

COUNCIL MINUTES

November 18, 2022

Present from Council:

Chair Kathryn Grant Madigan, Avery Benzaken, Linda Biemer, Anthony Fiala, Jr. (via Zoom), Jennifer Lesko, Dennis McCabe (via Zoom), and Maureen Wilson (via Zoom)

Present from the Community:

President Stenger, Ms. Beckmann (via Zoom), Professor Bohan, Mr. Brhel (via Zoom), Ms. Curtin, Vice President Delviscio, Ms. Doyle, Ms. Ellis, Ms. Fauci, Ms. Fiore Conte, Ms. Gahring (via Zoom), Provost Hall, Mr. Hovancik (via Zoom), Ms. Ignarri, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Jones (via Zoom), Vice President Jones, Interim Director Kalina, Vice President Koch, Ms. Legette, Vice Provost Pitarresi, Ms. Reuther, Vice President Rose, Chief Rossie, Vice President Sammakia, Ms. Savidge-Morris, Dr. Smith, Mr. Yarosh, and Ms. Zwierlein (via Zoom)

CALL TO ORDER

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

The minutes of the October 21, 2022 Binghamton University Council meeting were approved.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Stenger reported that it has been a very busy month and students are now in crunch time as they get near the end of the semester. After the students return from Thanksgiving break, there will only be two weeks of classes and then finals. The semester has gone very quickly, but the students have done a great job during the semester and it has been a really successful semester all around campus.

The Decker College of Nursing and Health Sciences recently announced that Professor Pamela Stewart Fahs has been inducted as a 2022 Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing (AAN). She was one of 250 distinguished nurse leaders chosen for this year's cohort of AAN Fellows. This recognition is based on her contributions to health and healthcare. It is a great honor for Pam who is an expert in rural health. She joined Decker College in 1985.

In October, the University hosted a Legacy Celebration in New York City for former School of Management Dean Upinder Dhillon. Many attended the Celebration including Kimberly Kelly '13 and '14, chair of the SOM Young Alumni Advisory Board, and Laura Roth '10, former chair of the Board, who spoke about the impact Dean Dhillon made on the students. Upinder's sons also spoke about their dad. Howard Unger '82, chair of the University's Fundraising campaign, announced \$1.3 million in commitments from friends of the School to establish the Dhillon Family Faculty Fellow Endowment.

Binghamton University's EXCELERATE Campaign is moving forward and we are working hard to raise support for the Campaign. President Stenger just returned from a trip to California where he met with alumni and friends. Jim and Heather Bankoski hosted a dinner for alumni and friends at their home in Los Gatos, and David and Martha Ho hosted a dinner at their home in Pasadena for another group of alumni and friends. We wanted to connect with alumni that we haven't connected with in the past, and the hosts were able to tell their story and express why they are committed to Binghamton University. The campus has raised a little over \$160 million, and we are about 73% of our campaign goal of \$220 million. We have a lot of work to do.

We are also focused on the State's faculty hiring initiative and are excited that we will have continuity in the state's Executive branch. The goals that were set by the Governor in her State of the State address and her budget for the State of New York supports SUNY significantly. Binghamton's share of the Governor's \$53 million hiring initiative is approximately \$6.5 million, and will fund 36 new research faculty this year. In addition, we are hiring 30 replacement faculty, so we expect to have 65 searches this coming year for new faculty positions. The timing will be critical to bring the new faculty onboard and make sure that they have the support and space they need for their research. We are hoping that the Governor will continue this initiative, but we are not sure that it will continue at the same pace. If the Governor directs us to hire an extra 30 to 35 faculty each year over the next five years, that would mean that Binghamton could see as many as 175 new faculty on campus. The additional faculty will put pressures on campus space, so we are working on a plan to expand the campus and build some new buildings on the Vestal campus, as well as in Johnson City and Endicott. It will be exciting and will be our focus for the next few years.

We had an internet problem on campus earlier this month, that was caused by an internal human error. The campus is doing an investigation into the incident which caused several faculty and staff to lose data that was stored on their computers. This incident reminds us all of the need to back up our hard drives.

STUDENT REPORT

Mr. Benzaken welcomed his colleague, Ms. Nia Johnson, Student Association President, to today's Council meeting.

It has been a busy month. Earlier this month, Dr. Merryl Tisch, Chair of the SUNY Board of Trustees, visited campus. While she was here, she met with a small group of students. Mr. Benzaken was thankful to be one of the students in that meeting. Chair Tisch asked each student to tell a little about themselves so she could get to know them better. She showed a genuine

interest in each student and it was a great meeting. Chair Tisch spoke about the importance of voting, with election day just two days after her visit. She encouraged them to talk to their peers about the importance of voting, too. Mr. Benzaken reached out to the Center for Civic Engagement and learned that around 710 on-campus students voted at the campus polling place on election day. There were over 800 clicks on the absentee ballot request link on the CCE website. He also learned that since 2016 there has been an increase in the voting rate of college student voters that outpaces the national average.

There has been an uptick in the number of students going out on weekends compared to the last several years. As a result, OCCT has faced a lot of problems as it relates to student safety for both passengers and the drivers on the buses during the late night routes. After multiple suspensions last semester and a couple of suspensions this semester, the CFO of OCCT and Vice President of Finance for the Student Association, Daniel Croce, worked with UPD and the OCCT Board to have a police presence at bus stops. They also moved the bus stop location to allow for better crowd control. This is an unfortunate consequence of recent unruly student behavior, but hopefully with the recent changes, the need for a police presence at the bus stops will be short lived. There are some benefits to having a police presence at the bus stops as it has increased student interactions with UPD and has led to greater mutual respect.

Mr. Benzaken recently spoke with Chief Rossie about the implementation of body cams for UPD officers. The body cams were a result of a recommendation by the Campus Citizen's Review Board. He believes that this will increase trust and accountability, and will help build better relationships with the students.

Regarding mental health, Mr. Benzaken reported that national reports indicate record levels of alcohol consumption, anxiety, and depression that are affecting students on college campuses. He has been working to put together a list of campus resources and information for students to find help. He will be reaching out to more offices that help maintain student wellness on campus.

REPORT ON ATHLETICS

Mr. Dennis Kalina, Interim Athletic Director, presented the report.

REPORT ON COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Mr. Greg Delviscio, Vice President for Communications and Marketing, presented the report.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

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