

COUNCIL MINUTES

March 20, 2020

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

Present from the Community: President Stenger, Ms. Doyle, Interim Vice President John Koch, Vice President Navarro, Ms. Oaks, Ms. O'Neil, Vice President Rose

CALL TO ORDER

The Binghamton University Council meeting was called to order at 9:22 a.m. on Friday, March 20, 2020 by Chair Madigan with all Council members participating via teleconference.

The minutes of February 21, 2020 were approved.

We are discussing grading and how our exams will be delivered. President Stenger will be discussing the pass/fail option with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

We continue to plan for the future with construction continuing on Hinman, Science 2, the Engineering building, the Nursing building; all are moving along on schedule and within budget.

We hope to open the Decker College of Nursing and Health Sciences building in the fall. The addition of their new programs of physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy is going smoothly.

STUDENT REPORT

Mr. Richards reported that as the situation and Governor Coumo's orders to move to online classes became clear, students knew the rest of their academic year would be completely changed. This became a sad reality for a lot of last year students.

On March 17, 2020, some seniors, graduate students, and students transferring at the end of this semester had their last in-person class at Binghamton University and did not know it. With classes being cancelled on March 18 and 19 and classes officially moving online on March 20, we saw a mass exodus of students. There were a variety of reasons why students left -- refund for on campus housing, fear of getting locked down in Binghamton if their hometown or city were to go into a shelter-in-place or full quarantine, to help loved ones that were back home, and parents who were demanding that they return home.

At the moment, a lot of students are struggling with grasping the world of online learning. Provost Neiman and the Deans of each college are working with professors to be accommodating for students because this is a situation, to some degree, that students could not have planned for.

In that same vein, students have started an online petition that requests the university to change classes to pass/fail and allow for those classes to count towards the degree. The writers of the petition point to the impact this transition has had on people's mental health and access to resources. These resources include printed books, textbooks that were on the library reserves, printers, and study spaces. At the time of writing this, almost 1,000 students and parents had signed the petition.

Overall, students remain confused and uncertain about this whole situation. Most students understand the situation but still pose questions about the whole ordeal. Is there a confirmed case on campus or within faculty and staff? We are continuously reassured that there is no confirmed case, but it is understandable that there is still some fear and panic from students and parents.

In times of fear and disarray, hate often makes its way back to the forefront of our daily existence. Many students of Asian descent at Binghamton have faced many hurtful comments

REPORT ON DIVISION OF ADVANCEMENT

Interim Vice President Koch reported on the Advancement Division.

REPORT ON THE BINGHAMTON FOUNDATION

Binghamton Foundation Executive Director Sheila Doyle reported on the BU Foundation.

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

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