

## **COUNCIL MINUTES**

October 18, 2024

- Present from Council: Chair Kathryn Grant Madigan, Linda Biemer, Mackenzie Cooper, Dennis McCabe, and Maureen Wilson
- Present from the Community: President Harvey Stenger, Provost Donald Hall, Vice President Greg Delviscio, Vice President Karen Jones, Vice President Brian Rose, Vice President Bahgat Sammakia, Vice President JoAnn Navarro, Rachel Coker, Marisa Colonna-Garrow, Shelia Doyle, David Eagan, Darcy Fauci, Lisa Gilroy, Kara Gorgos, John Hartrick, Mike Jacobson, Dennis Kalina, Kara Kellett-Williams, Dean Atul Kelkar, Alistair Lees, Karima Legette, Eugene Marshall, Andre Mathis, Pamela Mischen, Chief Matthew Rossie, Meera Sampath, Leigh Ann Savidge-Morris, Dave Simek, John Wilcko, Ryan Yarosh, Ze Zeon
- Online from Council: Jennifer A. Lesko
- Online from the Community: John Brhel, Gerald Hovancik, Patti Reuther, Matthew Winston, Pamela Zwierlein

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The Binghamton University Council meeting was called to order at 9:19 a.m. on Friday, October 18, 2024 by Chair Kathryn Grant Madigan.

Two changes were proposed and accepted regarding the September 20, 2024 minutes. In the Student Report, the Roadmap Steering Committee was updated to Roadmap Internship Program. On page four in the Student Report, Faculty Senate was incorrectly listed and was corrected to properly reflect the GSO (Graduate Student Organization).

The minutes of the September 20, 2024 Binghamton University Council meeting were approved at 9:21 a.m. with the amended changes.

### **PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

President Stenger welcomed everyone back and highlighted some of the events that took place during Homecoming Weekend including a Block Party, the Fall Festival, the Athletics Hall of Fame inductions and Tier Talks event with alumni who have gone on to successful careers in

television. The Homecoming celebration was combined with the end of the successful EXCELERATE campaign celebration.

In early October, John C. Williams, the President & CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York visited Binghamton in order to speak with local leaders and get a first hand look at the economy in the Southern Tier. During his visit he attended a presentation on the University's impact on the Southern Tier and spoke with students about economic and monetary policy. He also took questions from students.

New Energy New York (NENY) will be hosting several events in conjunction with Battery Week that will take place the week of October 21-25. Several companies that are part of the first ChargeUP acceleration program will showcase their innovations which include updates on improving cell storage capacity and producing lighter batteries.

Binghamton University remained solid at No. 73 on the *U.S. News & World Report* "Best Colleges" list while moving up 47 spots to No. 38 in the "Best Value" metric. This new ranking put Binghamton at No. 4 in the nation among public universities for value.

Binghamton recently won a Higher Education Excellence in Diversity award from *Insight into Diversity* magazine for the fourth consecutive year. Many thanks to Vice President Karen Jones and her division for her continued progress in working to foster an inclusive and equitable environment that welcomes all students, faculty, staff and the local community.

October 23, 2024 we will be holding our annual Excellence Awards Ceremony recognizing our outstanding faculty and staff on their SUNY and campus awards.

The Road Map committee has met twice this semester, with presentations from SPs 6 and 1 – focusing on our efforts in Internationalization and Creative Activities.

We are excited to announce that Student Affairs is launching a new Bearcat Family Portal later this month. It will feature a new website and an optional email newsletter for parents which can be customized based on parents' needs. It will go a long way in helping families stay connected to Binghamton.

This spring, the Department of Middle Eastern and Ancient Mediterranean Studies is adding a course in Elementary Persian that will allow Binghamton to offer classes in all of the major languages spoken in the Middle East. We are proud to be the only public university in the Northeast to be named a National Resource Center in Middle Eastern and North Africa Studies through the U.S. Department of Education's Title VI program.

Professor Sean Choi and PhD student Maryam Rezaie are using their research on bacteria-powered biobatteries to create artificial indoor plants that can feed on carbon dioxide, give off oxygen and generate a small bit of electricity. These artificial plants achieve a 90% reduction in carbon dioxide levels which could eventually lead to an air purifier that could charge your cellphone.

Assistant Research Professor Lindsey Swierk of Biological Sciences has made a discovery about how semi-aquatic lizards produce a bubble over their nostrils to scuba dive to breathe underwater and avoid predators.

The paver project along on the spine will continue until the winter and will restart in the Spring, 2025. This project will enhance one of the busiest spots on campus by improving accessibility and safety with new pavers, lighting, seating and landscaping.

We are working with the Village of Johnson City to rename Gannett Drive to University Boulevard. Our facility there houses our Battery-NY Prototyping Facility, Library Annex, and our speech, language, and hearing clinics.

This weekend, we are hosting the Haudenosaunee Festival which helps us share in a celebration of Haudenosaunee culture and help them connect with the University community and our neighbors in Broome County and other parts of the state.

## **STUDENT REPORT**

Ms. Mackenzie Cooper welcomed everyone and provided some University-focused updates. They included an event hosted by the Q-Center to spread awareness about banned and challenged books in the U.S.

The long-awaited Bartle Library third floor will officially open in January 2025. Faculty collaborated on a Gaza roundtable discussion to encourage the use of responsible language when engaging in civil discourse about the violence in the Middle East

Community focused updates such as updating the group on Mayor Kraham's 2025 budget proposal. Also, the Sixth-Annual Harper M. Stantz Music Fest was held at Rec Park and she shared how the community had the opportunity to witness Binghamton's sky lit up by the Northern Lights.

A Greek Life update as the Alpha Epsilon Phi Sorority raised \$38,000 for the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation and Sharsheret through their annual Greek God event.

Some Athletic updates were shared that showcased big wins and solid performances by the Women's Volleyball team, Men's Soccer team, Women's Soccer team, and the Swimming and Diving teams.

Last Sunday, Women's Soccer hosted "Red Card Cancer Night" an event dedicated to raising awareness and supporting the fight against cancer and this Sunday, Volleyball will be hosting their "Dig Pink Game" against NJIT to highlight Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The "Dig Pink Game" is dedicated to raising awareness and showing support for those affected by breast cancer.

She encouraged everyone to attend the Athletics Department “One Binghamton Madness” game taking place later that day.

The Student Association Programming Board (SAPB) recently hosted its Fall Fest with an “Around the World” theme and brought rapper NLE Choppa to campus for the fall concert. Turnout for this concert was better than the last two year’s combined.

The Speech and Debate Team seized a victory at their recent annual debate tournament, receiving an honor from State Senator Lea Webb.

The SA Congress rescinded last semesters BDS Resolution while the SA E-Board vetoed two of the five pieces of legislation passed by the SA Congress.

The University’s Jewish community hosted a vigil on the Peace Quad and a memorial exhibition commemorating the first anniversary of October 7.

The Students for Justice in Palestine led a walkout and rally outside of the Engineering Building in solidarity with Palestinians and a candlelight vigil was held mourning the loss of Palestinian lives.

The Dean of Students Office will be launching a Baxter AI chatbot to help new students learn about on-campus services and provide a support system for their time here.

There were some updates from the Division of Student Affairs as Stress Free Bing begins Nov. 1, 2024 to help students relax and de-stress while preparing for finals.

National Transfer Student Week programming begins Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024, with a river clean up and is followed by a full week of great events for our transfer students.

The Center for Civic Engagement is running shuttles from the Union to an early voting site on Oct. 26, 2024 and Nov. 2, 2024 from 12 to 3:00 p.m.

The Decker Student Health Services Center is administering free flu shots for registered students by appointment and at scheduled flu clinics. All students are encouraged to consider the flu vaccine as it is a key strategy to prevent the flu and its complications.

The Africana Studies and Theatre Department are presenting Powell: The Life and Legacy of Adam Clayton Powell Jr. starring Eric Lynch. Shows are Oct. 17, 2024 and Oct. 18, 2024.

The Q Center continues to host a donation-based, free clothing closet called the Gender Bender Closet to better serve our transgender students.

The second annual Rainbow Fest was held on the Peace Quad and included a drag show with local Binghamton drag performers who are alumni of Binghamton University, tabling information related to LGBTQ+ identities from on-campus and off-campus organizations and resources, free food and music. The event was attended by over 250 faculty, staff, students, and community members.

A few exciting projects she will be working on after having meetings with all the campus Vice Presidents included working with Transportation and Parking Services (TAPS) to better advertise the offerings of parking services. And she will be providing student insight on the Campus Appearance Committee and the Tobacco Free Campus Committee.

Lastly, as BU Council Student Representative she is in the process of finalizing here BU Council project that targets the issue of food insecurity which she hopes to unveil at the next meeting.

### **REPORT ON RESEARCH**

The Report on Research was presented by the following:

- Bahgat Sammakia, vice president for Research
- Lisa Gilroy, associate vice president for Research
- Mike Jacobson, director of the Office of Strategic Research Initiatives
- Meera Sampath, CEO of the Upstate New York Energy Storage Engine
- Rachel Coker, director of Research Advancement

A copy of the new *Binghamton Research Magazine* was shared at the meeting.

### **REPORT ON ATHLETICS**

The Report on Athletics was presented by the following:

- Eugene Marshall, director of Athletics
- David Eagan, senior director of Athletics and NCAA Compliance
- John Hartrick, senior associate director of Athletics Communications
- Dennis Kalina, senior deputy director of Athletics
- Kara Gorgos, senior associate director of Athletics Sports Medicine and Performance
- Marisa Colonna-Garrow, senior associate director of Athletics Financial Operation
- Dave Simek, senior associate director of Athletics Facilities and Operations
- Leigh Ann Savidge-Morris, deputy director of Athletics SWA
- Ze Zeon, deputy director of Athletics and Chief Development Officer

Copies of previous and current *Winning EDGE* magazine were shared at the meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

President Harvey Stenger announced that this will be his final year as president. After 40 years in higher education — the last 12 of which he served as president of Binghamton University — President Stenger has asked Chancellor John B. King Jr. to begin the search for his replacement, stating he would stay on until a new president is in place.

Council members and those in attendance gave President Stenger a standing ovation for his commitment and dedication to the university before the meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

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