

COUNCIL MINUTES

November 15, 2019

Present from Council: Kathryn Grant Madigan, Linda Biemer, Dennis McCabe, James Orband, and Franklin Richards

Present from the Community: President Stenger, Dr. Bodur, Mr. Delviscio, Ms. Doyle, Dr. Edouard, Ms. Ellis, Mr. Elliott, Dr. Fatima, Ms. Fauci, Ms. Fiore Conte, Interim Vice President Koch, Ms. Legette, Vice Provost Loewen, Vice President Navarro, Provost Nieman, Ms. O'Neil, Vice President Rose, Vice President Sammakia, and Mr. Yarosh

CALL TO ORDER

The Binghamton University Council meeting was called to order at 9:17 a.m. on Friday, November 15, 2019 by Chair Madigan.

The minutes of October 18, 2019 were approved.

Chair Madigan announced that Binghamton University students James Wilkinson and Jacqueline Luchetti were chosen for two of the five ACT awards which were presented at the ACT meeting in Cooperstown on October 19.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

The School of Management held its annual SOM Gala at New York City's Grand Hyatt Hotel on November 7th. This was a special event as it was a celebration of the School's 50th Anniversary. Over 200 people attended the event which featured Broadway producer, lyricist and composer Neil Berg '86 who provided the evening's entertainment. The money raised by the event was well over \$200,000 and will be used to support the Dean's Excellence Fund.

We celebrated another anniversary on campus in October with the 10th Anniversary of the University's Confucius Institute for Chinese Opera, directed by Distinguished Teaching Professor Zu-yan Chen. Over the past decade, more than 4,000 Binghamton students have benefitted from participation in the Institute's academic offerings in language, performance, and cultural understanding. The Confucius Institute is the only performance group in the United States that focuses on the entire production of the Beijing Opera in an educational setting.

The University also took time to recognize 24 of our faculty and staff at the annual Excellence Awards Dinner the end of October. We recognized them for outstanding research, scholarship, and teaching, as well as internationalism and service to the campus community.

Our initial announcement that Distinguished Professor M. Stanley Whittingham had been awarded the Nobel prize in Chemistry resulted in an avalanche of attention for the campus, with the university's Facebook post being read by over 111,000 people with over 27,400 likes, comments, and shares; it also was the biggest Instagram post ever for the campus. In the print media, we estimate that the announcement put the name of our University in more than 5,500 publications in 132 countries with a combined readership of over 30 billion people.

Recently the Association for the Advancement in Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) ranked Binghamton first in the nation for research linked to sustainability. AASHE is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that works to facilitate sustainability innovation in higher education.

In the elections earlier this month, Angela Riley, assistant dean in the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences won a seat on the Binghamton City Council, as did alumni Sophia Resciniti '06 and Aviva Friedman '14.

Harpur's Ferry held its 7th annual EMS conference, attracting more than 100 attendees from local and regional EMS agencies. Each year this conference has grown, so for the first time, sessions were held over the course of two full days. The keynote speaker was University alumnus Adam Fox '92. Adam is currently Section Chief of Trauma at Rutgers University Medical School but he got his start working for Harpur's Ferry in the early 90's.

Over the past several weeks, we have been holding a series of receptions to recognize the support provided to our students through scholarships. These funds are stewarded by the Binghamton University Foundation which invests the donations and allocates them to students in the form of scholarships and awards, fellowships and assistantships, study-abroad programs and internships, and other educational opportunities beyond the classroom. This year, the Foundation will distribute more than \$3.6 million to more than 1,900 students.

We also held separate events to bring together the recipients of scholarships given by our University partners Barnes and Noble and Sodexo Dining Services. This year, Barnes and Noble awarded 27 scholarships to their student workers, with a value of \$27,000; in the 21 years they've been on campus, they've helped nearly 400 students pay for tuition with more than \$450,000 in support. Similarly, Sodexo, which has been on campus for 25 years, has awarded nearly a million dollars in scholarships. This year, 30 students received some \$60,000 in scholarship support.

STUDENT REPORT

Mr. Richards reported that now is possibly the most critical part of the semester. Many student organizations are having their final practices or meetings before their banquets, performances, or other artistic presentations. Additionally, some students are also finishing up final papers and case competitions before final exams. This combined with the shortening of the day in terms of daylight, the frigid temperatures, and other personal situations, may have many students feeling stressed. Mr. Franklin encouraged faculty and staff to continue to check in with students to ensure that all is well.

Mr. Richards attended the ACT Conference with Chair Madigan in October. At the conference, there were only four student representatives who attended. One student representative from SUNY Albany will try to implement a preferred name policy, based on the policy we recently started at Binghamton University.

At the ACT Conference, Mr. Richards had the opportunity to meet and talk with the two Binghamton University students, Jacqueline Luchetti and James Wilkinson, who received scholarships for their outstanding work at Binghamton.

Mr. Richards reported on an event that occurred yesterday on campus. Two student groups organized a tabling event on the spine. One of the student groups was not chartered by the Student Association, the University, or the Graduate Student Organization and as such, the second group did not have the ability to reserve the space. In addition, both groups did not have consent from the University or the Student Association to be present in that space. They were warned on numerous occasions about possible sanctions if rules were violated. Other students who saw these groups on campus protested their beliefs. University Police came to maintain order between those tabling and those protesting. It is important to note, however, that the groups are not being punished for their beliefs. The University and the Student Association both respect the first amendment, individual's right to assemble, and freedom of speech.

The Graduate Student Organization (GSO)'s main priority is stabilizing the organization and finding full-time executive board members. They are holding elections this weekend to fill these roles.

The GSO hosted a graduate student mixer in the Chenango Room where graduate students from various departments had the opportunity to network and learn about other departments. The GSO is promoting their Graduate Enrichment Fund which allows graduate students to fund courses that are not part of their core curriculum. This will enable graduate students to become more well-rounded students.

The executive board of the Student Association will be starting a "Did You Know?" campaign. They will be promoting on-campus resources such as access to Plan B and free HIV testing. The SA President's office is also working with Vice President Navarro to bring free menstrual care products into the SA office. Students will be able to access the products by stopping by the SA office as well as gender-neutral bathrooms in select locations across campus.

The Student Association will be partnering with local homeless shelters for a clothes drive. The clothes drive, which started earlier this week, will continue until December 5. Statistics have shown that many members of the LGBTQ+ community have a higher chance of becoming homeless. The homeless shelters that the SA is partnering with have specific counselors dedicated to aiding members of that community.

A delegation of students will be heading to Albany to represent Binghamton University at the SUNY SA conference this weekend.

Mr. Richards wished everyone a safe and happy holiday with their family and friends.

REPORT ON STUDENT ADMISSIONS

Dr. Donald Loewen, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and Enrollment, reported on student admissions.

REPORT ON ATHLETICS

Mr. Patrick Elliott, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, reported on Athletics.

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.