

COUNCIL MINUTES

February 21, 2020

Present from Council: Kathryn Grant Madigan, Linda Biemer, Anthony Fiala, Jennifer Lesko, Dennis McCabe, Maureen Wilson, and Franklin Richards

Present from the Community: President Stenger, Prof. Brown, Mr. Delviscio, Dr. Edouard, Ms. Ellis, Mr. Elliott, Ms. Klinger, Interim Vice President Koch, Ms. Legette, Dean Meredith, Ms. Mthombeni, Vice President Navarro, Provost Nieman, Ms. O'Neil, Vice President Rose, Ms. Ross, Ms. Scarlett, Dr. Sirju-Johnson, Ms. Theo, Ms. Thesier, and Mr. Yarosh

CALL TO ORDER

The Binghamton University Council meeting was called to order at 9:18 a.m. on Friday, February 21, 2020 by Chair Madigan.

The minutes of November 19, 2019 were approved.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Stenger reported on the recent \$60 million anonymous gift. This is the largest gift ever received by a SUNY institution. This gift will put Binghamton in contention for hosting baseball's regional NCAA championship games in the future.

There are a record number of projects going on around campus.

- The Hinman Dining Hall expansion is moving forward, that will result in a much larger facility.
- Our Science 2 chemistry and physics wings are also moving forward with much needed renovations.
- The Science 2 Tower is also being renovated.
- Our Engineering building renovations will be completed this summer.
- We just reopened the University Union basement which now has an "open" look that is more inviting as a place for students to gather and study.

- In Johnson City, work continues at 48 Corliss, which will be the new home of our Decker College of Nursing and Health Sciences.
- We also have purchased several properties adjacent to the campus – some of these will be used as space for future university/industry partnerships while others will be removed to add greenspace.
- We were pleased to learn that the Smart Energy Building at the Innovative Technologies Complex has achieved LEED Gold certification from the US Green Building Council.

President Stenger recognized several faculty who have recently received recognition:

- Computer Science professor Kanad Ghose was promoted to the rank of Distinguished Professor.
- Also receiving recognition is Chemistry professor Chuan-Jian “CJ” Zhong, who has been named by his peers as a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors.
- Computer Science professor Zhongfei “Mark” Zhang has been named a fellow of the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) for his work in machine learning and data mining.
- Also recognized in December was Binghamton’s own Nobel Prize winner, M. Stanley Whittingham, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Materials Science. President Stenger joined Professor Whittingham in Stockholm, Sweden where he was presented his Nobel Prize. A much less formal celebration took place in February, when Professor Whittingham spoke to a group of alumni and other supporters at the Princeton Club in New York City.

President Stenger attended Governor Cuomo’s State of the State address in January. This year, New York faces a significant budget challenge, as there is a structural deficit estimated at \$4 to \$6 billion. Despite this, prospects for SUNY remain positive, with Governor Andrew Cuomo proposing to increase SUNY’s budget by 6.5%, primarily through increased capital funding. The Governor’s budget proposal also includes an increase for the Excelsior Scholarship program, with tuition funding being extended to families earning \$135,000 in 2021 and \$150,000 in 2022, up from \$115,000 this year.

For the past five years, Dean Hari Srihari has served as the University’s Vice Provost for International Education and Global Affairs, along with his duties as dean. Starting in June, Binghamton University professor, associate chair and graduate director for the Department of Computer Science, Madhusudhan “Madhu” Govindaraju, will take his place. Govindaraju is already preparing for the position, having accompanied President Stenger and Dean Srihari to India, where they have been collaborating with five universities to create centers of excellence focusing on specific research and academic topics. These partnerships allow us to expand our academic footprint through research and scholarship exchanges, as well as two-way study abroad experiences for students.

STUDENT REPORT

Mr. Richards reported on some campus events surrounding Black History Month, highlighting two events put on by the Black Student Union (BSU). The Black Museum highlighted the legacy of artistry within the black community. This was done by portraying black history and art through painters, photographers, dancers, musicians, poets and other artistic forms. A second event will be held with BSU's annual keynote speaker, Cyntoia Brown. Cyntonia Brown is a young woman who was released from prison after spending 15 years for killing her sex-trafficker in self-defense and was sentenced to life. At the time of her arrest and sentencing, she was only 16 years old. Her story is a very interesting one that caught the attention of major news outlets and social media.

Binghamton had its seventh annual Hackathon. The Hackathon was held over a 24-hour period, the weekend of a major snowstorm that cancelled classes on Friday.

Mr. Richards reported that the University's \$60 million donation was met with mixed reaction from students. Some wanted to see the donation used towards different activities and other university functions. However, for the most part, it seems that most students understand and appreciated the donation and the positive impact it will have on Binghamton University.

Both the Student Association and the Graduate Student Organization are looking at their upcoming elections. Mr. Richards noted that two students, Willa Scolari (a psychology major) and Dante Turnbull (a junior majoring in philosophy and history) are running for 2020-2021 BU Council student representative.

The GSO has been working closely with the Fleishman Center to offer career advice to graduate students. They have set up weekly workshops on Tuesdays in the GSO office. Additionally, the GSO is sponsoring "Party with a Purpose," dedicated to raising money for nonprofit organizations in the local Binghamton area. The event is planned by students in the Masters of Public Administration program, is open to everyone, and will be held at Lost Dog Café on March 21.

Student Association's Mr. John Santare, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Mr. Khaleel James, Vice President of Multicultural Affairs, and Mr. Richards are working on the Housing Advisory Project, and have hired interns to be a part of this program. They met with the Binghamton Code Enforcement Officer who provided them with insight and advice to pass on to students.

SA President Ms. Emma Ross is happy to announce that the climate survey that was announced in a previous Council meeting will be going ahead. The climate survey looks to properly understand sexual assault in our college community. This survey will help us better understand how we compare to campuses of similar sizes and what can be done to address this situation. Ms. Ross has been working closely with Associate Provost for Institutional Research, Dr. Nasrin Fatima.

REPORT ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Provost Nieman reported on Academic Affairs. Students Ms. Eliza Klinger and Ms. Jordan Thesier reported on their experiences in the Source project and FRI.

REPORT ON DIVERSITY

Interim Chief Diversity Officer Nicole Sirju-Johnson reported on diversity.

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

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