

BU Council
February 18, 2022

At the end of this academic year, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, Don Nieman, will step down. A search for his successor is underway and the candidate review process will begin soon. We are also searching for a new Dean for the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. That search is underway and going well. Additionally, a search will be underway very soon for the School of Management Dean. Dean Dhillon announced that he will step down in the summer 2022.

STUDENT REPORT

Ms. Sandleitner reported that when Binghamton University Council met in November, we talked about finals week as we moved into winter break. The vast majority of students were able to complete finals week without disruption, which was a huge success in the face of daily COVID spikes.

Before break, the Student Association hosted many events to encourage student awareness in the Binghamton area. The Vice President of Student Success and President of the Student Association hosted an event where students could ask questions of local attorneys and housing protection agencies about tenant rights. As many of our students live off campus, this event was incredibly helpful in educating students and protecting their interests.

Ms. Sandleitner thanked the administration as she shared a few success stories:

In the fall, a student reached out asking for support to enable him to visit his family over winter break. The student's dad was very ill and the student wanted to make it back home to see him, since he hadn't been home in over a year because of COVID restrictions. With the help of Dr. Edouard, Dean of Students, and his staff, the student was directed to the CARE team. With support from the CARE team and funding from emergency funds, which help students in times of need, the student was able to fly home for the holidays to be with his dad. Thank you, Dr. Edouard, for your guidance and thanks to the CARE team for caring about every student they meet!

Thank you, President Stenger, for your help in creating a scholarship for ROTC Cadets at Binghamton. The scholarship covers ROTC Cadets' memberships to FitSpace on campus, and allows the Cadets to train indoors instead of outside on the track. The need was originally brought to Ms. Sandleitner's attention by a freshman, Jack Kralik. President Stenger was a tremendous help in determining the best way to meet the Cadets' needs. Since the scholarship was created in early January, the Cadets have been able to do their 5 a.m. workouts in a comfortable space, safe from the snow. The Binghamton ROTC Cadets are so grateful that they have a space to train thanks to President Stenger!

When the University announced the change in the academic calendar to increase COVID resources before the Spring semester, many graduating students were upset that the University was changing commencement weekend. However, since the spring semester has taken off with such success, students feel reassured by the expansive COVID resources available. Students are also happy that spring break was spared in the academic calendar change.

One COVID resource that stood out to students is the mandated surveillance testing. Students feel comfortable being in class with regular testing, and they appreciate that the University scheduled the dates well in advance.

Currently the Student Association and Graduate Student Organization are coordinating elections for the next e-board and BU Council Representative. Last night we found out that there will be over 16 candidates across 7 positions, further highlighting the large increase we've seen in student involvement on campus.

Student organizations have been meeting regul