

MINUTES OF
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
February 6, 2024

The third Faculty Senate meeting of the 2023-2024 academic year was called to order U-0.0052024 7.8

Minutes from the November 14, 2023 meeting were approved.

2. Obituary Notices

Chair Beedle notified the body that Retired Prof. Linda Barnfather, Decker School of Nursing; Prof. Emeritus Vincent Grenier, Cinema; Prof. Sylvia Horowitz, English, have passed away. Chair Beedle spoke about each and then asked for a moment of silence to remember our colleagues.

Chair Beedle reminded the senators that the Employee Assistance Program is a resource for faculty and staff to assist with grief or difficult situations. They offer free and confidential consultations. If you would like to schedule an appointment, email EAP@binghamton.edu, or call 607-777-6655.

3. New Business

Chair Beedle announced several program proposals and revisions. She added that the Program Review Committee and Faculty Senate Executive Committee have

After each proposal or set of proposals was presented, Chair Beedle requested a motion to approve.

A motion was made and seconded to approve each proposed revision or new proposal. All proposals were approved by a unanimous vote.

4. Announcements

President Harvey Stenger provided two announcements. First, Binghamton University won the National Science Foundation Innovation Engines Award last week. President Stenger reported the following details:

- It is a potential ten-year contract, for a total of \$160M
- This \$160M is separate and in addition to the \$113M from the “Build Back Better Regional Challenge”, a PDA program won a year and a half ago.
- There is a proposal being submitted this week for funding for the Binghamton University “Tech Hub” to request funding to support battery technology.
- Another proposal is being made for an additional \$60M to support The Tech Hub.
- There is a workforce developing a new curriculum, community member involvement, supply chain partners involvement, and engine partnerships with Rochester Institute of Technology, Cornell, and Syracuse University.

Secondly, there is a call for Road Map proposals. The Road Map Steering Committee is soliciting proposals from faculty, staff, and students. Proposal projects must be related to one goal and at least one metric, using less than 300 words. To submit a proposal, go to, <https://www.binghamton.edu/president/road-map/index.html>. Proposals are due February 15, 2024. If you have questions regarding the proposal process, contact Pam Mischen, at pmischen@binghamton.edu.

Matt Gallagher, Director of Collection Development, Libraries, inquired whether proposals could be updated post-submission in case of any changes in the financial component given the short timeframe.

President Stenger responded to give a rough estimate of what you might think the costs wir

Chancellor John King during the Saturday plenary. The University Centers Sector discussed a major point for SUNY from Governor Kathy Hochul's 2024 State of the State address, news of which only a few days before our plenary had gone under the radar in the press or discussion outside SUNY administrative circles. Governor Hochul announced that SUNY & CUNY schools will grant admission to the top 10% of New York High School students. We in the University Centers were primarily concerned that this plan was not discussed with the SUNY Faculty Senate before it was announced. However, the President of UFS, as a member of the Board of Trustees, was fully informed. We asked the Chancellor how this would work out for enrollment management for University Centers and how it would impact equity for students, given the differences between New York high schools, district by district, and what challenges he foresaw for SUNY and the individual campuses in implementing this grand plan.

The Chancellor explained that it would take a long time to roll out this plan, since unlike other states where this has been put in place, New York doesn't have a centralized database of high school achievement, nor any unified state standards for what represents "top" achievement. So, school districts will need to define student achievement and college readiness. The top 10% of students at each high school will also have to demonstrate that they are ready to enroll in their chosen institution. SUNY campuses will define college readiness regarding their own campus' standards. He said he believed this plan would encourage more diverse enrollment in SUNY campuses, particularly from rural areas and high schools with less affluent students, who may have thought college out of reach and who may not have considered applying.

University Faculty Senators also asked the Chancellor to comment on how SUNY campuses have seen more political activism around hotly-debated issues involving sexual/gender identities and global conflict, and that some faculty who teach about these topics have felt threatened and some students have felt harassed, including by outside groups. We asked him to address: how to balance academic freedom with the need to maintain a safe and inclusive campus environment; how he would work with students, faculty, and staff to promote a culture of open dialogue and debate; and how he might direct campus Presidents to respond to calls for position statements in reaction to off-campus events.

preservation of the medical school there, plus the mounting concerns at Fredonia of circumstances similar to Potsdam's.

Prof. Starks then discussed the following five resolutions that were passed during the plenary session, linked directly below:

- EXEC: "[196-01-1 Resolution: Ensuring Non-Discrimination, Enhancing Campus Inclusivity, and Supporting All SUNY Students, Faculty, and Staff](#)" - This resolution states that SUNY UFS abhors discrimination and harassment in many forms against students, faculty, and staff; calls upon campus governance bodies to pass similar resolutions; and calls for the chancellor to work with campus leaders and SUNY administration to identify faculty and professional staff experts in these areas.

- OP: "[196-03-1 Resolution: Addressing](#)

