

COUNCIL MINUTES

September 20, 2019

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

Present from the Community: President Stenger, Ms. Bennett, Mr. Boettcher, Mr. Cordi, Mr. Delviscio, Ms. Dixon, Dr. Edouard, Ms. Ellis, Mr. Elliott, Ms. Fauci, Ms. Fiore Conte, Dean Meredith, Vice President Navarro, Provost Nieman, Ms. O'Neil, Vice President Rose, Mr. Santare, Ms. Westbrook, Mr. Yarosh, and Mr. Yu

CALL TO ORDER

The Binghamton University Council meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. on Friday, September 20, 2019 by Chair Madigan.

Chair Madigan welcomed the new student representative, Franklin Richards, to the Council and gave a brief history of his time at Binghamton University.

The minutes of April 12, 2019 were approved.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

This weekend is Homecoming Weekend and we are expecting a good turnout among alumni. The Alumni Association put together a great schedule with museum showings, open houses, panel discussions, and a block party in downtown Binghamton. Of special note are the 5th anniversary celebrations for the Decker School of Nursing and School of Management, and the 70th anniversary kickoff for Harpur.

At our May 2019 Commencement, we awarded 2,999 bachelor's degrees as well as 599 masters and 120 PhD, DNP and EdD degrees. We also conferred honorary degrees to Binghamton alumni Balakrishnan "Balky" Iyer who was acknowledged for his work in renewable energy and his social engagement regarding children with autism and other developmental challenges, Patricia Saunders '65 who is an active supporter of wellness programs for children in New York City as well as athletic and academic programs on our campus, and Howard Unger '82 for his

work as a member of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, as well as for his continuing support for the University.

In August we welcomed approximately 2,900 freshmen, 1,000 transfer students and 1,600 new graduate students to the Binghamton University community. This class is exceptionally bright with SAT scores of around 1370 and high school GPAs of 89.5. This brings Binghamton's enrollment to approximately 17,900 students, up slightly from last year. Among our new students were 91 new members of our School of Pharmacy; shortly after they arrived, they participated in the traditional "White Coat" ceremony that marks their entry into clinical work.

We are working to increase our pipeline of international graduate students and enhance international research collaboration through agreements with several campuses around the world. Most recently we have signed MOUs with Vellore Institute of Technology in India, Kenyatta University in Nairobi, Kenya, and East China University in Shanghai.

The Decker School of Nursing will be helping to attract qualified students in their rural nursing program through a new \$2.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HRSA) Advanced Nursing Education Workforce (ANEW) program to provide financial support for graduate nursing students.

Our efforts to recruit top students, at both the undergrad and graduate levels, are helped by the increasing recognition we are getting in the rankings by national publications. Most recently, *U.S. News and World Report* ranked Binghamton University 31st among public universities and colleges and 79th among all public and private universities in its 2020 listing of "America's Best Colleges." We moved up 10 spots, from 62 to 52, on the publication's "Best Value Colleges" list. We were pleased to learn that the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) recently ranked Binghamton University the #1 top performer among all universities in the category of research focused on sustainability.

The University received recognition by NYSTAR and Empire State Development as a New York State Center of Advanced Technology for the work done by the Center for Flexible Hybrid Medical Device Manufacturing (called FlexMed) on developing flexible, wearable medical and industrial devices, while providing workforce training in high-tech production techniques.

Researchers at Binghamton will have a new tool to use in the near future. Louis Piper, associate professor of physics, is the principal investigator for a grant that will help Binghamton University acquire a HARd X-ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy system. The HAXPES allows researchers to get detailed information about a device or material without taking it apart, helping them determine the chemical and electronic structure of the material being studied. So far, there are only two of these tools in the world and ours will be the first outside of Europe.

Our students also are receiving recognition with four students receiving coveted Fulbright Scholarships. Anthropology PhD student Alex Velez will be traveling to Spain to study a Paleolithic site and virtually landmark fossil remains. Russian Studies student Maria Dubin will

be traveling to Belarus to serve as an English Language teaching assistant. Sociology student Michael Stephens will be traveling to Cartagena, Columbia to document LGBTQ tourism in the city. Brian Campbell, master's student in the student affairs administration program, will be teaching English language at Arabian Gulf University in Manama, Bahrain. Also earning national recognition is Geography student Jasper Bauer, who was named one of only 496 Goldwater Scholars given to students in the STEM fields. Bauer received the award on the strength of his research using drones to identify plastic landmines left behind following the Soviet Afghan war.

Summer is a time for the University to focus on construction and maintenance. Our engineering building has received new energy-efficient cladding and the building's interior is also being renovated with new offices, classrooms and lecture halls, as well as renovations to the building's mechanical systems with a scheduled reopening in summer 2020. We also are moving ahead on renovations to Science 2 with most of the work so far consisting of demolition work and window removal. The building will get a new energy-efficient skin along with a significant interior redesign. The building will be offline until late 2020. Renovations are underway as well at the Hinman Dining hall which will be completely reconstructed and expanded.

One of the Koffman Southern Tier Incubator key supporters, alumnus David Mirsky '76 and his wife Cynthia were recognized for their contributions at a reception at the Incubator in May with the naming of the Cynthia and David '76 Mirsky Collaboration Area.

We also held a naming celebration for Ben VanDerLinde, a strong supporter of the University's athletics programs and former member of the Binghamton University Athletic Association. Ben was the owner of several local Dunkin Donut franchises before he died suddenly last year. Because of his long commitment to the University, his family decided to give back to the program with a significant gift to establish a speaker's series for our athletes and other students, as well as to provide for a place for athletes to gather in the Events Center. For this, we are naming the Events Center concourse the Ben G. VanDerLinde Memorial Concourse.

Earlier this month we recognized a remarkable gift from alumna Ellyn Uram Kaschak '65, who provided a \$1.9 million donation to establish the Dr. Ellyn Uram Kaschak Institute for Social Justice for Women and Girls, with Distinguished Service Professor Susan Strehle serving as the founding director.

Two weeks ago we recognized the generosity of Mrs. Lisa Beck whose husband, Jeffrey, graduated from Binghamton in 1984 with a degree in Chemistry. He went on to become a leading engineer and manager for ExxonMobil with 63 patents and 46 publications before he died in 2012. Mrs. Beck's gift honoring Jeffrey expands a previous scholarship in chemistry to include a Masters or PhD student, and further provides funding for Chemistry Professor Matthew Veticatt's lab, whose work in catalytic chemistry parallels Jeff's research at ExxonMobil.

These gifts are just a few examples of the generosity of our alumni and supporters, whose giving this year has increased significantly. This year, the University has received \$19.1 million in gift commitments.

As a result of failing to meet our enrollment targets last year, we imposed a hiring hold and slowed implementation of some of our campus initiatives. These changes, along with increased support from the state, have placed us in a better position as we enter this academic year. In particular, we hit our enrollment targets for this year and we have seen growth in our graduate programs. We are not completely out of the woods yet – state appropriations for negotiated salary increases aren't forthcoming – but we are in a place where we can begin to make necessary hires and move forward on initiatives that will strengthen the campus.

STUDENT REPORT

Mr. Richards thanked Council Chair Kate Madigan, President Stenger, Vice President Rose and other administrators who made his transition very easy. He thanked the entire student body, both undergraduate and graduate students, for entrusting him with representing them on the Binghamton University Council. As this is his sixth and final year at Binghamton University, he hopes that with his experience, coupled with guidance and other student input, he can make positive changes to the Binghamton family. His predecessor, Harry Bittker, worked hard to establish a strong connection between the Graduate Student Organization, the Student Association, and the BU Council student representative position which allowed for a unified voice for the entire student body. John Santare, Student Association Vice President of Academic Affairs and Darren Yu, Assistant to the President of the Graduate Student Organization joined Mr. Richards at the meeting.

On the Graduate Student Organization side, the current interim executive board is currently dedicated to stabilizing and reforming the organization. At the end of last semester, there were grievances filed against those that were elected to the GSO E-board. The outcome of that investigation led to the dismissal of the results of that election and the appointment of interim executives. Christine Sylvester, the interim President of the GSO, Darren and the rest of the interim executive board are currently dedicated to reforming rules and policies to ensure that this problem does not recur in the future. Additionally, they are working on charting new sub-organizations that will represent the interest of new student body groups such as Pharmacy Student Organization, Fulbright Student Association, and the Materials Research Society.

On the Student Association side, each office is dedicated to working on different types of projects throughout the academic year. The SA President, Emma Ross, and her office have begun work on new Sexual Assault education programming. Additionally, Emma and John Santare are also working on mental health initiatives. Together they are tackling the conversation from a holistic health point of view. With Binghamton University enrolling its largest first year class this year, it has reignited the conversation on mental health resources.

John Santare and Mr. Richards will be working closely in the review process of *Code of Student Conduct* to ensure that it is focused on maintaining student safety and providing a balanced campus environment where we can all maximize our potential. They will also be working on efforts to provide Open Educational Resources to make textbooks and other essential materials available for students. Finally, Mr. Richards will be working on addressing food insecurity issues within the Binghamton University community and he will be meeting with the Director of Auxiliary Services, Deanne Ellison, to discuss ideas and solutions to this situation.

At the beginning of the semester, the University held its annual U-Fest. First year students and other interested students had the opportunity to explore clubs, organizations, and Greek life affiliated with the school. The Vice President of Programming, Chris Wright, and his office hosted the famous Saturday Night Live comedian, Pete Davidson. This month the Latin American Student Union is celebrating the 50th anniversary of Latin Heritage Month. Throughout the month, they have had and will continue to have a variety of events including guest speakers, performances, and workshops. As President Stenger already mentioned, today marks the beginning of Homecoming. Many student organizations are looking forward to reuniting with past members. In particular, the Black Student Union will be having their annual fashion show this weekend and their theme is H-Bing-C-U.

Mr. Franklin congratulated Ewuraba Annan as the first ever black Chief Justice of the SA Judicial Board.

Mr. Franklin thanked everyone and looks forward to working with everyone as the academic year progresses.

Chair Madigan thanked Mr. Richards for attending the Council meetings last year which, most likely, helped for a smooth transition.

REPORT ON COMMUNITY AND CAMPUS RELATIONS

Randall Edouard, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and Interim Dean of Students, reported on community and campus relations.

REPORT ON STUDENT AFFAIRS

Brian Rose, Vice President for Student Affairs, reported on the Student Affairs Division.

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