

COUNCIL MINUTES

March 21, 2025

- Present from Council: Kathryn Grant Madigan, Nancy Barno Reynolds, Linda Biemer, Jennifer Lesko, Dennis McCabe, Vincent Pasquale, Maureen Wilson, Mackenzie Cooper
- Present from the Community: President Harvey Stenger, Provost Donald Hall, Vice President Karen Jones, Vice President JoAnn Navarro, Vice President Brian Rose, Vice President Bahgat Sammakia, Vice President David Whitmore, Patricia Bello, Sheila Doyle, Nasrin Fatima, Eugene Marshall, Al McQuilkin, Pamela Mischen, Nora Monasheri, Chief Matthew Rossie, Kelli Smith, John Wilcko, Ryan Yarosh
- Online from the Community: Aaron Beedle, John Brhel, Dean Andrea Falcone, Conor Galligan, Patti Reuther, Marjorie Weiland, Matthew Winston, Pamela Zwierlein

CALL TO ORDER

The Binghamton University Council meeting was called to order at 9:21 a.m. on Friday, March 21, 2025, by Chair of the Council Kathryn Grant Madigan.

The minutes of the February 21, 2025, Binghamton University Council meeting were approved at 9:22 a.m. with no changes.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Stenger welcomed everyone back and introduced two new council members, Vincent Pasquale and Nancy Barno Reynolds. He also took a moment to recognize former council member Nora Monasheri, who was present at the event.

David Whitmore was welcomed as the new Vice President of Advancement. His experience at schools such as Cornell and Syracuse will be a great asset to Binghamton University.

The week of March 21, 2025, was dubbed "Statue Week," with two statue unveilings taking place on campus.

The first unveiling was held on March 20, 2025, as a life-sized binturong statue named "Bingturong" was unveiled at the Admissions Center. This project was the result of the hard work of the Road Map Interns who made this possible.

The second statue unveiling will be held on March 21, 2025, as we unveil the Harriet Tubman Sculpture at the University Downtown Center. This is an incredible piece of art and it's the capstone to the Downtown Freedom Trail, which highlights several points of note in Binghamton's history with the Underground Railroad. Anne Bailey and Sharon Bryant from the Tubman Center have worked closely with our friends and partners in local and state government to make this happen.

The School of Management is attracting national recognition, recently highlighted in a discussion on Bloomberg Radio. It has also earned a spot on the list of the top 10 public institutions for undergraduate academic experience and continues to be ranked among the top 10 public business schools in the country by *Poets & Quants* for the fourth consecutive year.

It is interesting to note that School of Management students who majored in entrepreneurship, leadership, consulting, management information systems, and accounting have reported a 100% placement rate.

At the end of February, the University signed the Okanagan Charter and became a member of the United States Health Promoting Campuses network. While our university has been doing what it takes to meet these goals, by signing this charter we are now part of more than 300 colleges and universities in the U.S. and Canada focusing on doing more to serve people in our university community.

Biological Sciences Assistant Professor Eliza Grames recently published a paper on butterfly populations in the U.S. Since its release in *Science*, the paper has garnered attention from major outlets such as *National Geographic*, the *New York Times*, and the BBC in the U.K. While the finding of a 22% decline in butterfly abundance over the past two decades is concerning, we are proud of her groundbreaking research, which we hope will drive stronger conservation policies to protect our vital pollinators.

Distinguished Professor Guangwen Zhou has been named a fellow of the Microscopy Society of America in recognition of his groundbreaking research in transmission electron microscopy. Guangwen has amassed over 11,000 citations, authored 260 peer-reviewed journal articles, and ranks among the top 2% globally in his field, according to a Stanford University study. Guangwen's research focuses on how oxygen can form protective layers against corrosion and how hydrogen can replace carbon-intensive processes in steel manufacturing, advancing sustainability in the industry.

Congratulations to Athletic Director Eugene Marshall Jr. for his selection as a National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics AD of the year for 2024-25. This honor was

given to four Division I-AAA Athletic Directors and we are proud of the great work that Mr. Marshall is doing. Since 2023, his trusted leadership has helped lead our student-athletes, coaches, and staff to back-to-back America East Commissioner's Cup titles.

Construction is underway on our East Gym expansion which will increase the useable space by 75,000 square feet creating a 40% increase in fitness space.

STUDENT REPORT

Ms. Mackenzie Cooper welcomed everyone back to celebrate spring solstice and Springhamton. She also provided the following updates in her student report:

State Senator Lea Webb '04 was recognized with the Educational Opportunity Program Champion Award during the 54th Annual New York State Association of Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislators Caucus weekend. Letitia James is leading a coalition of attorneys general to release new guidance promoting diversity and inclusion in education.

Meanwhile, a suspect has been indicted and detained in connection with the deadly Main Street fire that tragically took the life of firefighter John "JR" Gaudet.

Additionally, the City of Binghamton has secured \$10 million in funding for the revitalization of Clinton Street as part of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative.

The university has officially closed the connector road in time for salamander crossing season, ensuring the safety of local wildlife.

In a commitment to health and sustainability, the university has adopted the Okanagan Charter for campus-wide initiatives.

On the night of March 1, we tragically lost a student, and in their memory, the Thurgood Marshall Pre-Law Society hosted a candlelight vigil attended by hundreds of students.

The university successfully hosted "Grad Fest," a one-day, one-stop shop for graduating students to get everything they need for commencement on March 19.

Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority hosted "Are you smarter than a frat boy?" a humorous event that filled the Mandela room with cheers, laughter, and maybe a few bruised egos.

Big congratulations to Athletics Director Eugene Marshall on being named Athletics Director of the Year! This is an incredible achievement and a true reflection of the strength and growth of our athletics department.

The Athletics Department hosted its 20th-annual Celebrating Women's Athletics Luncheon, where Olympic athlete Emily Mackay '21 delivered an inspiring keynote address.

Recent athletic achievements include the men's swimming and diving team claiming the America East championship, track and field athletes delivering record-breaking performances at the America East championships and wrestling sending two athletes to nationals, including an EIWA Champion. Additionally, both men's and women's basketball saw several players earn all-conference honors.

Women's softball achieved a historic milestone, ranking in the top 25 nationally among mid-major teams for the first time in program history.

The Student Association Programming Board (SAPB) hosted its annual Battle of the Bands, with "Stuck in Place" emerging as the winner, while the Taiwanese American Student Coalition celebrated its culture with a lively spring banquet, offering students an evening full of delicious food, fun games, comedy, and vibrant cultural experiences.

The Fleishman Career Center had a highly successful spring break, hosting two employer trek programs for students in Washington D.C., and Boston.

In Washington, D.C., along with 19 other students, Ms. Cooper visited employers such as the Trust for the National Mall, National Geographic Society, Center for Audit Excellence (U.S. Government Accountability Office), the U.S. Department of State, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the European Union Delegation to the United States. A special thanks to the alumni-owned Liberty Tavern for hosting a fantastic Networking Night in partnership with Alumni Engagement.

In Boston, featured visits included Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, City Year, Digitas North America, and JETCOOL Technologies Inc., followed by a tour of Fenway Park and a Networking Night with alumni in the area.

The Fleishman Career Center received global recognition for its Skills Lab program, winning the "Best Student Program" award at the Global Career Services Summit at Queens University in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Competing against over 100 of the top career centers worldwide, the team's success highlights its commitment to preparing students for their careers.

B-Healthy: Healthy Campus Initiative will host Binghamton University's annual Health Fair on March 26, featuring wellness-themed activities such as student-led performances, wellness checks, and fitness challenges, in collaboration with nearly 100 campus partners.

Additionally, the Stress-Free Bing Committee is launching Bing in the Spring, a series of events aimed at helping students de-stress after spring break and navigate the end of the semester.

The Presidential Search Committee has completed its first round of listening sessions for the new university president. The next round of listening sessions will be held on:

- Monday, March 24: 5 p.m. for STUDENTS
- Tuesday, March 25: noon for FACULTY
- Tuesday, March 25: 5 p.m. for COMMUNITY
- Wednesday, March 26: 1 p.m. for STAFF

In honor of Women's History Month, the Q Center, in partnership with the Division of DEI and SUNY Broome Community College, will host the inaugural Empowered Women, Empowered Leaders Conference on Friday, April 11, at the Health Sciences Campus in Johnson City. This conference will unite women leaders, allies, advocates, faculty, staff, students and community members to discuss vital issues such as wage disparities, career growth, and social empowerment.

To celebrate International Women's Day, the MRC hosted Sister's Circle: International Women's Day Celebration on Wednesday, March 19. The event focused on community-building, holistic wellness, and embracing authentic self-expression.

Additionally, the Cultural Recognition Ceremony 2025 will be held on Thursday, April 24, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Chenango Champlain Collegiate Center (C4). This event honors multicultural graduates with awards, food, and lively celebrations!

Thanks to everyone who joined us for the Bing-turong statue unveiling yesterday!

REPORT ON FACILITIES MANAGEMENT and CAPITAL PLANNING

The Report on Facilities Management and Capital Planning was presented by:

- JoAnn Navarro, Vice President for Operations
- Al McQuilkin, Associate Vice President for Facilities Management

NEW BUSINESS

No New Business

Meeting Adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

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