

COUNCIL MINUTES
September 19, 2014

Present from Council: Linda Biemer, Patricia Cummings, Esq., Thomas Doty, Anthony F. Fiala Jr., Sarah Glose, Dennis McCabe, Esq., James Orband, Esq., and Matthew Salanger

Present from the Community: President Stenger, Vice President Broschart, Mr. Coker, Mr. Delviscio, Ms. Doyle, Director Elliott, Mr. Edouard, Ms. Ellis, Chief Faughnan, Interim Dean Gal, Ms. Hampton, Mr. Kane, Dr. McGoff, Professor Mischen, Ms. Navarro, Provost Nieman, Ms. O'Neil, Mr. Roma, Vice President Rose, Vice President Sammakia, Ms. Westbrook Scarlett, Esq., and Mr. Yarosh

CALL TO ORDER:

The Binghamton University Council meeting was called to order at 9:19 a.m. on Friday, September 19, 2014 by Dennis McCabe, Esq., acting chair.

The minutes of the May 9, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved.

REVISION TO RULES OF STUDENT CONDUCT:

Vice President Brian Rose noted that normally changes to the Rules of Student Conduct are done in April. However, how colleges respond to sexual assaults has been changing swiftly and in order to keep up with these changes and to respond to the requirements of federal laws in a timely way, we are proposing to make some changes now.

This change pertains to separating the hearing and the sanctioning. We want to make these changes now so that they are in place for any cases which occur during the academic year.

Ms. Glose, who was a member of the committee reviewing this proposed change, noted that in the past, it was difficult to have the hearing and the sanction at the same time. It was agreed that it is better to determine if the person is responsible and how responsible first, then to pay attention to sanctioning. This also allows for character witnesses during the sanctioning and creates more clarity on what the accused should be focusing on in their initial hearing. The change protects the rights of the student.

Mr. McCabe read the resolution (see attached).

A motion was made to accept the resolution and it was seconded. After no further discussion, the resolution was approved by a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The campus continues to receive high rankings in national publications. Earlier this week, Binghamton was named among the nation's top 50 universities by *US News & World Report*. This is the 17th consecutive year that Binghamton University has made this list and we are now ranked 38th among public universities, up from 44th last year.

Binghamton University welcomed nearly 16,500 students back to campus this fall -- 3,200 graduate and 13,281 undergraduates. Of these students, approximately 2,550 freshmen, 1,189 transfer students and 1,185 graduate students are new to campus. These numbers are up from last year with an increase of 120 graduate students and 284 undergraduates.

In an effort to reach our target audience, we've recently bought times for a series of ads on WNYC, a New York City affiliate of National Public Radio. The idea for the ad is not only to attract potential students, but to raise Binghamton University's visibility and reputation among parents and influencers of public opinion, such as industry leaders and members of the media. The ads will play twice daily for 20 weeks, reaching more than one million unique listeners each week in the New York City region.

This month we completed work on the new Admissions Center (formerly Dickinson Dining Hall). The building is a marvel, with a large presentation room, classrooms, modern offices, and formal and informal meeting spaces. The guiding vision behind this facility was to provide one-stop shopping for many of the services that students require—from admissions to the registrar to student accounts and financial aid.

We have hired 57 new faculty members as part of our NYSUNY 2020 commitment to increase faculty and research.

Our communications team has been working hard to reach students with important messages, especially important for new students who are just getting acquainted with both the physical and cultural aspects of our campus community. We have made three videos to inform our newest members of the University community; one video describes some of the events and activities that have kept us busy over the summer, another welcomed students to campus on move-in day and in the last video, I urge students to make "Smart Choices."

The University was the subject of an investigation by the United States Office of Civil Rights regarding our handling of a sexual assault that took place last year. This investigation was just that -- an investigation and it did not imply in any way that we had done any wrong. At the end of August, we received a letter from the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) stating that they had reviewed the complaint and have determined that the University conducted a prompt and thorough investigation and that no further action is needed at this time.

We have started a “Freshman Research Immersion Program” in three academic fields -- chemistry, biology, and physics. Initially, the program will channel 90 students in three research streams: biofilms; neuroscience; and smart energy with about 30 students per stream. This is being funded through grants from the National Science Foundation, Howard Hughes Medical Institute and other agencies along with New York State Regional Economic Development Council. This provides first-year students with a year-long authentic research experience which enhances critical thinking, develops teamwork and mentoring networks, turbocharges the educational process, and opens doors in academia and industry for talented students.

The campus continues to grow with several high profile projects in various stages of completion. Earlier this month we broke ground for our new SMART energy facility. Funding for this project derives from the NYSUNY 2020 initiative. The building itself has been designed in-house by the University’s design team and meets LEED platinum standards for green building design. Faculty in this facility will focus on alternative energy production, harvesting, and storage. Efforts will include thin-film solar panel design and production, consumer-ready solar cells, increasing efficiencies in data collection centers, and next generation battery production.

We recently held the grand opening of our new Center of Excellence building. The building will provide space for the Center of Excellence in Small Scale Systems Integration and Packaging (S3IP).

We continue to make progress on the Southern Tier High Tech Incubator, located in downtown Binghamton. Substantial funding for this project came from Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s Regional Economic Development Council. We will be breaking ground on the project on October 2 and we expect to have the facility completed by January 2016.

We have received \$10 million available from the state budget and have a firm commitment from the Governor's office for the other \$50 million for the new School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. We are currently in negotiations with the owner of our preferred site in Johnson City near Wilson Hospital, with whom we will be partnering. We have the construction fund on board and are ready to go with topographic maps, environmental, and traffic studies and are in the initial stages of the design phase of the building. We have begun the search for a founding dean of the school. We hope to conclude the search by January 2015.

Our efforts continue to build our research and scholarship at Binghamton. Our long-term research trajectory looks promising. We’ve received two very significant research awards -- an \$8.2 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to support the Developmental Exposure Alcohol Research Center, and the NorthEast Center for Chemical Energy Storage (NECCES) has been awarded a \$12.8 million, four-year grant, from the US Department of Energy.

In July, Dean Hari Srihari of the Watson School was awarded the Michael P. Malone International Leadership Award for outstanding contributions to further international education in public higher education.

S.G. Grant, who has been Dean of the Graduate School of Education since 2008, has decided to rejoin the faculty where he will serve as principal investigator for a multi-million dollar grant

from the New York State Education Department to create units for the state's K-12 social studies curriculum. C. Beth Burch has been appointed Interim Dean.

We also are pleased that we will be announcing the new Vice President for Operations soon, who will be replacing Jim Van Voorst who left Binghamton for the University at Albany.

Research, graduate, and undergraduate education also continue to drive our Road Map process, which is now entering its second year. Earlier this month, the Road Map Steering Committee completed its review of divisional proposals put forward for funding for the 2015-16 academic year. After combining several proposals, the Committee ranked a total of 54 proposals, with the top 10 receiving a portion of the \$1.7 million base. Specific information on the proposals moving forward is available online.

STUDENT REPORT:

Ms. Glose has been speaking to a wide scope of students to see what everyone is thinking in regards to the student growth and its impact on campus. Most say it is visible and noticeable on campus (dining halls are more crowded, there are longer lines, and buses are crowded). As we grow, students realize that we need to grow the infrastructure, and we are moving in the right direction with the new Admissions Center, renovation of Rockefeller Center, and repurposing of old buildings. As we grow, we need to maintain the same high quality of education and experience.

On the positive side, the new freshmen are very active. University Fest was a huge success and many signed up for clubs. Students are attending events and are very engaged and involved.

With the upcoming Rosh Hashanah break, students must leave the residence halls from Wednesday afternoon through Saturday. Is this the best practice to close residence halls and send all students home? Is this worthwhile for three days? It is important to make sure students are staying engaged while they stay on campus.

Responding to the power outage on September 17, students felt that the university's response to providing information was very quick. There is a concern, however, on what the protocol is on classes continuing in the event of a power outage. It was reported that some professors continued teaching in the dark. Some students were concerned that they had to continue with lab experiments without lights. There was a concern whether safety measures are still in place, i.e. fire alarms working, etc., if the electricity is out. What is the protocol and how do we communicate that to all?

Ms. Glose has been in contact with both the Student Association and Graduate Student Organization.

The SA has started a mentorship program titled PUG where it matches new students with more experienced students. There are over 300 students groups this year. Extracurricular activities are important. Nick Offerman from Parks and Recreation will be here for Parents Weekend. OCCT is working on the over-crowded bus issues and has moved to a new line route system.

GSO reports there is more interest in GSO activities than in the past. GSO hopes to increase graduate student ties to each other and to the university. They are attempting to increase involvement in transdisciplinary areas.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Mr. McCabe expressed an interest in hearing about two items that Ms. Glose discussed:

- Pros and cons of keeping residence halls open during breaks
- Safety protocol during power outages

President Stenger noted that these items are important and they will be addressed in a future meeting.

2014-2015 GOALS & OBJECTIVES:

President Stenger presented on the University's goals and objectives for 2014-2015 (see attached).

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. McCabe noted the recent passing of Professor Bruce McDuffie, who was a leader in the community and was instrumental in discovering mercury in tuna fish and swordfish. He was a leader in civil rights and peace efforts and was concerned about the Vietnam War. He had a positive impact on the university and the entire community. He was endearingly called "the smiling assassin" due to his pleasant demeanor and strict grading policies. We were lucky to have had him on our campus and as part of our history.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:26 a.m.