

## **COUNCIL MINUTES**

April 21, 2023

Present from Council: Avery Benzaken, Linda Biemer, Anthony Fiala, Jr. (via Zoom), Jennifer Lesko, Kathryn Grant Madigan (via Zoom), Acting Chair Dennis McCabe, James Orband, and Maureen Wilson

Present from the Community: President Stenger, Ms. Bennett, Dr. Bodur (via Zoom), Dr. Bohan (via Zoom) Mr. Brhel (via Zoom), Ms. Crisman, Ms. Curtin, Vice President Delviscio, Ms. Doyle, Ms. Ellis, Ms. Fauci, Ms. Gahring (via Zoom), Provost Hall, Mr. Hubeny, Ms. Jones, Vice President Jones, Vice President Koch, Vice Provost Lees, Ms. Legette (via Zoom), Director Marshall, Mr. Mathis, Lieutenant Meyn, Ms. Monasheri, Ombudsman Mthombeni (via Zoom), Vice President Navarro, Deputy Chief Reilly, Vice President Rose, Chief Rossie, Dr. Smith, Officer Walter, Mr. Winston, Mr. Yarosh, and Ms. Zieziula

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The Binghamton University Council meeting was called to order at 9:17 AM on Friday, April 21, 2023 by Acting Chair Dennis McCabe.

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

### **PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

President Stenger reported that there is a lot of construction happening around campus. In Johnson City, the new Research and Development building, located between the Pharmacy Building and the Nursing building, is expected to be completed in fall 2023.

Another project in the development and design phase is 18 Park Street in Johnson City, the old Ozalid building. We are working with the First Ward Action Council to create affordable senior housing in the building. Half of the building will be converted into classroom and conference space for the Health Sciences campus. We are looking to partner with Upstate Medical, since they have a clinical campus at Binghamton and may want to expand in this space.

The former Binghamton Press & Sun-Bulletin building at 10 Gannett Street in Johnson City, just received a grant from the Decker Foundation for renovation of office spaces to create a speech and language pathology clinic. The clinic will provide help for children at a very low cost, and is made possible by our speech and language department and the students in that department. The renovations will take about 2 years to complete.

The Ford Family Wellness Center for Seniors, at 27 Jennison Avenue in Johnson City, is almost complete. The Center is in partnership with Lourdes Hospital and will provide healthcare and wellness services for older adults.

The Field House, which will be constructed adjacent to the Baseball Stadium Complex, will create an indoor playing facility for multi-sport use including softball, lacrosse, and soccer. The bid has been awarded and construction will likely begin this summer.

The Charlene and Roger Kramer Welcome Center is progressing and will provide an exceptional first impression to the campus. Once the Welcome Center is done, the old gatehouse will be refurbished and become part of the Welcome Center.

Old Rafuse, adjacent to the Couper Administration Building, is under renovations and there is a lot of activity around it. We hoped that it would be open for fall 2023 student housing, but construction is a little behind schedule so we don't expect that students will be living there until January 2024.

Renovations on the third floor of the Library continue, but should be completed soon. Renovations are also taking place in Science 3, but the building we are most excited about is the new Lecture Hall. The Lecture Hall will be constructed across the street from Academic A, near Hinman College. The building will house around 27 classrooms and will provide much needed academic space.

Kudos to the College of Community and Public Affairs as they recently received two Federal U.S. Department of Education grants totaling \$9.3 million, designated for the Binghamton University Community Schools program.

The New Energy New York project is moving forward. We have designs for manufacturing equipment which will be installed in Building 258 at the old IBM campus in Endicott. About a dozen people have been hired to deliver the programs for the EDA and for the Empire State Development Corporation.

In March, Binghamton's Men's Hockey Club Team won the AAU 2022-2023 College Hockey Division II National Championship. This was very exciting for the team and for the campus. On April 15<sup>th</sup> we honored the team with a celebration at the Baseball stadium. President Stenger noted that since he has been on campus, there has been only one other National Championship which was won by the University's Men's Lacrosse team.

On April 14<sup>th</sup> the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Maria Ressa, was on campus. She was here to accept the inaugural Nadia Rubaii Memorial Prize, and to be the keynote speaker for the

Frontiers of Prevention conference. Maria was a friend of Nadia's and she agreed to come to campus prior to winning the Nobel Prize. When Nadia passed away last year, the Memorial Prize was established to recognize Nadia's commitment to the promotion of human rights and the prevention of genocide, mass atrocities, and all forms of identity-based violence. Maria was proud to be the first recipient of the Prize.

We are making excellent progress on the campus's EXCELERATE Campaign. We have raised close to \$200 million of our \$220 million goal, with more than a year left of the Campaign. We are considering an increase in our goal or ending the campaign early. We will manage the process carefully over the next couple of years.

The Harriett Tubman Center for Freedom and Equity held an outstanding event at the Downtown Campus last night. SUNY Chancellor John King, Jr., and New York State Secretary of State Robert Rodriguez, were on hand to give remarks. Attendees were able to view the 5 proposed Harriet Tubman statues which were selected as finalists, and they could vote for their favorite. Once the jury selects the winning statue, it will take time for the statue to be built and installed in the Downtown Campus's backyard.

President Stenger welcomed the 2023-2024 student representative to Binghamton University Council, Ms. Nora Monasheri.

## **STUDENT REPORT**

Mr. Benzaken congratulated Ms. Monasheri on her election as the incoming student representative to Council. Nora is a School of Management student studying finance and management information systems. She previously served as a member of the Finance Committee and is a Roadmap Intern. She will do a great job in her new role.

One of the challenges of the Student Representative position is that the representative spends the first few months gathering information, getting a foothold, and figuring things out. Then, it seems like the term is ending and the next representative starts the process all over again. Mr. Benzaken will provide Nora with a comprehensive orientation, so she can continue to build on some of the initiatives that he has worked on over the past year.

He thanked Mr. Delviscio for reminding him to print the final copies of his Health and Wellness brochure. He will have the brochures available at orientation for incoming students.

The students are busy wrapping up the semester and submitting their final projects prior to finals.

Spring Fling is right around the corner. The SA scheduled indie-pop duo Surfaces, and electronic dance music producer Imanbek, to perform during Spring Fling. It will be a great event.

Binghamton's students are unique and have much to offer. Together they build an amazing community that has been Mr. Benzaken's home for the last 4 years. He encouraged everyone to take time to get to know the students.

Mr. Benzaken thanked President Stenger for meeting with him throughout the academic year and for imparting his wise wisdom and advice. He thanked Chair Madigan for meeting with him, always supporting him in his role, and for being a wonderful role model. He will continue to be an advocate for Binghamton's students as an alumna.

### **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT FOR THE 2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR**

Mr. Brian Rose, Vice President for Student Affairs, and Dr. Amy Zieziula, Director of Student Conduct, presented the proposed changes to the Code of Student Conduct.

The proposed changes were unanimously approved by Council.

### **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED PARKING FEES AND FINES FOR 2023-2024**

Mr. Brian Rose, Vice President for Student Affairs, presented the proposed parking fees and fines for 2023-2024.

The proposed parking fees and fines were unanimously approved by Council.

### **EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT**

Ms. JoAnn Navarro, Vice President for Operations, Mr. Matthew Rossie, Chief of Police, and Mr. David Hubeny, Executive Director of Emergency Management, presented the report.

Acting Chair McCabe thanked Mr. Benzaken for his service to the Binghamton University Council for the 2022-2023 academic year and presented the Council's resolution acknowledging his contribution to the Council.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:13 AM.

mjg