

COUNCIL MINUTES

April 17, 2020

Present from Council via Zoom: Kathryn Grant Madigan, Linda Biemer, Anthony Fiala, Jennifer Lesko, Dennis McCabe, James Orband, Matthew Salanger, Maureen Wilson, and Franklin Richards

Present from the Community: President Stenger, Mr. Delviscio, Director Elliott, Ms. Ellis, Ms. Fauci, Mr. Faughnan, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Hubeny, Vice President John Koch, Vice President Navarro, Provost Nieman, Chief Pelletier, Vice President Rose, Vice President Sammakia, Ms. Solori, Ms. Smith, and Mr. Yarosh

CALL TO ORDER

The Binghamton University Council meeting was called to order at 9:17 a.m. on Friday, April 17, 2020 by Chair Madigan with all Council members participating via Zoom.

Chair Madigan informed the Council of the passing of Thomas Doty, who served on the Council for many years. Mr. Doty was a big cheerleader for the University and its students and always thanked presenters with incisive comments. She asked for a moment of silence to honor Mr. Doty.

Chair Madigan congratulated John Koch who has been named Vice President for Advancement.

The minutes of March 20, 2020 were approved.

President Stenger remarks were made in presentation format (attached).

STUDENT REPORT

Mr. Richards introduced Willa Solori who will be the student representative to BU Council for 2020-2021. Ms. Solori is from Brooklyn and is a sophomore majoring in Psychology.

Mr. Franklin reported his last report to the Council. This is his last year at BU having spent six years here.

He reported that many students had a difficult time transitioning to an online platform. For some, the structure of being on campus and attending in-person classes allowed for them to be more productive. Here at Binghamton, they were able to be independent of their parents, their various home situations, and therefore successfully concentrate on their academics. This Binghamton community, to a certain degree, allowed them to live their full authentic life. Unfortunately, however, some of our students had to return to home lives that may experience domestic violence, increased food insecurity, and other hostile environments. For many of our LGBTQ students, they returned home to families who are not accepting or tolerant of their authentic identity.

support to that community. Mr. Franklin thanked President Stenger and the rest of the administration for putting students first. This ranges from the weekly messages, to the activeness on social media from the communication department, to working with students who might need emergency funding during COVID-19, and even more importantly, the pass/fail option which allows students to breathe and process this world changing event. Mr. Franklin also thanked Jessica Cohen, Dr. Peabody, and the rest of Health Promotions and Prevention Services for their activeness which has highlighted the fact that there are still resources available to students.

John Santare, Student Association Vice President for Academic Affairs, is working closely with Pipe Dream to produce a publication that highlights more mental health resources that are available to students from a distance. Student Association President Emma Ross, working alongside Associate Vice Provost Nasrin Fatima, was able to successfully distribute the Sexual Assault Climate survey. As we know, climate surveys are important to have an accurate depiction of events that are happening on our college campus.

The SA Congress has elected Ross Mesnick as their 2020-2021 Academic Year Speaker.

The Graduate Student Organization (GSO) has elected their new executive board. The GSO Vice President Casey and her election committee are currently working with Vice President Rose, Dean of Student Randall Eduard, and Director of Business Operations Janice Bennett on contingency plans so that the good work of the GSO is not affected in the next academic year. It has been brought to our attention that the wording of the voting surrounding the Student Activity F itution and bylaws, so another poll will be taken. The SUNY Board of Trustees has suspended all elections for the remainder of this academic year so this has caused trouble for departmental executive boards filling their leadership positions. The GSO is working with Randall Edouard to see if there is some way to address this situation.

Mr. Franklin thanked everyone for their continued support during the year. It was his pleasure to have worked with the BU Council and all the kind words and gestures made his last year in Binghamton exceptional.

Mr. Franklin is happy and pleased to pass on the baton to Willa Scolari. Mr. Franklin addressed the class of 2020, both undergraduate and graduate students, to say that we definitely did not see this coming, but nevertheless, we should take the opportunity to process the changing world around us and think about the many ways our education and experience here at Binghamton can help us shape the world. Although the class will not have an in-person Spring Fling or
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