

## **COUNCIL MINUTES**

March 15, 2024

Present from Council: Chair Kathryn Grant Madigan, Linda Biemer, Dennis McCabe, Nora Monasheri, and Maureen Wilson

Present from the Community: President Stenger, Professor Beedle, Ms. Benner, Mr. Blakeslee, Mr. Brhel (via Zoom), Ms. Cooper, Vice President Delviscio, Ms. Fauci, Ms. Fiore Conte, Ms. Gahring (via Zoom), Provost Hall, Ms. Ignarri, Vice President Koch, Director Marshall, Mr. McQuilkin, Professor Mischen, Vice President Navarro, Ms. Reuther (via Zoom), Chief Rossie, Vice President Sammakia, Professor Starks, Mr. Winston, and Mr. Yarosh

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The Binghamton University Council meeting was called to order at 9:19 AM on Friday, March 15, 2024 by Chair Kathryn Grant Madigan.

The minutes of the February 16, 2024 Binghamton University Council meeting were approved.

### **PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

President Stenger reported that it has been a busy week on campus as the students returned from spring break on Monday.

It's hard to believe, but Commencement is right around the corner. The ceremonies will be held on campus May 9, 10, and 11, and we hope to have some Council members attend the ceremonies.

The men's swimming and diving team won the America East title last month. It is the second time in four years that the team won the championship.

The women's cross country team won the America East championship this past fall. It is interesting to note that 9 out of the 17 runners had a 4.0 GPA last fall, and they still won the America East championship.

Governor Hochul visited campus on March 1 to announce a number of initiatives and projects such as the \$123 million in state funding for important projects, specifically the \$60 million classroom and lecture hall building for our campus. She has been a tremendous supporter of higher education. Governor Hochul, Senator Lea Webb, and Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo have been critical for our success in continued state funding for important projects.

While Governor Hochul was on campus, we also had a presentation and introduction of Empire AI by Tom Secunda. Tom graduated from Binghamton in 1977, and earned his master's degree in 1979 from Binghamton. He is a great scientist and mathematician, and a founding partner of Bloomberg LP. He was on campus on behalf of the Empire AI Consortium. Tom will be working for the State on the concept of Empire AI. Governor Hochul budgeted \$250 million to build a high-performance computing center, most likely in Buffalo. Binghamton University will have access to the computing center as part of the consortium, along with other SUNY schools and private universities in the State.

On Tuesday, March 12, we had a great event with Dr. Anne Bailey, Founding Director of the Harriett Tubman Center for Freedom and Equity, when we unveiled 2 more markers on the Freedom Trail Underground Railroad in downtown Binghamton. Dr. Bailey has recently been named to SUNY's inaugural class of Black Leadership Institute Fellows. She will begin work this summer, along with 6 or 7 colleagues, to support, retain, and foster the success of emerging leaders on campuses across the state and will help develop best practices. She will also be a spokesperson in Albany for diversity, equity, and inclusion for Binghamton University and SUNY.

Professor Pamela Mischen, our Chief Sustainability Officer, is with us today. She was on the local news this week talking about sustainability, and changes that are coming over the next few years on how campuses manage their resources. For example, we have a very short time to phase out all single-use plastics such as straws, bottles, and plastic bags on all SUNY campuses. After that, there is net zero energy requirements that we will need to address. We have a big fleet of vehicles, and we need to look at how we will replace them. The weather has been unusually pleasant, but it is not good long-term. This is the beginning of what could be a significant change in how we manage the campus in the future.

The Master of Science in Speech and Language Pathology at the Decker College of Nursing and Health Sciences has achieved a significant milestone toward accreditation by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA). The Council recently awarded the program accreditation candidacy for five years, beginning February 1, 2024, and running through January 31, 2029. The first cohort of 40- 50 students will join us this fall. The clinic will be located in the Gannett building in Johnson City, where students will help children improve their speech.

We recently announced that Paul Malliband has been appointed as the first Executive Director of Battery-NY, which is part of the New Energy New York project. Paul has 25 years of experience, and previously led the Energy Innovation Center at the University of Warwick in England, where he built a facility similar to what we want to build here.

We are one month away from the EXCELERATOR Challenge on April 17 and 18. We will try to get 1,000 donors during that 2-day period. Vice President Koch will be talking about it more during his presentation.

## **STUDENT REPORT**

Ms. Monasheri reported that the Road Map student interns have been working on a new statue modeled after the Binturong at the Ross Park Zoo. Once finished, the statue will be placed in a populated area on campus, and will be a symbol of school spirit for the students this coming fall.

On February 29<sup>th</sup> a Spring Transfer Student Gala was held on campus. Over 90 students attended for an evening of networking, entertainment, and community.

Watson senior and friend, Ashley Cheung, won first place in the final round of the Deloitte Cyber Threat Competition and was flown to Texas to compete in the second round. In the second round, she won \$8,000 which will be split among her and her 3 teammates from UT Austin, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and Florida A&M.

Eleven students have recently been notified that they are the recipient of a 2024 Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence. They will be invited to attend an awards ceremony in Albany where they will receive a certificate from SUNY Chancellor John King, Jr.

A former Binghamton Track and Field and Cross-Country alumna and five-time All-American, Emily Mackay '22, earned a bronze medal at the World Indoor Championship on March 3, 2024. She placed third out of 12 runners, and joined the ranks of one of the best middle-distance runners in the world.

Our woman's basketball player, Denai Bowman, is one of only two players in America East Women's Basketball history to be named to the conference's All-Defensive Team 4 times during their careers. The other player is May Kostopoulos of Vermont who was chosen from 2007-2010.

Graduate student elections are being held today for their 2024-2025 student board. Student Association elections will be held on Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. There are a lot of emails, flyers, and campaigning around campus as students petition for the positions. There are 14 candidates across 7 positions, and 20 candidates across 3 positions in the SA and GSO respectively. The Council student representative, sophomore Mackenzie Cooper, is running unopposed and uncontested. We look forward to hearing the results of the elections by the April Council meeting.

Next Sunday, March 24, Binghamton will host the annual TEDx event in the Anderson Center. At the event, 6 speakers will share their journey of overcoming obstacles and finding their place in the world.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Men of Color Summit will be held on Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at the ITC. This event is in collaboration with the Multicultural Resource Center and is open to all students, faculty, staff, and community members. Its purpose is to unite men across many sectors and to bring a community together.

Ramadan Kareem to those who celebrate. In observance of Ramadan, Dining Services will provide a build-your-own Suhoor station in the C4 dining hall. Plans are being discussed to potentially have OCCT buses transport to local mosques. Student will have the opportunity to create a meal kit, choosing from a variety of Halal options.

Admitted Students Days will be held on April 14<sup>th</sup> and April 28<sup>th</sup>, in time for Spring Fling on April 27<sup>th</sup>. These events typically attract over 4,000 prospective students and provides a great opportunity to engage with potential future Bearcats.

Before the end of the semester, a new contraceptive vending machine will be placed on the ground floor of the Library. This will provide greater access to Plan B for students for years to come. The project was almost two years in the making, and couldn't have been accomplished without the help of Johann Fiore Conte and her team. Students are lobbying for this to be brought to all New York State Schools.

### **REPORT ON FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND CAPITAL PLANNING**

Ms. JoAnn Navarro, Vice President for Operations, and Mr. Al McQuilkin, Associate Vice President for Facilities Management, presented the report.

### **REPORT ON ADVANCEMENT**

Mr. John Koch, Vice President for Advancement, presented the report.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Chair Kathryn Grant Madigan reported that after the wonderful presentation at last month's Council meeting highlighting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and activities on campus, Council members were invited to tour the Q Center at the conclusion of today's meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM.

mjg