciplinary Institute for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention (I-GMAP) that was established last year through the engagement of Owen Pell. Together, these programs will help make Binghamton a leader in the disciplines dealing with human rights.

There is no denying that we are living in contentious times, with deep divisions over almost every political issue. These divisions intrude into the day-to-day workings of the University. As a result, I am frequently called upon to clarify the University’s stance on one issue after another. Most recently, in response to the horrible high school shooting that took place in Florida last
month, students across the nation, including some who are applying to Binghamton University, are expressing their activism by walking out of classes or engaging in other forms of protest. This has led some schools to threaten to punish these students with suspensions or demerits that are reflected on the high school transcripts of would-be applicants. After discussing this with Provost Nieman, we agreed that students should not be penalized for their political engagement, and any such marks against a student will not be a factor in our admissions process. We have informed our applicants and have released a statement on our social networks.

These debates, along with conversations with faculty and senior staff, also have led me to consider, more philosophically, what our campus stands for and what we value. The traditional statement of values inscribed on our University seal: Unity, Identity, and Excellence provided a good starting point, but needed clarification. The University’s mission and vision statements have been regularly updated to reflect the changing environment and purpose; yet our statement of values are the same as they were 50 years ago when the campus seal was designed. Working with faculty and students, we have issued a statement reaffirming our values and hope to further engage the university community in continued conversations about our values.

**STUDENT REPORT**

Mr. Wilkes reported, “At the first BU Council meeting of this year, on September 22, 2017, I stated verbatim that I wanted to advance a framework of truthful, inter-party communication. I also stated that I was excited for robust dialogue about the future of the university in this privileged space.

I want to apologize to members of the Council and other administrators present in this room because that has not been the case here for many months. Since approximately early November, I have been quite aware that this is not the case. In the November and December meetings I tried to put up a front that there was hope in theoretical, collaborative possibilities. It was fruitless, and when I tried to bring up concerns about lying and deception in private to University officials and the chairwoman of this Council, Kate Madigan, I was shut down. Now I am going to be truthful, and it would have been better for the university community if I were truthful for the past five months past.

The very head of the University is not interested in truthful communication, robust dialogue, and democracy. President Harvey Stenger is deeply dedicated to an exclusive and top-down system of power and administration. The lengths to which they have gone to protect this model are astonishing and systematic.

While they have the argument that it is not the role of students to administrate university affairs, or it is not the role of the BU Council to concern itself in regulatory affairs, I would argue that we are so far away from that realm of democratic decision-making that we have a moral obligation to allocate both this Council, and the students of Binghamton, an expanded slice of engagement. There have always been students who care, want to be involved, and there always will be.
The administration, to their advantage, has cultivated a totalitarian-like environment where no one can criticize them. When they refused to include the Student Association on a search committee in the fall of 2016, Stenger blatantly lied to cover up his tracks. When caught in the lie, he never apologized, never committed to change, and still supported the decision to exclude the SA from the search committee.

Where are the decisions made? The Roadmap Steering Committee. This past summer, the President of the Student Association, Jermel McClure, invited me to this committee, but Harvey Stenger’s office denied it.

No matter what Stenger as well as Vice President of Student Affairs Brian Rose commit to in public, they do not believe in including student leaders who disagree with them or make their life more complicated. Despite a long conversation Mr. Rose and I had about the transportation fee, I was denied to sit ex-officio on the Parking and Transportation Stakeholders Group. Despite his public promise in November that myself, or Mr. McCabe, or any interested Council members could meet candidates for the new director of Parking and Transportation, to me at least, Rose never made it happen despite repeated email requests.

We all know on some level that President Stenger’s brand is a student-friendly, student-engaging President, but that is just a brand but we shouldn’t be comfortable with that. Our leaders bear the burden of expressing their visions, proactively or defensively, and converting the nuances of reality into constructive frameworks to help students understand why the University does what it does. Even if Stenger does yoga with freshman in Mountainview a few times a semester, if he refuses to answer the emails of an elected student leader, how is he prepared to lead?

Stenger might claim he doesn’t talk to me because I have been rude to him, or particularly when I caught him in two public lies last year. But after being shut out of an important search committee, I would not have been doing my job if I didn’t hold him accountable for such an offensive against collaborative shared governance.

Certain statements have also been said to me, such as Brian Rose claiming I was being “isolated because I violated the culture of the Council,” and the Dean of Students April Thompson claiming that I had a fundamental choice to make, either “being an activist on the outside, or being on the inside.” She essentially invited me to “be on the inside,” but once April Thompson and Vice President Rose realized that they had given me a verbal invitation to actually have the potential to advance certain democratic or egalitarian principles in their internal spaces of administration, that offer had to be rescinded. Thompson claimed she wanted to work with me, but she never responded to any of my emails since November, including offers to meet to better understand the comment process and how we could work together to reform that. Stenger, too, does not respond to any of my inquiries. And again, I am the elected student representative to the Binghamton University Council, yet any student really should be invited to participate in the process of making decisions.
In early October, I protested the Governor at an event in Endicott, but by the end of the month I had apologized to the Governor and the Council representatives. I have certainly misused my credentials as a Council member to launch that protest but that is not the issue here. The ways I have been misled since October precede October. The scope of my activism is mostly irrelevant, it is the mere fact that I have this position, and also I have certain democratic and socialistic convictions that inspired Harvey Stenger to conspire to contain me since last year.

I have stopped working with Stenger and this administration for the most part, because this administration is committed to a dictatorial style of governance and because its deceptive and deflective tactics are cumulative. Progress is being made in Parking and Transportation, but there was nothing else this Council was allowed to contribute to that effect because of their exclusive governance style. The same goes for the Code of Conduct. The same goes for faculty diversity. And again, I remind all of you that this isn’t about me; it is about the past and the future. There have been excluded students in the past and there will be excluded students in the future. I am graduating in three months, but the bills I propose today go beyond this year. It is about the future. Even if student representatives to the Binghamton University Council have different interpretations about the levels of exclusion or problematic behavior going on here, it doesn’t change the fact that they should have a voice and they should have the ability to express those concerns and this Council should follow-up its legal obligations to report those issues to the SUNY Board of Trustees after discussion and consensus here amongst the Council.

Kate, Matthew, Dennis, Jim, Tony, and Linda: If you believe in doing what’s right in robust democracy, and civilization, inclusion, transparency, introducing this very sunlight to a dark and dysfunctional system, I strongly urge you to think about passing these seven bills, or one through six of them, or any partial measure of them. It is a Program for Inclusion. I look forward to debating every one of them.”

Mr. McCabe responded to Mr. Wilkes’ report stating that he found Mr. Wilkes report a personal report, not the students’ report. He reminded Mr. Wilkes that he is a member of Council to represent the students on campus. “This report was all about you and your own grievances but it was also highly offensive. It is so offensive it is hard to even pinpoint. From the very first sentence to the very end it was so personally and professionally offensive. We have worked with you since you came onto the Council, and you have been offensive from the get-go. We tried to work through that and to have you make that statement out here against the President of the University and the Vice President of the University, I don’t get what you are trying to accomplish on behalf of the students of the University. You are their representative on this Council. This was all about your grievances, not the grievances of the people that you are supposed to represent. I think you have forgotten your role here on this Council. This is not a personal vendetta council for members to express their own grievances. You are here to represent the students. Frankly, I think you owe an apology to the President and to the Vice President of the University. I have been waiting for that since you came onto the Council and you started this offensive against them. You have taken it to a new level today. It is totally offensive and I am greatly disappointed in your conduct here today.”
Mr. Salanger agreed with Mr. McCabe’s comments saying that they were well stated. He responded to Mr. Wilkes, “To call this University a dark and dysfunctional system is not my view of the world. We have a jewel here that is well-led and doing great things for students and this community.”

Mr. Wilkes responded, “I think this is an incredible University and some of the experiences I have had here are also incredible. We have programs that are premiere, world class, and everyone here knows that. That doesn’t change the fact that there are decisions made, the mid-term, long-term business planning of the University, it is highly controlled. Students who disagree with the vision of the President and whatever influences that are also being made on that President, they are not being elevated and they are not given a space. This is one of the few that I believe exists, and it is one formal student position because of a state law that was designed in the 1960s, and I am not surprised. Road Map, stakeholder groups, certain ad hoc committees, they only select students who they know will never disagree with them. It is not that they are wrong, most of the time most students who disagree with them don’t know what they are talking about; most of the time they like to poke the bear, they are irrational. Democracy works that way and we need to know those other opinions because that doesn’t necessarily mean that those who are running the show are also completely competent. It is their job, especially because this is a public university, a tax payer university, it is the job of the people in power here to have a real dialog about why thing are the way that they are and to let other students and faculty take part in the decision making process.”

In response to Mr. McCabe, Mr. Wilkes stated, “It might seem that this is personal, and I only have my own experiences to speak of, and I was not greenlighted by the other stakeholder groups, so I am not speaking on behalf of the Student Association and the Graduate Student Organization, per say.”

Chair Madigan asked Mr. Wilkes, “What does that say that you couldn’t collaborate on behalf of the other student leaders and have them buy into this? Go back and see how many “I” and how many “me” comments and statements are made in that report. Our student representatives have historically tapped into the pulse of students and we have often disagreed on various issues. That is what creates democratic processes and decision making. You have been so self-centered in all that you have done and I don’t see what you have been able to do in the past seven months to benefit the students that you represent. We have had some tremendously successful and collaborative and non-combative student representatives over the years that have made a real contribution to the student body. We have tried very hard, as Mr. McCabe stated, from the very beginning. We have spent hours with you and I feel you are just not getting it.”

Chair Madigan moved the discussion to the next item on the agenda stating, “The Council has already had some discussion about the proposed bills prior to the formal meeting.” She encouraged Mr. Wilkes to take to heart the feedback that he had already received from members of the Council about the proposed bills.
Mr. Wilkes presented the attached Program for Inclusion bills which he had shared with Council members prior to the meeting.

**Bill 1: Promoting Accessibility and Availability** – Bill failed

Mr. Wilkes withdrew the second “therefore” clause of the bill, regarding not scheduling Council meetings to begin earlier than 10:30 am, upon presenting the resolution.

Mr. McCabe stated that consistent throughout the seven resolutions, many of the “whereas” clauses are inflammatory and he will not support a resolution unless all of the “whereas” clauses are removed.

Chair Madigan agreed with Mr. McCabe, and further stated that some of the “whereas” clauses are demonstratively false. Chair Madigan further stated that at the last meeting Mr. Wilkes talked about a number of concerns which he indicated were representing the concerns of the students. The issues were related to marijuana and the Code of Conduct, etc. At that meeting, Mr. Wilkes agreed to create a task force and to work with a group of students collaboratively and come up with a proposal for a sub-committee for the Code of Conduct. The Council assumed that Mr. Wilkes would follow through on his commitment to create the task force and that the process by which the Program for Inclusion was created was inclusive and the result of a collaborative process with a large group of students who had a stake in the University. Chair Madigan asked Mr. Wilkes, “Who wrote the proposals? Was it part of a collaborative process or was it just written by you?”

Mr. Wilkes stated that he wrote the bills and that leaders of the stakeholders (the Student Association eBoard, the Chairs of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the Faculty Senate, and the Professional Staff Senate) saw them and gave him feedback on them. Mr. Wilkes stated that these groups did not rally around the proposals. Mr. Wilkes thought about their feedback though and removed a lot of the more inflammatory “whereas” clauses.

Chair Madigan asked Mr. Wilkes, “What other students were involved in the process, besides the Student Associations eBoard governance?”

Mr. Wilkes stated, “A lot of students don’t care that much, or they don’t care enough to show up at the meetings, they are busy and they have lives, they don’t know the policies, and they don’t even know that we exist.” Mr. Wilkes stated that he can’t poll the student body and he can’t meet with every single organization on campus.

Chair Madigan suggested that Mr. Wilkes could have surveyed the student body or he could have conducted some focus groups. She expressed her disappointment that the bills were only developed by Mr. Wilkes.

There was no second to the motion to approve the bill.
Bill 2: Encouraging Student Engagement – Bill tabled until next Council meeting

Chair Madigan reported that the Binghamton University Council meetings are well-publicized on the Binghamton University Council’s webpage and the meeting dates are posted and publicized on the SUNY website and, in the past, there have been a number of Council meetings where students have attended including representatives of leadership and other students interested in the process. Chair Madigan suggested that as a student representative, Mr. Wilkes could publicize the Council meetings in the Pipe Dream or on the SA’s website. Action: Mr. Wilkes

Chair Madigan made a motion that the bill be tabled so that Mr. Wilkes could talk with those in the University that have access to the web sources and see what can be done to better publicize the Council meetings. Mr. Yarosh, Senior Director of Media and Public Relations, agreed to meet with Mr. Wilkes to discuss this matter. Mr. Wilkes agreed to meet with Mr. Yarosh. Action: Mr. Wilkes

Mr. McCabe suggested that Mr. Wilkes also compare what he is proposing for future publication of the meetings compared to what already exists so that Council can compare and discuss it at the next meeting. Action: Mr. Wilkes

Mr. Wilkes agreed to remove all of the “whereas” clauses from the bills.

The motion was seconded to table the bill for discussion at the next Council meeting.

Bill 3: Restoring Oversight to the Conduct Review Process – Bill tabled until next Council meeting

Chair Madigan stated, “We do have a process, similar to other Councils throughout the state, in that we have a person on the Council who has worked collaboratively with Vice President Rose in the development of the changes and that students are involved in that process. The information is then shared in a very transparent way with all of the members of the Council. We have used this process for quite some time and it has worked well. Other Councils have also found this process to work well.”

Chair Madigan stated that at the last Council meeting, Mr. Wilkes agreed to create a task force to ensure that there would be this level of communications with Vice President Rose regarding the Code of Conduct.

Mr. Wilkes stated that he agreed to do this at that time because he was optimistic, but he should not have agreed to do so. Mr. Wilkes stated, “Most students are busy, it is tough for them to get onto these task forces, and there is already an ad hoc committee.”

Mr. McCabe made a motion to table the resolution in order to obtain input from the Division of Student Affairs comparing what Mr. Wilkes is proposing with what presently exists. Council
would then be able to determine whether Mr. Wilkes’ proposals would make improvements or just duplicate what already exists. **ACTION:** Chair Madigan

The motion was seconded to table the bill for discussion at the next Council meeting.

**Bill 4: Democratic Oversight of the University President** – Bill failed

Chair Madigan asked Mr. Wilkes if he had prepared a formal evaluation metric for the proposed evaluation since the bill refers to attached documents, and there were no documents attached.

Mr. Wilkes stated that he had not prepared the document, but that he will if the Council agrees to move forward.

As a point of information, Chair Madigan read from the SUNY-approved ACT (Association of Council Members and College Trustees of the State University of New York) Handbook for University Council members. The document states that Councils have limited regulatory authority with regard to the “management of lands, grounds, buildings and equipment,” and “the conduct and behavior of students,” and to “exercise supervision over student housing and safety.” Only the SUNY Board of Trustees and the Chancellor has the regulatory authority to evaluate and regulate the actions of the President. Councils are primarily advisory and they also have the duty to engage in advocacy on behalf of the institution. The Council lacks the authority to approve what Mr. Wilkes is suggesting and she expressed concern that the bill refers to documents that have not been produced.

There was no second to the motion to approve the bill.

**Bill 5: Integration of Shared Governance into Roadmap Planning** - Bill failed

Chair Madigan commented, “The Road Map process was a Presidential initiative that was designed by President Stenger when he first came to the campus to help him understand the campus needs better by collaborating with the students, the faculty, the administration, and members of the community. A number of us participated in that really extraordinary effort. It is not something that would be reported to the SUNY Board of Trustees because it was to benefit the President so that he has good counsel from all entities when he charts the course as President for this University.”

Mr. Wilkes stated, “He believes that the Road Map process is how the University develops its mid-term and long-term plans and as such should be evaluated to see if we are following state law. If the Council’s consensus is to not to approve this bill, he will look into this with state officials.” Chair Madigan encouraged him to do so.

There was no second to the motion to approve the bill.

**Bill 6: Collaborative Council Reports** – Bill tabled until next Council meeting
Chair Madigan asked Mr. Wilkes if he wanted to move forward to present this bill knowing that the Council already does this and as such, the bill is redundant.

Mr. Wilkes stated that Chair Madigan admitted that this was not happening.

Chair Madigan noted, “at an ACT Fall Meeting in 2014, the Council Chairs in attendance agreed that it was important to revive the annual submission of a report to the SUNY Trustees (under §356 of the State Education Law) which had declined substantially over the years due to a lack of feedback that the reports had been useful to the Board. Our process was to review the draft report prepared by the Chair and then approved by the Council members for submission in the fall. More recently, in January of this year, Council Chairs participated in a conference call with Chairman McCall and he made it clear that he wanted to reinvigorate the filing of the annual reports, assuring the Councils that the reports were indeed of value to the SUNY Trustees.”

Mr. Wilkes believes that this bill is important because it insures that the process happens and that Council commits to that process.

Mr. McCabe made a motion that the bill be tabled so that Council can put together a resolution that reflects what is presently done and with the timetables that are appropriate with what we are presently doing. He responded to Mr. Wilkes saying, “I think that there is a way to accomplish what you are getting at, but I think we need to consider what is going on right now, look at your resolution, maybe there is a merger.”

Mr. Wilkes said that this is a good idea if Council can come to a consensus that we want to pass something.

Chair Madigan suggested that Council will craft some language and distribute it in advance of the next meeting to memorialize what we are now doing and insure that we have something more formal. Chair Madigan agreed to work with Mr. McCabe and Mr. Orband to develop the language and will then present it to Mr. Wilkes and the Council. **ACTION:** Council

The motion was seconded to table the bill for discussion at the next Council meeting.

**Bill 7: Reporting Problematic Administrative Conduct** – Bill failed

Mr. Wilkes stated, “While obviously I have a personal, emotional investment and relationship with this, this resolution is not as much about me, it is about accountability, the future, and the past.”

Chair Madigan commented that the bill is a disgrace, it is very personal, and it is replete with falsehoods and libelous.

There was no second to the motion to approve the bill.
REPORT ON PHYSICAL FACILITIES AND CAPITAL PLANNING

Ms. JoAnne Navarro, Vice President for Operations, and Mr. Lawrence J. Roma, Associate Vice President for Facilities Management, reported on Physical Facilities and Capital Planning.

Chair Madigan stated that when the School of Pharmacy building is complete, she would like to have a Council meeting in that space.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Madigan encouraged Council members to attend the TEDx events at Binghamton University, March 25, 2018. The title of the TEDx talks will be Infinity.

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:43 a.m.