

COUNCIL MINUTES

October 18, 2019

Present from Council: Kathryn Grant Madigan, Linda Biemer, Anthony Fiala (via phone), Jennifer Lesko, Dennis McCabe, James Orband, Matthew Salanger, Maureen Wilson, and Franklin Richards

Present from the Community: President Stenger, Mr. Alpaugh, Mr. Boettcher, Mr. Delviscio, Ms. Dixon, Ms. Ellis, Mr. Elliott, Dr. Fatima, Ms. Fauci, Mr. Lam, Vice President Navarro, Provost Nieman, Ms. O'Neil, Vice President Rose, Ms. Ross, and Mr. Yarosh

CALL TO ORDER

The Binghamton University Council meeting was called to order at 9:16 a.m. on Friday, October 18, 2019 by Chair Madigan.

The minutes of September 20, 2019 were approved.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Stenger congratulated Mr. Kevin Boettcher on his appearance and success on the TV show Jeopardy!

The other big news is that Binghamton University Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, Materials Science and Engineering M. Stanley Whittingham was awarded the 2019 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his pioneering work on lithium-ion batteries. This is a great honor for Stan and is a real boost to the University's research profile. A short press conference was held via the internet where some of his colleagues in different departments across campus gathered to congratulate him on his success. Stan has been very complimentary regarding our campus and the research we do. We will be having a celebration for Stan later today; the whole campus is invited to share our pride in his achievement.

Another piece of recent good news relates to the end of the hiring hold that we had put in place last November in response to fiscal challenges stemming from missed enrollment targets last fall. We are now moving forward with searches for the five leadership positions that were put on hold last year which include the vice president for advancement; the vice president for diversity,

equity and inclusion; the dean of the Thomas J. Watson School of Engineering and Applied Science; the dean of students; and the director of the Educational Opportunity Program.

Several things have come together to help us achieve fiscal stability so quickly. These include:

- first and foremost, the commitment of our departments and divisions in making some hard choices and working to reduce costs,
- extraordinary recruiting by our Undergraduate Admissions Office of highly qualified new undergraduate students,
- growth in graduate enrollment in almost every graduate program in each of our schools and colleges,
- support from the SUNY Administration and SUNY Board of Trustees that approved our 2019-2020 budget parameters, including fees and tuition rates,
- and support from the New York State Legislature and Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who approved funding to cover a portion of our retroactive faculty and staff raises.

We aren't completely out of the woods yet, however. We will continue to need to increase revenues, both by being mindful of costs and by working to increase our recruiting of students, particularly graduate students, both domestic and international.

We now have a new name for Decker – it's now the Decker College of Nursing and Health Sciences. This change both recognizes the continuing support for the school provided by the Clifford G. and Florence B. Decker Foundation as well as the expanding educational and research vision of the College. The College will now consist of the Decker School of Nursing as well as the School of Applied Health Sciences and the School of Rehabilitation Sciences with programs in occupational, physical, and speech therapy.

Most recently, Biomedical Engineering associate professor Sha Jin was awarded \$1.2 million as part of three grants aimed at finding a cure for diabetes. One \$400,000 grant will help her, along with Biomedical Engineering chair Kaiming Ye, develop insulin-producing islet cells from stem cells. A second \$450,000 grant will be used to develop an oxygen-releasing scaffold for growing islet cells, while a third \$346,000 grant will allow for the purchase of a multicolor fluorescence cell analyzer to help with her work. This equipment will also be available to other Binghamton researchers.

This year, the University has received \$19.1 million in gift commitments, and \$15.2 million in actual gifts — \$14.2 million of which have been cash. This places us in a very strong position as we move into our comprehensive gifts campaign next year, with additional fundraising opportunities linked to the celebration of important campus anniversaries.

STUDENT REPORT

Mr. Richards remembered Binghamton University student, Brandon Peart-Wright, who passed away after the last Council meeting. Mr. Richards recently met with one of Brandon's friends who asked him to read a short statement about Brandon. "Brandon was warm and welcoming to

everyone he met. He was a proud TRIO member who was very passionate about politics. Brandon was also a mentor for the TRIO program and a tutor in the EOP/SSS office.” In honor of Brandon and his impact on our campus community, Mr. Richards asked for a moment of silence.

Mr. Richards stated that symbols of hatred in any form are highly offensive to the entire Binghamton community even if it is from students, faculty, or staff. A particular situation, which was covered by Pipedream, was met with a swift response by Dr. Summerville. He emphasized the University’s goal to create and maintain an inclusive college environment where students from diverse backgrounds can reach their full potential. Many students, however, are still debating if that is enough.

Upon hearing that Dr. Whittingham won the Nobel Prize, current students, alumni, and families reposted Facebook links, news articles, tweets, and other posts associated with this great accomplishment. A large portion of Binghamton students are very happy with this accomplishment and will be attending the reception in Dr. Whittingham’s honor later today.

On Thursday, October 17, the Student Association and the SA Programming board hosted their annual fall concert. They had two popular artists Doja Cat who performed her famous song “Moo” and Gucci Mane performed a variety of his hits. Leading up to this concert, it was a very stressful time for the Student Association to insure the event went on without a problem. Undergraduates and graduate students in attendance all enjoyed the concert. We look forward to other programs that the SA Programming board will put on.

Student Association President Emma Ross will be hosting an event as part of her Sexual Assault Education campaign on October 24. Emma and her office continue to raise awareness about sexual assault on college campuses; her campaign will help educate students beyond the standard bystander intervention training.

Student Association Vice President John Santare and his office will be hosting his first mental health roundtable conversation on November 4. John will also be partnering with other departments on campus to insure that all students are aware of the resources covered in the last council meeting.

John Santore, Student Association Vice President for Multicultural Affairs Khaleel James, and Mr. Richards are now publicly revealing a housing project that they will be working on through this academic year. The project was made possible by a Town Gown Advisory Board resolution and advice from Dr. Randall Edouard. It will look to hire interns who will educate students on housing options and resources on and off campus that will show them where they can go to insure that their house is up to code. Pipedream recently ran an article that talked about students that were displaced from their homes because of a failed inspection. We hope that this does not happen to any student in the future. At the moment we are currently revising the program and more details will be given in the future. We hope to lay a solid foundation so that future student leaders can carry on the project.

The Student Culinary Council is working alongside Deanne Ellison and Auxiliary Services and will be rolling out the new Ozzi Program in January of 2020. The Ozzi Machine is a reusable plastic to-go container service. With the purchase of a meal plan, students will receive one free, nonmonetary Ozzi token which can be exchanged for a clean container. Once they are done with the container, a student can wash it themselves or return the dirty container to the machine to get their token back for future use. This looks to improve our sustainability efforts as Binghamton looks to become greener.

Mr. Richards will travel to Cooperstown today with Chair Madigan to represent Binghamton University at the annual ACT conference. He looks forward to seeing and talking with other student trustees including SUNY SA President Austin Ostro.

REPORT ON REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

President Harvey Stenger reported on regional economic development.

REPORT ON RESEARCH

Dr. Bahgat Sammakia, Vice President for Research, reported on research.

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