

## **COUNCIL MINUTES**

March 17, 2023

Present from Council:

Chair Kathryn Grant Madigan, Avery Benzaken, Linda Biemer, Anthony Fiala, Jr. (via Zoom), Jennifer Lesko, Dennis McCabe, and James Orband (via Zoom)

Present from the Community:

President Stenger, Ms. Barics, Ms. Bello, Professor Bohan, Mr. Brhel (via Zoom), Ms. Curtin, Vice President Delviscio, Ms. Doyle, Ms. Ellis, Ms. Fauci, Provost Hall, Ms. Ignarri (via Zoom), Vice President Jones, Vice President Koch, Vice Provost Lees, Ms. Legette (via Zoom), Director Marshall, Mr. McQuilkin, Professor

The School of Management has done it again! They ranked in the top-ten among public business schools in the country, and placed 26<sup>th</sup> overall among an impressive list of Universities, moving up a spot from 2022. The School was also recognized by *Insight into Diversity* magazine for their Transformational Leaders program, which awarded the School their 2023 Inspiring Programs in Business Award. The Transformational Leaders program was established in 2021 by the late Dean Upinder Dhillon. The program has about 39 students who receive training in communication, accountability, teamwork, and mentoring to build their leadership qualities.

A recent study from Stanford University looked at the citation history of all University Professors in the U.S. The study showed that Binghamton University had 27 professors who ranked in the top 2% of their peers for citations. The study represented a large variety of disciplines and is another indication of the University's growing reputation.

In February, Governor Hochul came to Johnson City to announce that the village was awarded a \$10 million Downtown Revitalization Award. The village will now go through the planning process and decide exactly how they will spend the money. In their proposal, the village emphasized upgrades to the facades of buildings on Main Street in Johnson City. The \$10 million award will go a long way to improve the village.

During the Governor

- Scheduling a day off for students to celebrate the Lunar New Year, and the following day where faculty would not assign tests or homework. This legislation was passed by the Student Association (SA) Congress last semester. As a diverse university, it is important that Binghamton University recognize the traditions and cultures of the student body. Scheduling a day off is a meaningful way to demonstrate the campus' respect for their culture and allow them to celebrate without the stress of classes.
- Recognizing Black Solidarity Day as a day that students can take off with advance notice. This is something that is done at other SUNY schools, as researched by the SA. As a diverse university and a Premier Public University, it is important to set the bar high to recognize and empower students and give them the opportunity to celebrate.

Mr. Benzaken continues work on his Health and Wellness initiative, and thanked Greg Delviscio, Vice President of Communications and Marketing, who helped finalize a draft of his health and wellness brochure. The brochure includes telephone numbers and email addresses for students to contact important departments and resources, and is user friendly. He will distribute the brochures to the SA and to the Graduate Student Organization (GSO) once they are in print.

At a recent SA meeting there was a discussion about the tobacco free policy on campus, and it is something that the students are talking about. There are now designated smoking areas on campus, instead of being a tobacco free campus. As the students tackle the issue, we want to find effective ways to implement the policy. Avery will work with his successor on the issue.

Another issue that was brought up during the SA meeting was regarding fire inspections in student dorms. A student reported aggressive banging on his door at 8 AM. It turned out to be an operations assistant that was conducting fire inspections in the dorm. Previously, fire inspections were done by the RA, but now they are conducted by an operations assistant. With random people coming into the dorms, students feel uncomfortable especially because the inspections often happen early in the morning. The SA has proposed legislation for fire inspections in dorms to take place between the hours of 12 and 8 PM. The legislation will be voted on in the next couple weeks. Avery will follow

