

COUNCIL MINUTES

February 16, 2024

Present from Council:

Chair Kathryn Grant Madigan, Linda Biemer, Anthony Fiala (via Zoom), Jennifer Lesko, Dennis McCabe, Nora Monasheri, James Orband (via Zoom), and Maureen Wilson

Present from the Community:

President Stenger, Professor Beedle, Ms. Bello, Vice President Delviscio, Dean Falcone, Dr. Fatima, Ms. Fauci, Ms. Gahring (via Zoom), Professor Govindaraju, Ms. Gorgos, Ms. Gurram (via Zoom), Provost Hall, Vice President Jones, Vice President Koch, Vice Provost Lees, Ms. Legette, Director Marshall, Mr. Martin, Mr. Mathis (via Zoom), Ombudsman Mthombeni, Dean Nagaraju, Vice President Navarro, Vice President Rose, Ms. Reuther (via Zoom), Dr. Robinson-Perez, Ms. Seastrand (via Zoom), Dr. Smith, Professor Starks, Mr. Straebler (via Zoom), Mr. Winston, Mr. Yarosh, and Ms. Zwierlein (via Zoom)

CALL TO ORDER

The Binghamton University Council meeting was called to order at 9:17 AM on Friday, February 16, 2024 by Chair Kathryn Grant Madigan.

The minutes of the November 17, 2023 Binghamton University Council meeting were approved.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Stenger reported that Senator Schumer visited campus on January 29th to announce that New Energy New York (NENY) was named one of the 10 winners of the National Science Foundation's Regional Innovation Engines grant program. This is the second grant win for NENY. The first grant was \$113 million from the State and Federal Government. This grant is for up to \$160 million over ten years to execute research on the production of batteries, making them safer, increasing their capacity, and making them more efficient. There is a third proposal that has already been submitted, or will be submitted very soon, by Stan Whittingham, Per Stromhaug, and Olga Petrova. The third proposal is for \$60 million to support Binghamton's Tech Hub designation. If all three grants are successful, it would mean \$333 million in funding over ten years, and would be a game changer for Binghamton.

On February 2, the founder and CEO of One Million Women, Natalie Isaac, was on campus for the launch of the national 1M Ready campaign. One Million Women started in Australia to show that the power of individual effort can change the world's direction in global warming.

Binghamton University was the first location in the U.S. to launch the campaign. In Australia, there are 1 million women that have taken the pledge to reduce individual consumption. Thanks go to Lorena Aguilar, Executive Director of the Kaschak Institute, for hosting Natalie and for bringing her to campus for this event.

The Road Map Steering Committee just wrapped up a call for new proposals from students, faculty, and staff. The proposals provide a way to get new ideas on how we can move forward on the 30 goals in our 6 strategic priorities. The deadline for proposals was February 15th, and 127 proposals were submitted. We will be reviewing the proposals over the next couple of weeks and will award 6 or more excellent proposals with up to \$200,000 in capital and \$75,000 for operating.

The EXCELERATOR Challenge is coming up on April 17 and 18. This will be one of the final stages of our EXCELERATE comprehensive campaign. The goal of the Challenge is to get 1,000 new donors over a 1,946 minute period (about 32 hours) in celebration of the year the University was founded. We also have gifts from alumni and friends who have pledged to provide funds at certain giving thresholds during the Challenge. One of the Challenge gifts will be unlocked when we reach 1,000 donors, and a generous alumnus will donate \$100,000. Another challenge gift will be unlocked when we reach 607 gifts, and a generous alumnus will donate \$60,700. Once we reach \$34,200, a generous friend has agreed to make a matching gift of \$34,200. It is all about how many people make a contribution, not about how much we raise. It will be exciting, and should generate an additional \$200,000, with \$540,000 already committed. We hope to announce that we have reached our campaign goal of \$250 million shortly after this Challenge. We will end the campaign on July 1, 2024, and we will celebrate the campaign's success during Homecoming next year.

One of the big examples of how the EXCELERATE campaign will transform campus was the \$5.6 million gift from the S. H. Ho Foundation to support faculty research. We put a call out for proposals from faculty for project ideas which can be funded up to \$200,000 total. We are looking for proposals of around \$50,000 to \$100,000 per faculty member. In the first round, we received 41 applications and selected three winners which will fund research projects in the Health Sciences. We felt it was important to also support research in the humanities and social sciences. As you might remember, the State is giving us matching endowment money every time we receive an endowed gift. The \$5.6 million Ho Foundation gift generated \$2.5 million in State endowment match, and will generate approximately \$100,000 every year. We will use the \$100,000 each year to support faculty research in the humanities and social sciences. We have received proposals and we have funded several of those as well.

The School of Management was recently ranked as one of the top 10 business schools among public universities for the third consecutive year.

Spring sports are now getting underway. The men's baseball team started playing this weekend at the University of Houston. The women's softball team has already started playing in Florida, and men's lacrosse started their season as well.

Our student athletes continue to excel in the classroom. A couple weeks ago, President Stenger had breakfast with 41 student athletes, all who achieved a 4.0 GPA for the fall 2023 semester. The combined GPA of the student athletes for the fall 2023 semester was 3.44.

Old Rafuse Hall reopened to students at the start of this semester and students are living there now. The Kramer Welcome Center has officially opened and you can get a cup of coffee at the Center as you come onto campus. We are waiting for the donor to find time to come to campus for the official grand opening.

President Stenger presented the State of the University address in January. A video recording of the State of the University address is available on the website.

STUDENT REPORT

Ms. Monasheri reported that a lot has happened since the November Council meeting.

Sadly, one of our alumni, Jonathan DeChalus '23, passed away on December 6th after battling an aggressive form of cancer for 1 ½ years. Despite multiple brain surgeries, chemo, radiation, and physical setbacks, Jonathan graduated on time earning a BS in Mechanical Engineering. Following graduation, he started his dream job working at the Metropolitan Transit Authority in NYC. Thank you to Peter Partell, Senior Associate Dean, Watson College, for attending the funeral and giving remarks.

On December 9th the men's basketball team hosted Le Moyne College in the Events Center. They had the biggest turnout for a basketball game since 2009, with 3,583 guests in attendance. During the game, two students won free tuition thanks to Adam Weitsman, so it was very exciting and generated a lot of energy. It was a great way to celebrate the end of the semester.

Off Campus College Transport (OCCT), the student run bus service, recruited 15 new bus drivers in the fall, with most of them undergraduate students. This is the biggest addition to OCCT in a single semester since 1996, thanks to Daniel Croce, SA Vice President for Finance, who works hard to support OCCT.

Over winter break, many students used their time wisely and enrolled in winter classes. For the 2024 Winter Session, 2,723 students registered across 163 courses. Of those students, about 13% were graduate students and 87% were undergraduate students.

This semester, we had a new club fair on campus which was initiated by the SA Vice President and Jennifer Keegan, Associate Director for Campus Activities. The fair, "UFest Part Two," was geared toward transfer students, spring admits, and students that couldn't make it to UFest last fall. It was a big success and provided an opportunity for the students to explore clubs and see how they can get involved on campus.

On February 3rd, the Indian International Student Union (IISU) held their annual Tamasha in the Anderson Center. Tamasha showcased the dances, clothing, music, and traditions that are central to South Asian culture. It was a great event with about 850 people in attendance. One

week later, the annual Punjabi Gala took place hosted by the Sikh (SSA) and Punjabi Student Associations.

The Fleishman's Center is busy this time in the semester because it is when students realize that they need to figure out their summer or their post graduate plans. Next week there will be a STEM Job and Internship Fair on Wednesday, and on Thursday there will be a Spring Job and Internship Fair, both will be held in the Mandela Room from 11 AM to 3:30 PM.

The New York City Networking Night and employee Treks in January were a big success. We are currently working on the DC and Boston treks which will be held over spring break, March 4 - 5. It is really important to ensure that finances are not a barrier to students who want to participate.

We recently had the Oscar Mayer Frankmobile on campus with Binghamton alumna, Chloe Van Caesele '23, at the wheel. She talked about her experiences driving around the country advertising the Oscar Mayer Weiner. Chloe was a Commencement speaker last May, and it was great to have her back on campus.

Similar to the Road Map proposal, there is a new initiative called the Contribution Project. The Center for Civic Engagement has partnered with Cornell University and Stony Brook University on the Project. This provides an opportunity for undergraduate students who have an idea on how to improve their campus community or the larger area, can receive \$400 to complete their project. Binghamton University has over 65 spots for students to receive funding through the Project. It provides an opportunity for students to have their ideas heard. Applications for the Contribution Project went live online on February 1st.

In sports, the Binghamton University wrestling team is on a winning streak. They already beat Ivy League schools such as Harvard, Brown, and Princeton. Binghamton all-star, Lou DePrez, is 17-1 wins for the season, and is on track to be a national champion.

Students really care about campus employees and staff. Over the weekend, Ms. Monasheri received emails from students expressing concern about the campus employees at Dunkin' Donuts. The students learned that over Spring Break, Dining Services will be implementing self-ordering kiosks at the Dunkin' location in the University Union's Tillman Lobby. The students will place their order and pay at the kiosk, there will be no cashiers. After hearing this, rumors were going around and students were concerned that they won't have their favorite employees to assist and greet them once the kiosks are installed. Favorite cashiers Duncan, Chad, and Tammy, will be on campus but will be moved to another location and they will still be around for the students.

REPORT ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dr. Donald Hall, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, presented the report.

REPORT ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Dr. Karen A. Jones, Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Dr. Ada Robinson-Perez, Executive Director, Equity Access and Diversity Education; and Mr. Nick Martin, Associate Director of the Q Center, presented the report

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:41 AM.

mjg