

MINUTES OF
FULL FACULTY SENATE MEETING
March 28, 2023

Professor of Art and Design Natalija Mijatovic, Chair of the Faculty Senate, called the Full Faculty meeting held in Old Union Hall to order at 11:47 am. Chair Mijatovic notified the body that Provost Donald Hall would give the semi-annual university update. She then welcomed Provost Donald Hall.

Provost Hall began by noting President Harvey Stenger was in Albany to meet with legislators about funding opportunities around tuition and that he would be providing the report to the Full Faculty meeting attendees on his behalf. He reported the following:

- Preparing for the end of the spring semester, with only five weeks left. The last day of class is May 4. Finals and Commencement weekend of May 12-14.
- Provided an update from the Annual Grad Fest held earlier this month.
- Thanked faculty for their hard work, especially during the busy weeks before summer.
- Next month is the celebration of Ramadan for our Muslim students, faculty, and staff. He asked the faculty to be flexible if teaching classes during and after sunset when the daily fast is broken.
- Recognized the outstanding fundraising and relief efforts by our Turkish students, particularly in our Dual Diploma program and the SA-chartered Turkish Culture Association who have raised more than \$6,000 along with two truckloads of supplies that were delivered to the Turkish Consulate in New York City. He also recognized School of Management faculty member Oktay Sekercisoy who helped organize a remembrance event for students who lost family and friends in the devastating earthquake in February.
- Recognized the great teachers at Binghamton who recognize the importance of ethnic, cultural, and religious diversity. He noted that we received several notices of recognition for Binghamton's inclusiveness and commitment to students. Some examples discussed included Binghamton University scoring a nearly perfect ranking on the latest national Campus Pride Index, which measures a university's commitment to LGBTQ safety and inclusivity on campus; we received a 4.5 out of 5, an increase from the 3.5 scores received in previous years.
- School of Management was recognized by *Insight into Diversity* magazine for its Transformational Leaders program, receiving the magazine's 2023 Inspiring Programs in Business Award, highlighting the School's emphasis on bringing diverse students into careers in business.
- The University's Harriet Tubman Center for Freedom and Equity, directed by History Professor Anne Bailey and Associate Director Sharon Bryant, an associate professor in our Master in Public Health program, received recognition in the form of a \$400,000 state grant to support the Downtown Freedom Trail project. Gov. Kathy Hochul was in Johnson City near our Health Sciences Campus in February to make the announcement, while also announcing that Johnson City would receive a separate \$10 million Downtown Revitalization award that will leverage the progress the village has made since the Health Sciences Campus was developed. At a March 12 event — Harriet Tubman Day — at the University Downtown Center, the first of a series of markers for the Freedom Trail was placed, denoting key locations that played a role in the Underground Railroad that enslaved people used on their journey to freedom. At the same event, Binghamton Mayor

Jared Kraham announced that the Tubman Center would also receive a \$100,000 grant from the City of Binghamton to assist with the project, which includes the erection of a statue of Tubman at the UDC in addition to the trail markers and an educational program for five local school systems.

- Stanford University analyzed the work of more than 6 million scientists worldwide and ranked them based on their career-long or single-year output within their field of study. Thirty-two of our faculty researchers ranked among the top 2% of researchers in their field.
- Again, the School of Management is in the top ten among public business schools in the most recent ranking by Poets & Quants. School of Management also came in at number 26 overall, moving up a spot from the 2022 rankings, and ranked within the top 20 schools for academic experience and in the top 30 for admission standards.
- Provost Hall mentioned he appeared in the Miami Herald last week, he discussed what was happening in Florida regarding the persecution of students who come from diverse backgrounds, especially, LGBTQ students, and how students and their families have alternatives now, a place like Binghamton, as an alternative if they are feeling hostility in the places where they attended high school. He added that this piece made a lot of news outlets, used in NPR across the state of Florida. He is hoping to see an uptick in interest and has already received emails from our alums who live in Florida, and inquiries from researchers and students at Binghamton providing their support.
- Provided an update on our hiring initiatives. The state currently supports a \$55 million SUNY hiring initiative, with Binghamton receiving \$6.5 million of those funds to hire research faculty; searching for 30 replacement faculty for a total of 66 faculty overall; currently brought to completion or near completion about half of those searches; Dean Srihari, from Watson College, decided to postpone a couple of his searches to wait for the incoming director of Engineering design to have input on the decision; other searches are progressing well and will see a lot of new faculty in September; every school/college across campus will be adding faculty, 17 faculty lines in Watson College and 16 faculty lines in Harpur College. He added that this is a great opportunity to enhance the University's core research strengths and broaden our research impact with new faculty and disciplines and fields as diverse as AI and Data Science, Community Schools, Fragility and Aging, Physical Therapy, and Computational Mathematics. Also, this will strengthen our R1 potential and our R1 profile and lead to the potential for higher recognition over the next 5-10 years.
- Provided an update on campus and off-campus construction which included; making improvements to our physical plant; the new Charlene and Roger Kramer Welcome Center, scheduled to be completed early next year; Bartle Library, this is a multi-year project that is scheduled to be completed within a year to two years; Old Rafuse Hall is being renovated, this project will be done late summer or early fall and will be ready for students next spring; Health Sciences Campus, exterior work on the R&D building is almost complete and will be completed within the year; Ford Family Wellness Center for Seniors, in Johnson City, is expected opening later this spring.
- Announced that the University has received notice that our request for funding to build a new \$60 million lecture hall and classroom facility was approved and funds coming from the State University of New York Construction Fund. The new building will add two large lecture halls, an active learning classroom, two learning studios, 23 general-purpose

classrooms, three computer classrooms, and an Information Commons to the overall educational space on campus. The building will be located across from Academic A, adjacent to Lot M.

- We are waiting to hear from the governor and legislature regarding next year's budget, which technically is due out of Albany on April 1. He noted that nothing is definite until the budget is voted on at the end of the month. He added that we know the governor's proposal for an overall tuition increase for all SUNY campuses, which was the 3% increase, has been eliminated from the Senate and Assembly but they understand SUNY needs an additional operational budget, and both houses of the legislature have proposed increasing support for our campuses. Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo and Senator Leah Webb were on campus last week rallying with UUP and CSEA to try to generate support for these increases, along with proposals to increase assistance to the EOP program. We are hopeful that the governor's call for differential tuition for the research centers may be acceptable. Not all senators are on board with that but recognize the added costs by the research centers in terms of research and scholarships, as well as providing additional career opportunities for students, which adds to the fiscal burden on our campuses.
- This morning, the proposal to allow nursing students to complete a greater proportion of their clinical requirements in simulation labs was passed. This would help address the nursing shortage.
- We recently sent our Assembly and Senate leaders a letter highlighting our overall successes and achievements.
- Spoke briefly about our new SUNY Chancellor, John King, SUNY's 15th chancellor. He was on campus in January, touring our Health Sciences Campus, University Downtown Center, and Innovative Technologies Complex. Provost Hall met with him, he understands our needs and fully supports our workforce development.
- Provided admissions update which included; almost 50,000 applications for our first-year class, a 20% increase from last year; out-of-state applications have increased by almost 30%; international applications increased by about 10%; transfer applications have increased significantly. In the graduate realm, we received almost 6,100 applications, an increase of a third from last year. International applications for graduate studies have increased by 50% from last year. Domestic applications have increased as well by about 15%. We should hit all of our enrollment targets for undergraduate and graduate levels.
- Provided an update on scholarships. Beginning this fall, the university will be awarding scholarships out of the new \$25M endowment coming from the anonymous donor. The scholarships will eventually support about 100 students annually. Each year we will authorize 20 scholarships for up to \$10,000 annually for first-year students. Five additional scholarships for first-year students will receive in-state residential full-cost scholarships, \$30,000 a year for a total of 25 scholarships a year. These scholarships will help Binghamton increase access and compete for the very best high school students in the nation. The donor agreed to fund an additional \$12.5 million to support Graduate Students of the Arts scholarships for master's students in our new School of the Arts. Each year, 15 scholarships will be granted, covering two years of full tuition for selected students showing exceptional performing, writing, musical, design, and visual arts skills. These gifts, which are the largest ever given to the University targeted toward scholarships, have given a boost to our ongoing EXCELERATE Comprehensive Gifts Campaign.

- Provided an update on the success of the campaign. Previously, the campaign's goal was to obtain \$220 million in private support for student access, faculty research and scholarship, and educational excellence. With these gifts, the campaign has raised nearly \$200 million of our goal, with more than a year left.
- Provided an update on the School of Arts. Last week we announced the appointment of the new founding director for the School, Christopher Robbins, who is currently director of the School of Art and Design at Purchase College. We also are taking steps to develop the school's academic structure, as the Faculty Senate has approved the restructuring necessary to create the School and we are finalizing a master plan for the renovation of the Fine Arts building.
- Moving forward in the search for a new dean of the Libraries. We have wrapped up the candidate interviews and will decide within the next 10 days.
- Acknowledged and congratulated the Binghamton University Men's Hockey Club team who recently won the national club championship.

Provost Hall then asked for questions from the full faculty.

Prof. Aaron Beedle, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences asked to share with the Faculty Senate some of the issues from his office that will support new campus hires. Provost Hall explained that we are working with our deans to fully fund their research needs. So, we are committed to ensuring all new hires succeed and come in with the support they need to be leaders in their fields. In addition, they are working on a spousal/partner dual career hiring initiative. He noted that he and JoAnn Navarro will be meeting with community members to assist with this initiative. We are in the beginning stages but hope this will develop over time.

A doctorate student commented that many graduate students are struggling financially. He asked what the administration is doing to help secure a living wage for all graduate student workers regardless of their program. Provost Hall explained that we had not raised the minimum graduate Ph.D. student stipend for six years. Hopefully, by next week, he will have an announcement. They are working to finalize the financing.

Chair Mijatovic noted that professional internationalization on campus is important. Can you tell me more about it and how it is supported? Provost Hall explained that our study abroad is only 6 %, which is extremely low. He noted that this has to be one of our major priorities. As part of the funding, President Harvey agreed to a quarter of a million dollars, including another \$100,000 to start to fund undergraduate research assistants who can go with faculty if the faculty member has an international project over the summer or during the winter session, to have a free research assistant and we would fully fund the students' travel and living expenses. He stressed the importance of talking with the students about the use, value, and utility of studying abroad.

After no further discussion, the Full Faculty meeting was adjourned.

The third Faculty Senate meeting of the 2022-2023 academic year was called to order by Chair Mijatovic at 12:20 pm.

1. Minutes

Minutes from December 6, 2022, were approved.

2. Obituary Notices

Chair Mijatovic notified the body that Prof. Emeritus Anthony D. King, Art History; Elliot Kamlet, lecturer, School of Management; Prof. Emeritus Eugene Klimko, Mathematics; Prof. Emeritus Phillip Nelson, Economics; Prof. Emeritus Otto Ulc, Political Science; and Prof. Emeritus George Yonemura passed away. Chair Mijatovic spoke briefly about each and then asked for a moment of silence to remember these colleagues.

Lastly, Chair Mijatovic announced that the next Faculty Senate meeting would be held Tuesday, May 2.

After no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:26 pm.

Present: Michael Armstrong, Christina Balderrama-Durbin, Aaron Beedle, Megan Benson, David Bisaha, Jeremy Blackburn, Boettcher, Kevin, Peter Borgesen, Zu-yan Chen, Weiyang Dai, Dina Danon, Jeremy Dibbell, Patrick Doyle, Nicole Fenty, Rodney Gabel, Neyda Gilman, Thomas Goodheart, Donald Hall, John Havard, Brendan Hennessey, Nora Henry, Leslie Heywood, Douglas Holmes, Mattias Iser, Murali Jagannathan, Rebecca Kissling, Jonathan Krasno, Wei-Cheng Lee, Richard MacKenney, Paul McShee, Robert Micklus, Natalija Mijatovic, Luiza Moreira, Richard Naslund, Vladimir Nikulin, Julien Panetier, Chang Hee Park, Xingye Qiao, Jessie Reeder, Sara Reiter, Hiroki Sayama, Jeffrey Schertzer, Anton Schick, Olga Shvetsova, James Sobel, John Starks, Kenneth White, Wei Xiao, Ning Zhou, Harald Zils, Melissa Zinkin

Excused: Christopher Bishop, Nicole Cameron, Kenneth Chiu, Junghyun Cho, Jakob Feinig, Ariana Gerstein, Clarice Kelleher, BrieAnna Langlie, Marcin Mazur, Ralph Miller, Ravi Palat, Cherie van Putten, Thomas Sinclair, Gurpreet Singh, Harvey Stenger, Ozlem Tonguc, Sarah Young, Hong Zhang

Absent: Manoj Agarwal, Jane Bear-Lehman, Kim Brimhall, Tracy Brooks, Alex Chase-Levenson, Anindya Debnath, Guy German, Sonja Kim, Tom McDonough, Jason Moore, Candace Mulcahy, Aritha Nirmal, Titilayo Okoror, S.B. Park, Bonggu Shim, John Zilvinskis