

COUNCIL MINUTES

November 17, 2023

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

Present from the Community: President Stenger, Professor Beedle, Ms. Bello, Mr. Blakeslee, Mr. Brhel (via Zoom), Ms. Colonna-Garrow, Vice President Delviscio, Dean Falcone, Mr. Faruk, Dr. Fatima, Ms. Fauci, Ms. Gahring (via Zoom), Ms. Gorgos, Ms. Gurram (via Zoom), Provost Hall, Mr. Haque, Mr. Hartrick, Ms. Ignarri, Vice President Jones, Mr. Kalina, Ms. Kallett-Williams, Vice President Koch, Vice Provost Lees, Ms. Legette, Director Marshall, Dean Nagaraju, Vice President Navarro, Vice Provost Pitarresi, Vice President Rose, Ms. Reuther (via Zoom), Vice President Sammakia, Ms. Savidge-Morris, Mr. Winston (via Zoom), Mr. Yarosh, Mr. Zeon, and Ms. Zwierlein (via Zoom)

CALL TO ORDER

The Binghamton University Council meeting was called to order at 9:21 AM on Friday, November 17, 2023 by Chair Kathryn Grant Madigan.

Chair Madigan observed a moment of silence in honor of Council member Anthony Fiala's father who passed away on November 8, 2023.

The minutes of the October 20, 2023 Binghamton University Council meeting were approved.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Stenger reported that campus has been mourning the tragic loss of a student who passed away early Monday morning, October 30th. There is a memorial still in place in front of the Bartle Library where students, faculty, and staff left flowers, candles and messages. Classes were cancelled on October 30th and classes were made optional on October 31st to give faculty and students time to grieve and process the loss. Student Affairs, the Counseling Center, and Residential Life play a key role in times like this, and they are working very hard to make sure that our students are feeling safe and protected. After the recent crisis in the Middle East and the

contentions between students we also have to make sure that those events are as safe as possible. It has been challenging, but considering the circumstances, we have done a good job.

Last month we had a visit from the National Science Foundation's Innovation Engines Grant committee. We don't have any news to report yet, but we remain confident about our chances for the \$160 million in funding.

After our October meeting, we received great news that the New Energy New York (NENY) project named Binghamton University one of 31 Regional Tech Hubs across the nation by the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration. Each Tech Hub has a different focus, and Binghamton's focus is on batteries. Because the Tech Hub is led by the Department of Commerce, all other federal agencies and industry leaders around the world will look to Binghamton as the experts in battery technology. This is a big win for Binghamton University. Senator Schumer was instrumental in helping us achieve this designation, and we also thank Distinguished Professor M. Stanley Whittingham, Dr. Per Stromhaug, and Olga Petrova for leading the way for this designation.

Professor KD Kang from the Department of Computer Science recently received a \$600,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to improve real-time data services that support smart transportation, healthcare, manufacturing, and more. Professor Kang is researching new techniques to make computer processing speeds faster and consume less energy.

Associate Professor John Zhang and his research team in Electrical and Computer Engineering recently received a \$1.2 million grant from NSF to study the stability of power grids. This research is critical as we move toward renewable energies and how to store energy generated by wind and solar to keep the power grids stable.

Assistant Professor Shiqi Zhang in Computer Science is working with students to develop a robotic seeing-eye dog that will benefit the visually impaired community. Training real seeing-eye dogs is very expensive and only 50% of trained dogs pass, so this will be a huge breakthrough in support of the visually impaired.

Associate Professor Molly Patterson, in the Earth Sciences Department, will be headed to Antarctica next year to study the Ross Ice Shelf. She will be learning about the melting of the ice shelf, and the impact it will have on the elevation of our oceans, and the impact global warming will have on it.

The Decker College of Nursing and Health Sciences started to enroll students in their first cohort of students for the Doctor of Physical Therapy, the Doctor of Occupational Therapy, and in the Master's in Speech and Language Pathology programs. As part of the Speech and Language Pathology program, renovations to build a Speech and Pathology Clinic in the Gannett building are underway. The Decker Foundation has provided a grant of over \$1 million for the project which, when combined with our funds, will complete the project. The Speech and Pathology Clinic will be pro bono, and provide therapy for children and adults from Speech and Pathology faculty and students.

Congratulations to Dean Nagaraju and Professor Hoffman, from the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science, who recently received FDA approval for a drug, Agamree, that treats Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD). This drug will be used to ease the symptoms of DMD for individuals age 2 and older.

Congratulations to the Women's Cross Country team for winning their first America East Conference Championship. This year the volleyball team finished third in the conference; their postseason tournament begins today.

Construction on campus continues. Work on the Fieldhouse is on schedule for completion in November 2024. The Kramer Welcome Center is nearing completion and will open in early 2024. We are moving quickly on plans for a \$60 million lecture hall and classroom building to be built across the street from Academic A. The Chenango Room will be expanding to the second floor during the summer 2024, and will provide flexible event space for banquets and conferences with expected completion by October 2025.

Students will be going home next week for Thanksgiving break, and classes will resume on Monday, November 27. Final exams begin on Monday, December 11. It will be a busy few weeks leading up to the end of the semester.

STUDENT REPORT

Ms. Monasheri reported that it has been quite a semester.

She welcomed Omar Faruk (graduate student), Mieraan Haque (undergrad), and Logan Blakeslee (undergrad), who are members of the Council Committee that she initiated this semester. This committee will provide an extra ear to what is happening on campus, and will keep her informed so she can give an accurate report to Council.

This semester a lot of people made their voices clear and there were a lot of different opinions expressed. This showed in the local elections where there were more student voters than ever before. The feedback is used to discover ways to make the university better.

The SHADES organization, created for LGBTQ+ students of color, hosted their annual "Vogue Ball." They had a great turnout for the energetic performances, and it provided a welcomed upbeat break from recent events.

On Wednesday a well-known expert in Middle Eastern studies, Charlotte Korchak, was on campus to give a lecture. When students arrived for the lecture, they found the room covered with over one hundred 8 x 11 posters on tables, chairs, and on the walls with phrases including "end University complicity in genocide," "the students united will never be defeated," and "end the censorship of the pro-Palestine student movement." Campus police came quickly to the scene and collected the papers, and the lecture went on. An investigation is in progress.

After the passing on Monday of fellow student, Natalia, students came together in unity and are taking care of each other. Student government and the administration have done an amazing job

in spite of the difficult situation. The mental health packet that the former student representative to Council worked on has been printed. The packet includes all of the resources that students can resort to when needed. There is also a Mental Health Resource Advisory/Oversight Board that is being established with help from Daniel Croce from the Student Association (SA), Vice President Rose, and Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Chief Health and Wellness Officer, Johann Fiore-Conte. The new Board will include representatives from the CARE team, the University Counseling Center, and other pertinent areas. The Graduate Student Organization is also working on their own advisory board. We care for our students at Binghamton and hope to never experience another tragedy like that on campus again.

Natalia's family requested that items (notes/teddy bears) that people left at the campus memorial be collected. The items were brought to a Day of Caring event held on campus last Friday. It was a time for the University to come together in the Appalachian Collegiate Center's Amphitheater for tabling by mental health advocates, food, musical performances, art stations, and a bonfire.

Representatives from each of the big 4 SUNY schools (Buffalo, Stony Brook, Albany, and Binghamton) have come together to lobby for more funding from the SUNY SA to support mental health resources and funding.

Stress-Free Binghamton, hosted by the Dean of Students Office, is offering over 50 events on campus in November and December. Events such as goat yoga, free chair massages, and pet-a-pooch are aimed at providing fun and stress-reducing activities, events, and food for students as they prepare for finals. There is something for everyone.

At the October Council meeting it was reported that the SA passed a resolution, "Reaffirming SA Commitment to Combatting Anti-Semitism." The SA Congress recently passed two more resolutions. One resolution was "Affirming SA Commitment to Combating Xenophobia," and they pass another resolution to combat Islamophobia. They are also working on a resolution for a mental health awareness program called MAPS. We are making strides to better the University, the mental health of the students, and to show them we are there for them.

REPORT ON ATHLETICS

Mr. Eugene Marshall, Jr., Athletic Director; Mr. David Eagan, Associate Director of Athletics/Assistant Provost; Mr. John Hartrick, Associate Director of Athletics, Communications; Mr. Dennis Kalina, Senior Deputy Director of Athletics; Ms. Leigh Ann Savidge-Morris, Deputy Director of Athletics; Ms. Kara Gorgos, Associate Athletic Director of Sports Management and Performance; Ms. Marissa Colonna-Garrow, Associate Athletic Director for Financial Operations; and Mr. Ze Zeon, Deputy Director of Athletics and Chief Development Officer, presented the report.

REPORT ON COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Mr. Greg Delviscio, Vice President for Communications and Marketing, and Mr. Ryan Yarosh, Senior Director of Media & Public Relations, presented the report

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:28 AM.

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