

COUNCIL MINUTES

October 20, 2023

Present from Council: Chair Kathryn Grant Madigan, Linda Biemer, Anthony Fiala (via Zoom) Jennifer Lesko, Dennis McCabe, Nora Monasheri, James Orband, and Maureen Wilson

Present from the Community: President Stenger, Ms. Bello, Ms. Coker, Vice President Delviscio, Dean Falcone, Dr. Fatima (via Zoom), Ms. Fauci, Ms. Gahring (via Zoom), Ms. Gilroy, Provost Hall, Ms. Gurram, Dr. Jacobson, Vice President Jones, Vice President Koch, Vice Provost Lees, Ms. Legette (via Zoom), Vice Provost Loewen, Interim Dean Mahler, Director Marshall, Ms. Medionte-Phillips, Dean Nagaraju, Vice President Rose, Vice President Sammakia, Dr. Smith, Dr. Stromhaug. Ms. Weiland, Mr. Winston (via Zoom), and Mr. Yarosh

CALL TO ORDER

The Binghamton University Council meeting was called to order at 9:22 AM on Friday, October 20, 2023 by Chair Kathryn Grant Madigan.

The minutes of the September 15, 2023 Binghamton University Council meeting were approved.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Stenger reported that it is now midterm season at Binghamton and students often have a little stress and anxiety during this time. We are looking out for the students, and making sure that they know there are places they can reach out for counseling. We also provide some fun things on campus to help reduce stress such as providing petting zoos, giving out free cookies and hot chocolate, and providing other fun activities.

Family Weekend took place October 6-8 with nearly 5,000 family members registered for the event. This was the largest turn out ever, and the campus was packed.

Homecoming Weekend took place the following weekend, October 13-15, with fewer attendees. The weather was not ideal most of the weekend, but there was a good turn-out for indoor events. We celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Harpur's Ferry, and celebrated the 55th Anniversary for Newing College and for the Educational Opportunity Program.

We recently learned that the University received the 2023 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award (HEED) from *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education. The HEED Award is a national honor recognizing colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion. Binghamton will be featured, along with 108 other recipients, in the November/December 2023 issue of *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine. Vice President Karen Jones led the effort and put together our application for the award.

The College of Community and Public Affairs (CCPA) hosted a University Downtown Gala on September 22 entitled, "Changing the Landscape of Greater Binghamton." The Gala raised a significant amount of money to help support CCPA's internship programs, and raise awareness for the college's five departments which provide over 200,000 hours of internship experiences for their students each year.

This week we recognized leading benefactor and alum, Gary Kunis '73, and his wife, Connie Wong, who provided a gift to support the K. Douglas Hsu Research Lab. Douglas Hsu is the late son of Connie Wong.

Earlier this week, we had a 3-day site visit from the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Innovation Engines Grant Committee to explore our application to enhance and expand our New Energy New York (NENY) program to manufacture lithium ion batteries. This program will be focused on improving the batteries, but also on building the infrastructure needed to create the battery industry in the Southern Tier, as well as increase the number of people and companies who are trained in battery manufacturing. Dr. Stromhaug is leading the NENY effort, and will discuss this more during the report on Research and Regional Economic Development.

September 29-30, we held a Haudenosaunee Festival on campus, with nationally renowned members from the Haudenosaunee Confederacy on campus for the event. The Indigenous speakers shared their history, experiences, food, dance, and storytelling during the event. It was great because of the historical stories and experiences that they shared, even though some were very sad.

Last week, the attack by Hamas on private citizens in Israel, and the murdering and terrorism that occurred, was shocking and devastating. It hurts to think about what happened, and the fear that everyone associated with Israel is experiencing is not something that we take lightly. It is very important that when the campus issues statements around events such as this, that we are making the statement on behalf of Binghamton University. Binghamton University cares first and foremost about its students and their emotional and physical safety. As we prepare our communications, we make sure that the students are the reason why we are making those statements. Online at X.com there is a post from campus that posted Tuesday morning, following the vigil that Chabad held for about 500 students and community members on the Peace Quad. It was a very peaceful vigil. On Wednesday, there is a statement condemning the terrorist attacks. While it took a day or so to send out the statements, we wanted to make sure that the message was exactly correct, and also that SUNY understands that we are sending the messages. If you followed the communications, you probably heard that a couple of large

private New York State universities had to retract statements and send out new statements within minutes of their initial statement. It is important that the communication we send is correct.

On October 13th we sent another statement on X.com warning about the Day of Rage. It was sent to notify our constituents about actions that were being taken on campus and the increased police presence that day. There will probably be more statements moving forward encouraging civility. Thank you to Ms. Monasheri and Student Association President, Ms. Ezor, for their role in working very hard to make the march on Thursday as peaceful as possible. Near the end of the march, there was somewhat of an altercation that was misrepresented on the internet. There is a police report that outlines the details of what actually happened.

STUDENT REPORT

Ms. Monasheri noted that the campus is quiet because fall break started on Wednesday and students are enjoying a well-deserved break. Classes will be back in session on Monday.

On September 26 the Student Association (SA) hosted a Fall Fest on campus. Hundreds of students attended wearing cowboy hats and holding pumpkins to welcome fall.

The SA Programming Board recently welcomed Breaking Bad actor, Giancarlo Esposito, to campus. The sold out show was originally scheduled in the Mandela Room but was moved to the Anderson Center to allow more people to attend. The Anderson Center sold out as well. It is good to see the students' interest in these events. The SA Programming Board also recently hosted popular and energetic rapper, Swae Lee, in the Events Center.

Kudos to the Alumni Association and everyone involved who made Homecoming Weekend a huge success. One of the highlights of the weekend was a new tradition, #OneBinghamton Madness, which was a "pep rally" where attendees watched the men's and women's basketball teams practice and there were giveaways and over 2,000 attended the event. This event was the kickoff for the basketball season at Binghamton.

Ms. Monasheri plans to establish a joint BU Council Committee this coming year with undergraduates and graduate student representatives. This Committee will provide extra ears for what is happening on campus, they will attend some of the Council meetings, help with tasks, and help prepare the next Student Representative to Council for the role.

President Stenger's Road Map teams have 6 strategic priorities. We just hired 3 new students to join the 3 Road Map Interns, for a total of 6 student interns. Each Intern is assigned to their own Strategic Priority and will serve as the student voice to the team.

November 7 is Election Day for local races for District Attorney, City Court Judge, and City Council. Kudos to the Center for Civic Engagement (CCE) who interview candidates for these positions and will be publishing it for students soon. CCE is doing a great job getting the students involved.

The crisis in the Middle East, in addition to the normal stresses this time of year for students taking midterms, has caused a slight uptick in student visits to the University Counseling Center (UCC). The uptick has been manageable for the UCC staff who are doing a great job. Amidst this, on Tuesday, the SA congress passed a resolution “Reaffirming SA Commitment to Combating Anti-Semitism,” reaffirming their commitment to support the students. The SA congress is also working on a statement to reaffirm the same for students facing Islamophobia. It is important to show the students that we are here for them.

To highlight how close the Middle East crisis hits home, Binghamton University student, Omer Neutra, deferred in 2019 to take a gap year in Israel and then he deferred again to enlist in the Israel Defense Forces. He is one of the 200 Israeli people who have been kidnapped and is being held hostage by Hamas. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and everyone affected by the war. Kudos to the Administration, Vice President Rose, President Stenger, and everyone involved, for their diligence for all of the events that unfolded over the last week.

REPORT ON RESEARCH AND REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Bahgat Sammakia, Vice President for Research; Ms. Lisa Gilroy, Associate Vice President for Research; Ms. Rachel Coker, Director, Office of Research Advancement; Dr. Michael Jacobson, Director, Office of Strategic Research Initiatives; and Dr. Per Stromhaug, Associate Vice President, Innovation and Economic Development, presented the report.

REPORT ON STUDENT ADMISSIONS

Dr. Donald E. Hall, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost; Dr. Donald Loewen, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and Enrollment Management; and Ms. Krista Medionte-Phillips, Assistant Provost for Enrollment Management and Director of Undergraduate Admissions, presented the report

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:31 AM.

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