



**Professional Employees Council**  
**Binghamton University**  
<http://pec.binghamton.edu/>

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**PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES COUNCIL**  
January 15, 2003  
Couper Administration Building, AD 148

**Present:** S. Ballard, K. Burke, D. Denoncourt, C. Dimick, K. Fennie, L. Gilroy, D. Guido, B. Kilmarx, S. Lewis, R. Mess, L. Nesslage, P. Russell, M. Sollis, R. Stanek, D. Wood **Excused:** I. Batista-Blair, S. Birchard, F. Goldman, S. Hanifin, K. Holmes, M. Lennox-Dunn, S. Repine, G. Slater **Absent:** C. Cullinane, W. Kroll, M. Loveria

**I. Approval of minutes of November 20 & December 4, 2002**

On motion by R. Mess, second by K. Burke, the minutes of the meetings of November 20 and December 4, 2002 were approved.

**II. Announcements**

Vice President Kelly will address PEC on March 26, 2003.

**III. Standing Committee Reports**

**a. Communications:** no report

**b. Rules:** D. Wood reported that they are looking to find a series of dates for nomination and election process.

**c. Professional Development:** A brown bag luncheon was held with Edgar Singer on the topic of Tuition Assistance on Dec 12. A wide mix of campus professionals attended and had their questions answered. The next Brown Bag luncheon will be held tomorrow on January 16. Tom Kowalik will be leading the session on public speaking. Approximately 35 people have so far expressed interest in attending.

**d. Distinguished Service Award:** K. Fennie reported that she and M. Lennox-Dunn and C. Dimick visited several sites on campus and took pictures of those locations that might serve as a place to house this award. She will bring pictures of those sites to the next meeting and determine members preferences, and will follow up with a letter to the President asking that we be allowed to place the plaque in the requested location.

**IV. Old Business**

**E-mailing of PEC Minutes:**

K. Fennie reported that Sue Repine has continues to work on the list for the list serve. She is currently working with L. Gilroy on Research Foundation employee names.

**V. New Business**

**Briefing on VP Kelly meeting:**

L. Nesslage reported that she and C. Dimick met with VP Kelly on Jan 6. They asked VP Kelly questions pertaining to the budget, economic development, fund-raising and advocacy. VP Kelly indicated that the only real money we might expect to receive this year from the legislature would fund science and technology initiatives and possibly planning money for the Downtown center. External Affairs is dealing with their budget cuts by not filling two vacant positions and will look at not filling positions and looking at part-time and temporary positions. VP Kelly reviewed the success of the Town Gown meeting in December. He emphasized that the new Downtown center would be funded by additional state money and would not come from current operating funds. VP Kelly mentioned that fund-raising nationwide is down, although we are not lagging too badly as we closed December fairly strong. We are working on a "prospect blitz" to identify new major donors. The Annual fund has changed its name to the Fund for Binghamton. Donors may now designate where their gifts would go. The Deans' campaign has been eliminated to save money. Next capital campaign will occur after the current process of evaluating the last campaign and determining where we need to be. Priorities need to be established. Much depends on the economy. Regarding advocacy, SUNY Showcase Days will replace the old

SUNY Day in Albany. Binghamton will participate in the SUNY Showcase Days on March 3. Our own BU Advocacy Day will be held March 18. Darryl Wood joined the conversation to ask that Professionals who would like to participate in BU Advocacy Day should contact him.

**Briefing on VP Ferrara meeting:**

P. Russell and K. Burke reported on their recent meeting with VP Ferrara. VP Ferrara offered to come to speak to PEC and Paula and Kevin will arrange a time for him to attend. VP Ferrara indicated that the Division of Administration will deal with budget cuts much like External Affairs through attrition and dealing with budget issues on a case by case basis. He also talked about the Downtown presence and emphasized that any money used for this project would have to be new money.

**Research Symposium:**

Lisa Gilroy shared information on the upcoming Research Symposium to be held on campus on March 6-7. All faculty and staff are welcome to attend the various workshops, which will be held in the Union and PSPC. This is a first ever event for any SUNY institution and has generated a huge response from representatives from many federal agencies such as NSF. Chancellor King will be attending and will be a keynote speaker. More information is available on the website at <http://research.binghamton.edu/symposium>.

**December BU Council Meeting:**

K. Fennie attended the December meeting of the BU Council. The President gave updates on the Faculty/Staff Holiday drives, gave a Town Gown briefing, discussed the Downtown Center and the Budget. The BU Council supports a tuition increase. VP Ferrara gave his update on Capital Projects to the council. Projects include Hinman dining renovation, new housing proceeding on track for the first two buildings, parking structure closing for work over the summer, Events Center being 76% complete and still scheduled for April 2004 completion. Planning is underway for the ITC. Main Library doors were updated over the break.

**VI. Other**

K. Fennie is working on a Spring Constituency meeting to be held some time in April. The meeting will be a brown bag luncheon.

**VII. Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Professional Employees Council will be Wednesday, January 29, 2003 from 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. in Room AD148 of the Couper Administration Building.**

On motion by D. Guido, and seconded by L. Nesslage, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Professional employees are encouraged to provide PEC with responses to items discussed and reported in the minutes. Professionals are also encouraged to suggest agenda items and to attend PEC meetings. Please direct suggestions or your request to be added to the PEC listserv to Karen Fennie, PEC Chair, x72692 [kfennie@binghamton.edu](mailto:kfennie@binghamton.edu).

Please also note that PEC Council meeting minutes are posted on the PEC website <http://pec.binghamton.edu/> PEC is currently exploring electronic distribution of meeting minutes in an effort to save printing costs. If you have thoughts on the issue, contact Karen Fennie.