



**Professional Employees Council  
Binghamton University**

<http://pec.binghamton.edu/>

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**PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES COUNCIL**

February 26, 2003

Couper Administration Building, Room AD 148

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

**I. Approval of minutes of January 29, 2003**

On motion by R. Mess and second by P. Russell the minutes of the meeting of February 12, 2003 were approved.

**Announcements**

**Energy Savings Task Force formed**

K. Fennie reported on this new task force formed at the request of Senior Staff. Karen is a member of the task force that is charged with looking at ways for the campus to save on energy costs. For example, shutting down computers every night, leaving overhead lights off when not needed, etc. They are currently looking at ways to get their message out. The slogan the committee has come up with is: "BU Energy Smart, Do Your Part."

**II. Standing Committee Reports**

- a. **Communications:** S. Repine reported that the list serve is now set up. The Research Foundation list and e-mails are in place. We are only waiting for H.R. to provide us with the list of State employees e-mails.
- b. **Rules:** D. Wood reported that nomination forms should be out by mid-March with elections complete by the last two weeks in April. Darryl encouraged people to make many nominations.
- c. **Professional Development:** D. Guido reported he has learned of a new Club that is being formed on campus called the Toastmasters International Club. The purpose of the club is to offer support for improving communication and leadership skills. The Club will meet Fridays from noon-1 p.m. in UUW-B08. Bring your own lunch. For more information contact Joe Walker or Hilton Baxter at hbaxter@binghamton.edu.
- d. **Distinguished Service Award:** K. Fennie reported that she has received a letter from President DeFleur that gives permission to the PEC to hang our Distinguished Service Award in the lobby of the Administration Building! Karen has initiated the process of a work order to hang the plaque. PEC will invite Inside BU to consider taking a photo when the award is hung. M. Lennox-Dunn also reported that the ad hoc committee for this award originally had recommended giving it two times per year. Council discussed and most felt that once per year at our formal luncheon was preferred, however M. Lennox-Dunn will try to find out what the wishes are of the donor who provided the funding for the Distinguished Service Award. She will report back at a future meeting.

**III. Old Business**

**Meeting with Provost Swain:**

F. Goldman reported that she and D. Guido and S. Lewis met with Provost Swain. In response to a question to the Provost regarding increased tuition, she thinks it will end up being somewhere between a \$700-\$900 increase. Provost Swain indicated she felt the Unions should all lobby for the tuition increase. The provost was asked about morale and increased work loads and responded that she was very appreciative of the dedication and hard work by the professional staff. Regarding space, the provost indicated that while space remains a problem on campus, a bigger problem is finding the money to renovate Clearview and the old UU. She is supporting the scheduling of more classes on Mondays and Fridays, with the possibility of holding some classes on Saturdays. The provost stated that the new ITC building would probably be ready for occupancy in Fall of '04.

**IV. New Business**

None

**VI. Other**

**Spring Constituency meeting**

The Spring Constituency meeting has been scheduled for April 17, Noon to 1 p.m., PSPC, Room E/F. The meeting will honor professional employees who have received promotions, permanent appointments and those who have retired during 2002. PEC activities and accomplishments over the past year will be reviewed. This is a brown bag lunch with beverages and desserts provided. All professional employees are encouraged to attend.

**Advocacy Day**

D. Wood indicated that there are still a few available seats on the bus for our trip to Albany on March 18. If anyone is interested, please contact Cheryl Dimick at [cdimick@binghamton.edu](mailto:cdimick@binghamton.edu).

**Budget**

D. Wood has been spending a lot of time in Albany and the word he is hearing is that all the cuts being discussed won't stay. The legislators are aware that higher education needs more money. Darryl suggests calling and e-mailing our legislators about our concerns. There is also a planned rally/march in Albany on Saturday, May 3. It is hopeful a large turnout will get the attention of the legislature.

**VII. Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Professional Employees Council will be Wednesday, March 12, 2003 from 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. in Room AD148 of the Couper Administration Building.

On motion by M. Lennox-Dunn, and seconded by F. Goldman, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 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.