

COUNCIL MINUTES

October 21, 2022

Present from Council:

Chair Kathryn Grant Madigan, Avery Benzaken, Linda Biemer, Dennis McCabe, James Orband, and Maureen Wilson

Present from the Community:

President Stenger, Mr. Akins (via Zoom), Ms. Bello, Professor Bohan, Mr. Brhel (via Zoom), Dr. Bodur (via Zoom), Ms. Coker, Ms. Curtin, Vice President Delviscio, Ms. Doyle, Ms. Ellis, Dr. Fatima, Ms. Fauci, Ms. Gahring (via Zoom), Provost Hall, Mr. Hayden, Esq., Ms. Ignarri, Mr. Jacobson, Ms. Jones (via Zoom), Vice President Jones, Interim Director Kalina, Vice President Koch, Professor Krasno, Ms. Legette, Vice Provost Loewen, Interim Dean Mahler, Ms. Medionte-Phillips, Professor Mijatovic, Vice President Navarro, Dean Nagaraju, Ms. Petrova, Vice Provost Pitarresi, Vice President Rose, Chief Rossie, Ms. Reuther (via Zoom), Vice President Sammakia, Dr. Smith, Sr. Stromhaug, Distinguished Professor Whittingham, Mr. Winston (via Zoom), Mr. Yarosh, and Ms. Zwierlein (via Zoom)

CALL TO ORDER

The Binghamton University Council meeting was called to order at 9:18 a.m. on Friday, October 21, 2022 by Chair Madigan.

The minutes of the September 23, 2022 Binghamton University Council meeting were approved.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Stenger reported that the last couple of weekends were very busy with Family Weekend and Homecoming. Family weekend was a huge success with over 5,000 parents, siblings, and extended family members on campus. This was the highest attendance for Family Weekend since before COVID. There were many fun activities planned for the weekend and the keynote speaker, Julie Lythcott-Haims, is the author of "How to Raise an Adult." She has a wonderful sense of humor and spoke about helicopter parenting. That session was well attended and there were many questions at the end, almost like a giant group therapy session.

Homecoming was also well attended with over a thousand alumni and many more guests in attendance. There were lots of events planned and they were all well attended, but the most popular event is the annual Homecoming Tailgate.

In the spring, we hosted a “Three Sisters” planting in the Science 1 Courtyard, where members of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy at the Onondaga Nation came to plant a ritual garden of the “Three Sisters,” corn, beans, and squash, which are all sacred to the Haudenosaunee. This week we welcomed several members of the Onondaga Nation back to campus, including Tony Gonyea, Faith Keeper for the Onondaga Nation, and Angela Ferguson, a traditional corn grower from the Onondaga Nation Farm, to celebrate the harvesting. We look forward to making this an annual event.

At the end of September, the New York State Commissioner of Health, Mary Bassett, visited the Health Sciences campus to tour Decker College’s Innovative Simulation and Practice Laboratory. This is a state-of-the-art facility and Commissioner Bassett was quite impressed. During the visit, we also talked about the MRI that we are purchasing in partnership with UHS. It was great to have Commissioner Bassett on campus to see the work that we are doing.

Last evening, we held our annual Excellence Awards dinner where we presented thirty awards including several Chancellor’s awards, Provost awards, Council Foundation awards, and the Lois B. DeFleur Prize. The Lois B. DeFleur Prize is the highest award that we give to faculty. This year’s recipient of the DeFleur Prize is Dr. Adam Laats, Professor, Department of Teaching, Learning, and Educational Leadership.

Yesterday, we held our formal NENY kick-off meeting on campus. Senator Schumer and Economic Development Undersecretary, Alejandra Castillo, were on campus for the meeting. Senator Schumer loves Binghamton, and he offered to do whatever he can to help us.

Construction on campus is moving along on schedule. This week, we strategically closed the “brain loop” while students are on break, to put heavy equipment on the roof of the Library for the Library renovation project. This work will be done by Sunday and the road will be back open when the students return to campus.

You might have noticed construction as you entered the main campus on Glenn G. Bartle Drive. We are doing site preparations for the new Charlene and Roger Kramer Welcome Center. We anticipate that the Welcome Center will be completed in February 2023.

STUDENT REPORT

Mr. Benzaken reported that the semester is flying by with mid-terms now, and finals not too far down the road.

He is happy to see the time and resources invested in the students and in the community and with \$113 million recently awarded for battery research and development. Hopefully this will increase applications to Binghamton University and will bring new talent to the area.

There continues to be two persistent issues that students are concerned about, mental health and student housing. At last month's Council meeting, we talked about mental health. The problem is not the lack of resources on campus, but rather that students don't know how to locate the resources that are available for them. Because the resources are endless and the demand is high, Avery will work on helping the students find the resources that they need. He is creating a resource sheet, and will reach out to various offices on campus that promote student well-being to ask for information to include in a pamphlet. The pamphlet will provide a physical, tangible resource that students can refer to, and he believes it will be effective. There are lots of resources online, but students have to search for that information. He hopes to work with other members of congress on this initiative.

The restructuring of the RA system continues to be a concern for students, residents, and RAs. The RAs believe that the University is doing away with the RA position rather than adding positions that will make the position more effective. Although the restructuring seeks to increase student involvement on campus, they don't believe that it will accomplish all of the goals that it was intended to accomplish. In recent communication with RAs, they indicated that they are not opposed to the change itself, and believe that there are some aspects of the new model that could be useful such as creating the hourly-wage position to deal with daytime lock-outs. However, they feel that they were deliberately left out of the decision making and development processes and think it is unconscionable to claim that the new model was made on their behalf. Avery stated that it ties back to a lack of communication and he believes that communication and transparency will be necessary to get everyone onboard.

REPORT ON RESEARCH AND REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Bahgat Sammakia, Vice President for Research, Dr. Per Stromhaug, Assistant Vice President for Innovation and Economic Development, Mr. Michael Jacobson, Director of the Office of Strategic Research Initiatives, Dr. Donald E. Hall, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, Ms. Olga Petrova, Assistant Director of Entrepreneurship and Innovation Partnerships, and Dr. M. Stanley Whittingham, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Director of NorthEast Center for Chemical Energy Storage (NECCES), 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 10:27 a.m.

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