

COUNCIL MINUTES

February 19, 2021

Present from Council via Zoom: Kathryn Grant Madigan, Linda Biemer, Anthony Fiala, Zachary Herz, Jennifer Lesko, Dennis McCabe, James Orband, Matthew Salang

The Binghamton Foundation has agreed to \$1 million in bridge funding to support the hiring of faculty in our occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech and language pathology, and doctor of nursing practices. In addition, the Foundation is providing an additional \$1 million to enhance the walkability and safety of the Johnson City campus through lighting, greenspace, and parking.

We are moving forward on several construction projects – renovation of the Library’s third floor, renovations to Hinman dining hall, Science 4 and Science 2 tower renovation, and the baseball stadium complex.

During the winter break, an ice skating rink was constructed on the Old Dickinson co-rec field with free ice skating and skate rental available to students, faculty, and staff. This has proven to be a real hit among students.

The New York State Department of Transportation is starting work on the greenway path from the south side of Binghamton to the University. This 2.5 mile path will provide a direct route for pedestrians and cyclists moving from downtown to the campus.

It has been a successful year with our first-year student retention increasing to 93%; thank you to faculty and mentors in helping us to attain this success.

We are adding a new Road Map Strategic Priority – SP6: Internationalism. Our goal is to develop international research partnerships, strengthen diversity and inclusion, and contribute to the University’s resource management in ways that recognize and overcome these challenges.

The campus experienced a cyber-attack in November. Shortly after the attack, we called together an Information Technology Task Force to develop policies and procedures to better protect the University’s IT systems. The key change will include the use of a two-factor authentication that will prevent non-approved, outside access to the campus network.

We are continuing to address concerns about sexual assault and improving the campus climate.

Counseling Center. We hope that the VARC Center provides a safe space to students who have been sexually abused for years to come.

As we close the week, it is expected that the university will reach the 100 positive case threshold. What campus may look like once that happens is still up in the air. Regardless, Zachary plans to continue to be a main voice on campus encouraging our students to do their part in stopping the spread of COVID-19.

REPORT ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Donald G. Nieman, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost introduced the three presenters: Patti Reuther, Director of Innovation Simulation and Practice of Decker College; Peter Partell, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs of Watson College; and Megan Fegley, Director of First Year Research Economics Immersion Program..ea(8,ETQ EMC P MCID 6-BDC q0.00