

## **COUNCIL MINUTES**

April 15, 2022

Present from Council:

Chair Kathryn Grant Madigan, Linda Biemer, Anthony Fiala (via Zoom), Jennifer Lesko, Dennis McCabe, James Orband, Matthew Salanger (via Zoom), Caroline Sandleitner, and Maureen Wilson

Present from the Community:

President Stenger, Mr. Benzaken, Mr. Brhel (via Zoom), Dr. Bodur, Ms. Curtin, Ms. Doyle (via Zoom), Ms. Ellis, Ms. Fauci, Chief Faughnan (via Zoom), Ms. Gahring (via Zoom), Mr. Hubeny, Ms. Johnson, Vice President Jones, Ms. Legette (via Zoom), Professor Mischen (via Zoom), Vice President Navarro, Provost Nieman, Chief Pelletier, Ms. Reuther, Vice President Rose, Vice President Sammakia, Dr. Smith, Ms. Thornley (via Zoom), and Mr. Yarosh

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The Binghamton University Council meeting was called to order at 9:23 a.m. on Friday, April 15, 2022 by Chair Madigan.

The minutes of the March 11, 2022 Binghamton University Council meeting were approved.

### **PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

President Stenger reported that there are no classes today and Monday so that students can celebrate Good Friday, Passover, and Easter with their families. When the students return from this break, they will be gearing up for the push before finals. The last day of classes for the semester is May 11<sup>th</sup>, with finals scheduled May 13-19, and Commencement May 20-22. We are delighted that this year's Commencement ceremonies will take place in-person with no masking or testing requirements for admission, and families are invited to attend.

We held our Comprehensive Gifts Campaign launch on Saturday with about two hundred alumni and close friends on campus for the event. Loyal Binghamton supporter and alumnus Howard Unger is serving as the Campaign Chair. He announced the goal of \$220 million for the campaign, which is more than double the amount raised in the last campaign. We have already raised \$151 million of the \$220 million with 2 ½ years to reach our goal.

In March, SUNY announced that three Watson College faculty members were promoted to the rank of Distinguished Professors. This is the highest rank that a professor can achieve in the SUNY System. Mohammad Khasawneh was promoted to the rank of Distinguished Professor of Systems Science and Industrial Engineering, Weiyi Ming was promoted to Distinguished Service Professor in Computer Science, and Kaiming Ye was promoted to Distinguished Professor of Biomedical Engineering.

We also received news that three Assistant Professors in Watson College received National Science Foundation CAREER Awards. This is the highest award that an Assistant Professor can earn. Pu Zhang, from Mechanical Engineering, received an award for his work making stretchable, wearable electronics using liquid metals; Seunghee Shin, from Computer Science, received an award for his work developing faster cloud computing; and, Kaiyan Yu, from Mechanical Engineering, received an award for her work to build nanorobots that can deliver drugs directly to cells.

Two faculty members in the School of Management were recently named among the top 50 Best Undergraduate Business Professors of 2021 by *Poets & Quants*. Assistant Professors of business analytics and operations, Saeideh Mirghorbani and Srikanth Parameswaran, were chosen from more than 1,200 nominees based on their research and teaching accolades.

Binghamton was once again named as an R-1 “very high research university” by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. Later in the meeting, Dr. Kelli Smith will talk about how the University is pursuing another Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement.

The New York State budget has been approved and, overall, the news is good. We do not expect to have a deficit next year, and we will be able to maintain all of the programs we have in place, we will be able to provide the raises for all of the faculty, and we will be able to hire a few new faculty members.

In July, Donald Hall will be joining us as the new Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, replacing Don Nieman who is returning to the faculty. Donald comes to Binghamton from the University of Rochester where he served as Dean of Faculty of Arts, Sciences and Engineering. Prior to that, he was the Dean of the Arts and Sciences at Lehigh University. He will be a great addition to Binghamton University.

We are moving forward on the search for the Dean for the School of Pharmacy, and had candidates on campus last week. We hope to have the new Dean onboard by the beginning of the fall semester. We are also starting the search for the new Dean for the School of Management. It is unfortunate that Dean Dhillon had to retire earlier than he expected. For now Associate Deans, Shelley Dionne and George Bobinski, are handling the day-to-day affairs for the School of Management.

## **STUDENT REPORT**

Ms. Sandleitner reported that this is her last report to the BU Council as the Student Representative for 2021-2022. Joining today via Zoom is incoming BU Council Representative for 2022-2023, Avery Benzaken. Avery will be a graduate student in the MBA program in the fall, and the Student Representative to Council position will be in good hands.

This semester has been particularly difficult. The campus community is mourning the recent loss of Robert Martin, who was a goalie on the Binghamton University D1 Lacrosse Team. Robert's friends describe him as "unapologetically himself," "passionate," "caring," and he brought a positive energy to any room he was in. It's truly a loss, and my heart goes out to his family, friends, and teammates during this time.

When a significant loss like this occurs on campus, it's difficult for students. Recently there has been a sense of heaviness around campus, even if unspoken. For students grappling with mental health issues, especially during these tough times, the University is usually the first and sometimes the only place where students can afford to receive therapeutic counseling. The conversation around mental health resources on campus has further developed over the past few weeks, and many students are concerned about the effectiveness of the university's mental health resources given how many students need to be treated. Students have expressed that when they need to book an appointment on campus, there isn't necessarily a therapist available. For other students who need long-term treatment, the option to continue with the same therapist for multiple weeks really isn't an option. With so many Binghamton students coming from low-income households, many of which are under the federal poverty line, bolstering these mental health services and streamlining the intake process, when students are willing to consider therapy, is a necessary next step.

Our community really does turn to one another for support. Through the difficult times over the past month, students have continued programming to better their communities outside of the University. One example of this comes from this past weekend, when the Juvenile Urban Multicultural Program, also known as JUMP Nation, held its JUMP Weekend in person in Binghamton. The club hosted middle school and high school students from New York City, and paired the young students with BU student mentors to help encourage students to continue with their educational pursuits despite barriers they may face at home. The relationships between the mentors and the younger students continue for years, and many BU students see their mentee eventually go off to college.

Students also came together on April 8<sup>th</sup> for Shabbat 2000, which is the largest Shabbat dinner on any campus around the nation. Over 1,800 students attended the event held in the Events Center. All students, regardless of faith or background, are invited to support and celebrate with the Jewish community on campus. For many attending the event, it was their first-time attending Shabbat and overall the event fostered great unity on campus.

Student government has been very active since Council last met, with many events planned for the rest of the semester. The Student Association Programming Board (SAPB), in charge of student events on campus, will be hosting Gunna and Social House for this year's Spring Fling

event set for April 30. Gunna is a well-established rap artist and Social House is famous for their hit, “Magic in the Hamptons.” It is safe to say that students are very excited about these performances and all of the Spring Fling activities that are being planned. The SAPB has successfully put on many events over the past 8 months, but most recently presented Jaboukie Young-White and Pat Regan at a comedy show in the Mandela Room.

On the legislative side, the Student Association Congress has called for an on-campus early voting site to be offered for students during the midterm elections this fall. This interest is truly a testament to the civic engagement of the student body, and such a site would allow for students to attend classes and ensure that their voices are heard in these important elections. Another piece of legislation was passed this past Tuesday expressing collective interest in Binghamton having off for the Lunar New Year each year. With endorsements from nearly every Asian Multicultural organization on campus, the idea passed with unanimous support from Congress.

There has been an uptick in the reporting of off campus violence including shootings by Recreation Park in Binghamton and on Baldwin Street by the Nursing Building, which happened just yesterday. From the students that I’ve spoken with since the event at Baldwin Street, the students were happy the University responded so promptly with a B-Alert which described the situation and also told students how to respond. Similarly, when the suspect was caught, students were notified through B-Alert. This level of communication is really important to facilitate trust between students and administrators especially when crises happen off campus.

After attending the Campaign Launch, I am so proud of where the University is today and where it is heading in the future. I spoke with so many alumni and was genuinely happy to share my experience as a student at Binghamton.

Thank you for welcoming me as a student leader to the BU Council for 2021-2022! I’m so happy that I had the opportunity, and got to know many of you here today.

### **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT FOR NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR**

Mr. Brian Rose, Vice President for Student Affairs, and Ms. Jazell Johnson, Director of Student Conduct, presented the proposed changes to the Code of Student Conduct.

The proposed changes were unanimously approved by Council.

### **PROPOSED PARKING FEES AND FINES FOR 2022-2023**

Mr. Brian Rose, Vice President for Student Affairs, presented the proposed changes to parking fees and fines for 2022-2023.

The proposed changes were unanimously approved by Council.

**PURSuing CARNEGIE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CLASSIFICATION**

Dr. Kelli K. Smith, Assistant Vice President for Student Success, presented the report.

**EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT**

Mr. Timothy Faughnan, Associate Vice President for Emergency Services, Mr. John Pelletier, Chief of Police, and Mr. David J. Hubeny, Executive Director of Emergency Management, presented the report.

Chair Madigan thanked Ms. Sandleitner for her excellent service to Binghamton University Council over the past academic year. She presented Ms. Sandleitner with a Council resolution acknowledging her contribution to the Council.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

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