

COUNCIL MINUTES

November 15, 2024

Present from Council:	Linda Biemer, Jennifer Lesko, Dennis McCabe, James Orband
Present from the Community:	President Harvey Stenger, Vice President Greg Delviscio, Vice President Karen Jones, Vice President Brian Rose, Vice President Bahgat Sammakia, Vice President JoAnn Navarro, Aaron Beedle, Rebecca Benner, Niyazi Bodur, Shelia Doyle, Darcy Fauci, Kevin Hayden, Dennis Kalina, Alistair Lees, Eugene Marshall, Kelli Smith, John Starks, Matt Winston, John Wilcko, Ryan Yarosh,
Online from Council:	Mackenzie Cooper, Maureen Wilson
Online from the Community:	Provost Donald Hall, John Brhel, Karima Legette, Andres Mathis, Patti Reuther, Linda Stanich, Pamela Zwierlein

CALL TO ORDER

The Binghamton University Council meeting was called to order at 9:17 a.m. on Friday, November 15, 2024 by Dennis McCabe who was serving as active chair.

The minutes of the October 18, 2024 Binghamton University Council meeting were approved at 9:18 a.m. with no changes.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Stenger welcomed everyone back and highlighted some of the events that took place over the last month such as the Haudenosaunee Festival which included a three-sister garden harvest and a lacrosse clinic.

In late October the campus also had a visit from Aaron Mair the former president of the Sierra Club to speak about sustainability.

In what he refers to as his "Farewell Tour", President Stenger met up with Binghamton University Alumni and attended the Men's basketball game versus Miami where the team took an early lead but would not come out victorious in a hard-fought contest.

As a way for him to give back to the community, President Stenger has took on an added assignment to work as a peer mentor to Dr. Mary Bonderoff at SUNY Delhi. This includes his position on the NCAA board of directors as they face the challenges of the NIL and how it will affect Collegiate sports in the future.

Binghamton University welcomed Rajesh Chouta, the chairman of Mangalore Institute of Technology and Engineering to the campus. They spoke about continuing our relationship with MITE and eventually offering in-person courses in Mangalore.

In our efforts to strengthen and upgrade our continued partnership with Corning Incorporated we hosted the group and treated them to a whole day of presentations along with a tour of our facilities, equipment, and faculty.

The University is presently in the mid stages of hiring a new Vice-President for Advancement and hope to have a candidate hired by the end of the calendar year.

In late October, SUNY held its free-application period giving individuals the opportunity to apply for admission without a fee. This period helped to increase our already high number of applications as current projections have us setting a new record of applications.

Binghamton University will have three alumni as members of the U.S. House of Representatives. They include Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries ('92), John Mannion ('90), and Eugene Vindman ('97).

In a recent Stanford University study on the effectiveness and influences of scientists and researchers around the world, Binghamton had 33 faculty members in the top 2%.

Two exciting additions to campus will be happening over the next few weeks. The Library tower's third floor is scheduled to open next week. Also, our Binturong statue named "Bing" will be placed in its temporary home at the Admissions Center and will be moved to its permanent home on the Spine at the completion of the pavers project.

Lastly, on November 15, 2024 the last Supermoon of 2024 will take place. This is the time when the Moon is closest to the Earth. The final Supermoon is also referred to as the Beaver Moon.

STUDENT REPORT

Ms. Mackenzie Cooper welcomed everyone remotely as she was attending a conference in Dallas Texas. She provided some University-focused updates such as the university's visit by former Sierra Club president Aaron Mair as well as viral photo of a Binghamton student that received negative national attention.

In honor of Veteran's Day, the university held its ceremonial flag raising in front of the Couper Administration building. While the "winter lighting" is started to take shape around the Peace Quad adding warmth and ambiance to the campus during the winter months.

Community focused updates such as a visit to Binghamton by Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries and the appearance of a local woman on Jeopardy showed a great connection to our community.

It was a busy time for Greek Life as both the interfraternal and panhellenic council slated their executive boards for the upcoming Semester. The interfraternal council raised over \$450 for the National Pancreatic Cancer Foundation through their annual soccer tournament.

A Greek Life update as the Alpha Epsilon Phi Sorority raised \$38,000 for the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation and Sharsheret through their annual Greek God event.

This upcoming Sunday on the 17th will be The Panhellenic Councils' Miss Aphrodite competition at 5:30 at the forum, all money raised is for the Children's Miracle Network Hospital in Syracuse.

Some Athletic updates were shared that showcased big wins and solid performances by the Women's Volleyball team, Women's Basketball team, Men's Wrestling team, Men's Tennis team, and the Swimming and Diving teams.

Women's and Men's Soccer teams clinched spots in the upcoming America East Tournament. This comes after Men's and Women's Cross-Country teams placed third in the America East Conference meet.

The Student Association E-Board in the process of working on a "holiday day off request form" for students to be able to effectively communicate to their professors when they need off to be able to observe a holiday.

Lots of action took place leading up the election as college Democrats and Republicans participated in their third annual great debate. Local Democratic candidates Josh Riley and State Sen. Lea Webb visited Binghamton University for the New York College Democrats summit.

The alumni center is hosting their annual Networking Night in Manhattan in January. Students are encouraged to sign up to connect with an alumni mentor through the Mentor Match program run by the Office of Alumni Engagement in collaboration with the Fleishman Center.

Work has officially begun on the addition to the East Gym. The two-story addition will be situated on the north side of the East Gym and includes three new gym courts, an expanded Fit Space, and an elevated running track. Work is expected to be complete early in 2026.

Reframing Disability Awareness Week will be held from December 2nd to December 7th. Programming will include a student with disabilities discussion panel where participants can learn from students, aids, and an International Emmy nominated motivational speaker- Robert Anthony.

As part of International Education Week, and a student driven funded Roadmap project- “Crossing Borders: Promoting your health in the US” will be held on November 20th from 10:30- 12:30 in UU 111.

To date this year, the Q Center has seen a sharp increase in students utilizing the Q Center and its resources such receiving free clothing from the Gender Bender Clothing Closet. The Q Center also hosted a variety of events for LGBTQ+ History Month in October that all highlighted different components of queer history in the United States.

As announced earlier in the year, the Dean of Students Office successfully launched Baxter the chatbot to all first-year students. With over 2500 independent text messages in just over 2 weeks, the engagement is very high.

The GSO is working to create graduate-specific adventure activities to give international students and opportunity to get off campus and explore. The GSO also announced the creation of a DEI committee with the purpose of overseeing the hiring process for the GSO board. This is planned to be embedded into their bylaws as a standing committee for years to come.

The BU Committee has officially been finalized. So, if you felt this report contained more detail than my previous ones, that’s thanks to them! The committee ended up being made up of 11 undergraduate and graduate students ranging from many different backgrounds. I am really looking forward to what this body of students is able to produce for us next semester.

REPORT ON COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING

The Report on Communication and Marketing was presented by:

- Greg Delviscio, Vice President for Research

REPORT ON ADVANCEMENT

The Report on Advancement was presented by:

- Shelia Doyle, Executive Director of the Binghamton University Foundation

NEW BUSINESS

No New Business

Meeting Adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

jww