

COUNCIL MINUTES

April 23, 2021

Present from Council via Zoom: Kathryn Grant Madigan, Linda Biemer, Zachary Herz, Dennis McCabe, James Orband, Matthew Salanger, and Maureen Wilson

Present from the Community: President Stenger, Ms. Bello, Dr. Bodur, Mr. Cordi, Vice President Delviscio, Ms. Doyle, Mr. Edouard, Director Elliott, Ms. Ellis, Ms. Fauci, Mr. Federman, Ms. Fiore Conte, Mr. Faughnan, Mr. Hickey, Mr. Hubeny, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Johnson, Vice President Jones, Vice President Koch, Ms. Legette, Dean Meredith, Ms. Mthombeni, Dr. Moose, Vice President Navarro, Provost Nieman, Ms. O'Neil, Chief Pelletier, Vice Provost Pitarresi, Vice President Rose, Vice President Sammakia, Prof. Sayama, and Mr. Yarosh

CALL TO ORDER

The Binghamton University Council meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. on Friday, April 23, 2021 by Chair Madigan with all attendees participating via Zoom.

The minutes of March 19, 2021 were approved.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Stenger reported that this past year has been challenging but the University community should be proud of what they have accomplished. The University's positivity rate declined significantly over the past month, with the current 14-day positivity rate at .3% as of April 21. We were able to offer vaccines to several hundred students in early April as the state made 500 doses of the vaccine available. Unfortunately, we had to postpone the vaccination program partly as a result of the pause in distributing the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. As of now, 85% of our students have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

We plan to transition hundreds of employees who are working remotely back to campus. This transition will begin by June 1 with the expectation that everyone will be back on campus by August 1, in time for the start of the fall semester.

We received word that five faculty have been named Distinguished faculty members by SUNY recognizing their unique contributions to their disciplines. They are:

- Jaimee Wriston Colbert, Distinguished Professor of English and Creative Writing, for her work in developing the field of eco-fiction;
- Dean Gloria Meredith, Founding Dean of the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and Distinguished Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, for her research and her work as founding dean of two schools of pharmacy;
- Pedro Ontanedo, Distinguished Professor of Mathematical Sciences, for his work in topology, specifically his discovery of previously unknown spaces or “manifolds” of negative curvature;
- Mark Poliks, Director of the Center for Advanced Microelectronics Manufacturing and now Distinguished Professor of Systems Science and Industrial Engineering for his research in the field of electronics packaging and developments in flexible and hybrid electronics;
- and Daryl Santos, Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusiveness, who has been named a Distinguished Service Professor of Systems Science and Industrial Engineering, for his work in support of the University, especially its diversity initiatives.

We also learned that John Frazier, Distinguished Service Professor of Geography, was recognized by the American Association of Geographers (AAG) who awarded him the 2021 Harold Rose Award for Anti-Racism Research and Practice for his work exploring core issues in contemporary racial and ethnic geography as well as for his decades-long mentoring and support of colleagues of color.

Binghamton’s outstanding faculty are drawing attention to our graduate programs. Twelve programs are ranked in the top 100 by *US News and World Report* in its ranking of graduate programs, with nine in the top 75. Programs that saw rises include english, nursing, public affairs, and management.

Earlier this month, President Stenger and Dean Dhillon met with SUNY Broome President Kevin Drumm to sign an articulation agreement that establishes a new 2+U transfer program that will reserve admission for 25 qualified SUNY Broome students into our School of Management, what is by many measures the most competitive school at SUNY’s most competitive campus.

Freshmen applications set a new record with more than 39,500 applications received. Particularly in demand is Decker College of Nursing and Health Sciences where they saw a 36% increase in applications. Currently we are on track with our deposits, however in recent years more students are putting down deposits on multiple schools. We are also seeing increases in graduate applications which are up 15% over last year. We are pleased that international applications and deposits are also up from last year, although we are still concerned that although applications are up, international students are running into difficulties getting visas. This may impact our ability to enroll students who want to attend Binghamton, but we may consider online classes for their first semesters.

As far as budget, first and foremost, there will be no state support budget cut in 2021-2022 with funding held at 2019-2020 levels. Students will see an increase of \$500 to the maximum TAP award, bringing it from \$5,165 to \$5,665 with the goal of reducing the “TAP GAP” (the

difference between TAP awards and tuition) by 33% each year until it is completely eliminated by 2024-2025.

We will be holding a hybrid Commencement this May with both virtual and in-person graduation walks.

STUDENT REPORT

Zachary Herz began by acknowledging two unfortunate events with students of the Binghamton community. In the middle of March, senior Rebecca Koltun was involved in an accident that led to paralysis. This past month, we lost Andrew Desiderio, another beloved member of our Binghamton community. In both of these cases, we have seen the true power that the Binghamton community has fostered for these two individuals. Many Binghamton students have donated to Andrew's scholarship fund, which will award a scholarship to students from his high school in Mineola. That fund raised over \$80,000 to date. For Rebecca, the Binghamton community has helped raise money to pay for her rehabilitation in a multitude of ways, with more than \$625,000 raised to date. In just two hours, Tom and Marty's raised over \$4,000 from a bingo night they held for Rebecca two weeks ago. While both of these instances are unfortunate, we are all extremely proud to be a Bearcat today and are honored to watch our community make a difference.

Since the last Council meeting, students have enjoyed two rejuvenation days on April 8 and April 20. With the weather extremely nice out on both days, students got to decompress and enjoy the day with their friends. We hope that all students took advantage of what little time they had off to not do their schoolwork, especially as we hit the home stretch of the semester.

In the middle of March we saw the official opening of the Violence and Rape Crisis Center. This center of resources for survivors has been in the works for the entire year. It is good to see that students who choose to use these resources have the opportunity to do so. While the VARCC is still in the early stages of opening, feedback from students has been positive and students are pleased to have this resource on campus.

As we turn the page in the coronavirus pandemic, we are seeing more and more students make the decision to get vaccinated. SUNY Chancellor Malatras toured the COVID testing/vaccination site here and, during his press conference, he was asked about making the COVID-19 vaccine mandatory for all students. His answer was specifically important because it showcases how many students are willing to get vaccinated on their own and to stop community spread. While the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is on hold temporarily, we are still seeing students get vaccinated from other state vaccination sites at the BU Johnson City location and at Walmart in Vestal. 85% of students reported that they have received at least one dose of the vaccine. This statistic shows the commitment of Binghamton students to get back to some normality soon. Students are also understanding that for the fall 2021 semester, classes will most likely resume in-person.

Zachary had the privilege of attending both final candidate interviews for the position of Dean of Harpur College. He was appreciative to those who organized the two interviews and for including student input in such an important decision.

For the past month, students have been able to take advantage of the wonderful programming opportunities put on by the Student Association. Over 200 students virtually attended the event with Hassan Minaj. On Saturday, all of the SUNY schools will come together to put on SUNY Fest, a virtual concert for all SUNY students. Next week, Binghamton students will enjoy Spring Fling virtually with artists to be announced soon.

Both the GSO and SA have completed their elections for next year. We are waiting to hear about the next BU Council Representative, but hopefully we will get those results soon.

Zachary thanked everyone for all the support this year as well as the work you do to keep Binghamton a fantastic institution for its students. If anyone had asked freshman Zachary if he would be doing this today, he probably would have been very confused and overwhelmed. However, he noted that this opportunity has been nothing short of amazing. While we do not know who will be taking over the role next year, he is sure that they will embody the spirit of Binghamton and continue to advocate for the student body. Zachary reported that in the fall he will continue his education at the University of Pennsylvania to get his masters in secondary science 7-12 education.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF STUDENT CONDUCT FOR NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR

Vice President Brian Rose introduced the Code of Student Conduct for 2021-2022. Jazelle Johnson joined the meeting and reviewed the details of the changes.

Chair Madigan thanked Vice President Rose and Ms. Johnson for their work on this. Chair Madigan asked for a motion to approve the proposed changes in the Code of Student Conduct for 2021-2022. A motion was made and seconded. After no discussion, the proposed changes were unanimously approved.

REPORT ON EMERGENCY SERVICES

Timothy Faughnan, Associate Vice President for Emergency Services, Chief John Pelletier, and David Hubeny, Executive Director of Emergency Management presented. Chair Madigan thanked all for their service and efforts during this difficult time. She noted that our Emergency Services has set the bar and serves as an example to other institutions.

Chair Madigan thanked Mr. Herz for his excellent service to Binghamton University Council over the past academic year. She presented the Council resolution acknowledging his contribution to the Council.

There being no other new business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:28 a.m.