

COUNCIL MINUTES

September 20, 2024

- Present from Council: Chair Kathryn Grant Madigan, Linda Biemer, McKenzie 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, Dean Terrance Deak, Andrew Baker, Aaron Beedle, Trisha Bello, Jennifer Church, Shelia Doyle, Dean Andrea Falcone, Nasrin Fatima, Johann Fiore Conte, Madhusudhan Govindaraju, Alistair Lees, Don Loewen, Krista Medionte-Phillips, Amy Pollock-Drake, William Montgomery, Karima Legette, Eugene Marshall, Anjani Praneet Meruvu, Paola Mignone, James Pitarresi, Deputy Chief Patrick Reilly, Kelli Smith, John Starks, Dana Stewart, Michael Tanzini, Casey Wall, Matt Winston, Ryan Yarosh, Amy Zieziula
- Online from the Community: Craig Cooper, Nora Monasheri, Eyal Sheckman (others joined but did not identify themselves)

CALL TO ORDER

The Binghamton University Council meeting was called to order at 9:21 AM on Friday, September 20, 2024 by Chair Kathryn Grant Madigan.

The minutes of the March 15, 2024 Binghamton University Council meeting were approved at 9:23 a.m.

Motion to amend agenda and remove the Executive Council Session were approved unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Stenger welcomed everyone back to the start of the 2024-25 Binghamton University Council and introduced the new Student Representative McKenzie Cooper.

In May over 5,900 students graduated at the University's Commencement Ceremonies which were held over 3 days.

The University saw a record number of applications for admission reaching over 60,000 for Fall of 2024. As our application and enrollment of out of state and international students increased due to our increased marketing efforts.

Over the last year the University has welcomed over 100 new faculty members. These faculty members are replacing individuals who have retired along with many new hires. This bucks a trend as IPEDS (Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System) reported that over 22,000 full-time faculty positions have been lost over the last 4 years.

In the most recent rankings, Binghamton was just ranked as the top SUNY School by the *Wall Street Journal* and *Forbes*. Binghamton was also listed at the #4 public university in best value.

The University has some exciting events over the next few weeks with Family Weekend being held September 20 -22. With the Homecoming event happening September 27-19. There will be a Fall Festival and a downtown block party leading to the end of the EXCELERATE campaign called EXCELEBRATION.

Welcome to our new Watson College Dean, Dean Atul Kelkar who comes to us from Clemson University. Dean Kelkar has co-founded several tech startups and has authored over 150 academic publications.

In the last year, we have started a new undergraduate program offering a degree in Global Public Health (GPH). This program has seen over 100 students apply in just under 12 months.

At the end of July, we cut the ribbon on Koffman on Plaza, an expansion of the Koffman Southern Tier Incubator. The new space is located just east of the main campus in Vestal, NY. Since the Koffman Southern Tier Incubator inception in 2017 over 35 companies have graduated from the program creating more than 600 local jobs.

In June, we announced that the Gannett building in Johnson City, would be the site for our Battery-NY prototyping facility. That announcement was made in conjunction with the official launch of the Upstate New York Energy Storage Engine, which was a designation we had previously received from the National Science Foundation. The facility currently holds our Library Annex and Speech Language and Hearing Clinic. Also, we are excited to announce that its current location on Gannet Drive will be renamed to University Boulevard in the near future.

Meera Sampath has been named the acting CEO of the Upstate New York Energy Storage Engine. Meera was previously the Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies at Watson College.

On campus we have a few construction projects wrapping up and starting in the near future. Work is nearing completion on both the Bartle Library and Science III. While construction for the new classroom/lecture hall is on schedule. We are also getting closer to the start of construction on a 75,000 square foot expansion to the East Gym that will include 3 basket ball courts. The Cross-Country Track located near the nature preserve will start to be renovated soon.

Congratulations to Eugene Marshall and his staff who have secured our second straight American East Commissioner's Cup Trophy.

STUDENT REPORT

Ms. McKenzie Cooper thanked Council for welcoming her and for letting her share the students' concerns. She hopes to make a difference and continue to be an effective voice for the student body role. At the end of last semester, she worked with the prior Student Rep, Nora Monasheri to transition into her new role while leading the Road Map Internship Program.

Ms. Cooper provided some University focused updates such as the opening of the new Welcome Center and encouraged everyone to stop by on their next visit to campus. She also noted that the iconic Binturong statue from the Road Map initiative will be unveiled in the coming weeks.

The SUNY Chancellor has expanded the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) which will include new pre-professional programs for students interested in mental health and engineering. The program has helped over 85,000 students graduate from college in its more than 50-year history.

Ms. Cooper provided some Community focused updates such as the LUMA Projection Arts Festival which was held September 6-7 in downtown Binghamton. Recently, there was an unveiling of a statue dedicated to Rod Serling, a Binghamton Native, who was the creator of the hit series *The Twilight Zone*.

The Rockefeller Christmas Tree will be returning to Binghamton. For the first time ever, the tree will return to its home county and be repurposed by the Broome County Habitat for Humanity.

Ms. Cooper provided some Greek Life updates as the University is home to 41 fraternities and sororities including 11 social fraternities and 7 social sororities. She was happy to account that fall recruitment has concluded with a lot of new members joining Greek Life.

The Alpha Epsilon Phi Sorority has begun preparing for their annual "Greek God" fundraiser which has brought in over \$50,000 in past campaigns.

Ms. Cooper provided some Athletics updates showcasing big wins and solid performances by the Women's Volleyball team, Men's Soccer Team, Cross-Country and Golf teams.

#ONEBinghamton is scheduled for October 18, 2024. This is a collaboration of the Road Map Interns, BU Student Council Rep, and athletics who are creating a "tailgate" type event with live music and outside vendors from the local community.

The Student Association Programming Board (SAPB) recently hosted actor and singer Ross Lynch and rapper NLE Choppa will perform at their fall concert.

The Student Association Congress held its first meeting this month where the SA Vice President for Student Success launched a Sexual Wellness Education Campaign.

The GSO committee appointments have been completed with 20 departmental and 5 Socio-Cultural and Multicultural Assembly (SCMA) organizations officially chartered. Two notable organizations were the Speech Language Pathology Group and OASIS (Open and Accepting Space for Inclusivity and Support).

The Road Map Interns are working with the Alumni Center to create a Binghamton “bucket list” experience for students to complete during their time on campus.

Our Center for Civic Engagement registered over 1,400 students to vote and held an Election Kickoff event on September 9, 2024 to assist students with voter registration.

Binghamton has been listed in the *Princeton Review*'s Top 20 public universities for career placement – making Binghamton the only SUNY school to receive this prestigious honor.

The B-First Program, which supports first-generation college students, has been recertified as a First-Gen Forward Institution. We're looking forward to the First-Gen Voices Panel on November 8th, in honor of National First Gen College Celebration Day.

Additionally, there have been some great advancements throughout the university. One such example is our DEI division launching the Civility Project, an initiative designed to encourage healthy, respectful conversations and behavior in the classroom and beyond. While the Mental Health Advisory Board is hard at work exploring solutions regarding student mental health and well-being.

Lastly, Ms. Cooper would like to continue and modify from last year is the BU Council committee! I would like this committee to serve as an outreach committee to come together and build bridges across campus. I am hoping these committee members will help me view the campus through new eyes and provide me and the council with some new perspective.

REPORT ON STUDENT AFFAIRS WITH A RESIDENTIAL LIFE FOCUS

Mr. Brian Rose, Vice President for Student Affairs, Ms. Casey Wall, Director of Residential Life and Housing, Ms. Amy Pollock Drake, Senior Associate Director of Residential Life, and Ms. Dana Stewart, Collegiate Professor of Mountainview College presented the report.

Handouts and information for Binghamton University Division of Student Affairs Activity Report and Mountainview Jams were shared at the meeting.

REPORT AND APPROVAL OF CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT FOR NEW ACADEMIC YEAR

Mr. Brian Rose, Vice President for Student Affairs presented an addendum to the report on advice of SUNY council. The addendum included changes brought from the Department of Education's release of Final Title IX Regulations in August 2024. These regulations work on providing vital protections against sex discrimination. Motion to approve the updates was passed unanimously.

REPORT ON STUDENT ADMISSIONS

Mr. Donald Loewen, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and Enrollment Management, and Krista Medionte-Phillips, Assistant Provost for Enrollment Management and Director of Undergraduate presented the report.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business discussed and the meeting was adjourned at 10:27 AM.

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