

## **COUNCIL MINUTES**

February 21, 2025

Present from Council: Kathryn Grant Madigan, Linda Biemer, Jennifer Lesko, Dennis McCabe, James Orband, Maureen Wilson, Mackenzie Cooper

Present from the Community: President Harvey Stenger, Vice President Greg Delviscio, Provost Donald Hall, Vice President Karen Jones, Vice President Brian Rose, Vice President JoAnn Navarro, Aaron Beedle, Trisha Bello, Niyazi Bodur, Darcy Fauci, Dean Atul Kelkar, Shanise Kent, Alistair Lees, Eugene Marshall, Andre Mathis, Bathabile Mthombeni, James Pitaressi, Ada Robinson-Perez, John Wilcko, Ryan Yarosh

Online from the Community: John Brhel, Dean Andrea Falcone, Patti Reuther, Matthew Winston, Pamela Zwierlein

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The Binghamton University Council meeting was called to order at 9:21 a.m. on Friday, February 21, 2025 by Chair of the Council Kathryn Grant Madigan.

The minutes of the November 15, 2024 Binghamton University Council meeting were approved at 9:22 a.m. with no changes.

### **PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

President Stenger welcomed everyone back for the first meeting of 2025 and first since November and highlighted some exciting things happening on an off campus.

In early February two of our graduates Michael Zagreda '14, and Michael Katzenoff '07 who both work for the NFL sent us a video from the field at the Super Bowl talking about the work they do. A feature story about them is posted on BingUNews.

In another story that was posted on BingUNews, the grandson of legendary baseball player Jackie Robinson is enrolled in classes in the School of Management. He hopes to grow his expertise in finance and bring those skills back to Tanzania, where he grew up, to help with improving living conditions and educational opportunities there.

On March 15, the university will welcome David Whitmore as the new Vice President of Advancement. His experience at schools such as Cornell and Syracuse will be a great asset to Binghamton University.

Binghamton University has retained its R1 status from the Carnegie Classification which continues to show our commitment to research helping us attract top faculty members.

For the first time, Binghamton University will be submitting an application to receive the Carnegie Classification for community engagement. If approved, it would help the University be recognized nationally for its community engagement efforts.

Our First-Year Research Immersion (FRI) and the Source Project, which is aimed at first-year students in the humanities, now provides 625 spots for incoming students to get hands-on involvement with research projects. Interest in the program has doubled over the last decade with 52% of undergrads now involved in the research program at some point.

A newer program, the Binghamton University Projects for New Undergraduate Researchers (BUPNUR) has provided opportunities for 167 students over the past three semesters. It is led by Steve Ortiz and helps to make research accessible to many more undergrads.

We are excited to announce that our first-year retention rate has gone up by 0.9% and currently sits at around 89.5% while our four-year graduation rate rose 2.4% to 76.3%.

Last Month, Nobel Prize winner Stan Whittingham was knighted by Princess Anne and is now officially Sir Stanley Whittingham, Knight Bachelor of the British Empire.

Speaking of Sir Stanley Whittingham, to honor the fifth anniversary of his Nobel Prize, a ceremony was held and a plaque with a replica Nobel medal was placed in the lobby of the Couper Administration Building.

Martin Luther King III spoke to us in January for a fireside chat about his lifelong efforts to promote global human rights.

On Monday, February 24, 2025 Olympian Emily Mackay '21 will be the featured speaker at the 20th annual Celebrating Women's Athletics Luncheon.

Two faculty members were recognized with Career Awards from the National Science Foundation. Ana Laura Elias Arriaga, assistant professor of physics, and Jufi Tan, department of mechanical engineering continue to help exemplify the role of teacher-scholar.

The Binghamton University Community Schools program in the College of Community and Public Affairs received a \$4.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of education. The award will allow the program to expand mental health services in Chenango County to the Norwich and Oxford school districts.

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## **STUDENT REPORT**

Ms. Mackenzie Cooper welcomed everyone back and provided the following updates in her student report:

On February 13, 2025 a tragic fire took the life of a Binghamton Fire fighter one that shook the community. In the wake of this tragedy, campus groups, including Greek Life and community organizations, have started numerous GoFundMe campaigns in his honor. Our thoughts remain with his family and fellow firefighters.

In political news, former Binghamton mayor, Rich David, has launched a campaign for county clerkship. Additionally, former Binghamton Representative Marc Molinaro has been nominated to lead the Federal Transit Administration.

The search for a new university president is officially underway, with a committee that includes students from the SA and GSO, and other SUNY representatives.

Recently, the university welcomed Monica Guzman, author of this year's Common Read Experience book *I Never Thought of it That Way*. Nearly 400 students, faculty, and staff engaged in workshops, a working lunch, and attended her keynote address.

In academic news, the SUNY Chancellor has announced a new general education requirement on civil discourse, set to take effect in Fall 2026.

In Greek Life news the IFC and panhellenic recruitment is complete.

In athletics news, Jenna Chan of women's track and field earned her fourth America East Female Track Athlete of the Week award and broke the school record for hurdles three times this season.

Brian Luciano of the men's track and field team was named America East Field Athlete of the Week three times this season.

Alyssa Armitage tied the school record in the pole vault at the Penn State National Open which will put our new track coming next year to good use.

In men's wrestling, Ivan Garcia, Will Ebert, and Brevin Cassella all have been named EIWA Wrestlers of the Week. Plus the team recently swept duals against Ivy league schools Harvard and Brown.

Men's tennis was also recently ranked first in the NEC Preseason Poll.

Women's basketball has already claimed six conference victories with big wins over UMBC and UMass Lowell.

The Student Association E-Board is in the process of working on a "holiday day off request form" for students to be able to effectively communicate to their professors when they need off to be able to observe a holiday.

The Indian International Student Union hosted their annual *Tamasha* celebration, highlighting the rich tapestry of Desi culture. The event took inspiration from *Love Island USA*'s most talked-about season last June.

Events such as the multicultural professional development summit and the EVP's office annual club carnival were very successful.

E-board and BU Council Representative elections are underway with the petition period closing this weekend and the ballots being officialized in the coming week. Ms. Cooper announced she is running for re-election and hopefully will be in this same seat next year.

The alumni center hosted their annual Networking Night in Manhattan in January. Hundreds of students and alumni came together for a reception, to hear university updates, and then to spend time in fellowship and mentorship with one another.

The alumni office is also gearing up for its annual Global Days of Service endeavor, inviting students and alumni to dedicate a day of service to their communities demonstrating our collective Bearcat impact in and around the world. This year's observance takes place during Earth Day weekend in April.

Binghamton University will officially adopt the Okanagan Charter on Friday, February 28, as part of the Kresge Center Lecture and B-Healthy Summit, reinforcing its commitment to health-promoting strategies across campus. This adoption aligns with ongoing efforts to embed health into all aspects of campus culture and lead health promotion initiatives locally and globally, ensuring a systematic and sustainable approach to well-being for students, faculty, and staff.

The Hillside Commons upgrades and renovation is just about complete, this space has been overhauled to provide space that is more conducive to student studying, gathering for socializing, gaming and events.

A feedback form for the Presidential Search Committee has been sent to members of the campus community.

Lastly the Binturong Statue will be revealed at 4 p.m. in the Admissions Center on March 20. Hopefully we can see all of you there!

### **REPORT ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

The Report on Academic Affairs was presented by:

- Donald Hall, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
- Shanise Kent, Assistant Provost
- James Pitarresi, Vice Provost

### **REPORT ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION**

The Report on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion was presented by:

- Karen A. Jones, Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Ada Robinson-Perez, Executive Director, Equity, Access and Diversity Education

### **NEW BUSINESS**

No New Business

Meeting Adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

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