

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

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES COUNCIL
March 26, 2003
Couper Administration Building, Room AD 148

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

I. Approval of minutes of February 26, 2003

Due to lack of quorum, the minutes of the meeting of March 12, 2003 were tabled.

II. Announcements

Vice President Kelly

Thomas F. Kelly, Vice President for External Affairs attended the PEC meeting to provide information on the recent BU Advocacy Day, SUNY Showcase days and to answer questions regarding External Affairs. VP Kelly said that BU Advocacy Day, which was held on March 18, was a big success again this year. Twelve teams comprised of administrators, staff, students, alumni and community members visited 65 legislative offices. Teams of 2 "dropped-in" on legislative offices where appointments weren't scheduled. We also had a great display in the Empire State Plaza where Nursing students gave free blood pressure screenings and where we showcased an alumni-run community business, Diamond Visionics. The display showed our work and commitment with the community. The display area also had several tables highlighting various aspects of Binghamton University such as Admissions, Alumni, Research, UUP, CSEA and PEF. VP Kelly mentioned that hosts of the event this year included Senator Libous, and Assemblymen Warner, Crouch and Finch. We also received support from Assemblymen Malcolm Smith and Jeffrey Dinowitz--they each have children who attend Binghamton. We also have two new Alumni Assemblymembers, Michele Titus and Barry Grodenchik. UUP, CSEA and PEF also provided support for this year's event. VP Kelly also mentioned that on March 3, President DeFleur attended this year's SUNY Showcase days. This is the new Albany event that has replaced the old SUNY Days. She traveled with other SUNY Presidents to visit various legislative offices on behalf of SUNY and Binghamton, and Binghamton had a display that day as well. VP Kelly indicated that the latest word from Albany is that we will be looking at a tuition hike of between \$900-\$1000, which might help offset some of the proposed 15% overall cut to SUNY. Albany legislators are also projecting that they will have a budget in place during May. A question was asked about planning of the next capitol campaign. VP Kelly indicated that discussion has begun and that a feasibility study needs to be prepared to enter into a new campaign. He projects we will move in this direction over the next couple of years.

III. Standing Committee Reports

a. Communications: No report

b. Rules: D. Wood reported that nomination forms have been sent out and he encouraged people to make many nominations.

c. Professional Development: No report

d. Distinguished Service Award: No report.

IV. Old Business

List Serve

K. Fennie would like to take a formal vote at the next meeting on the decision to move forward with electronic distribution of the PEC minutes. C. Cullinane indicated that Computing Services recently switched to electronic distribution of their news briefs with excellent response.

V. New Business

Nature Preserve

C. Cullinane mentioned that the connector road near the preserve has really taken a beating due to construction in that area. K. Fennie mentioned that the contractor will clean this up once they have completed the necessary work associated with the construction.

Other Construction Updates

K. Fennie mentioned that other construction is on track such as the student dorm buildings and the events center. Other projects will be beginning soon. Research and Engineering are high on the priority list for the next capital plan. Construction Fund is stressing that the next capital plan be geared toward critical maintenance.

University Faculty Senate Update

Cathy Beard indicated that she will attend the next University Faculty Senate meeting at Cornell on April 3-4.

VI. Other

Spring Constituency meeting reminder

K. Fennie reminded everyone that 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. (Please note that the April 23 PEC meeting is cancelled due to the April 17 lunch meeting.)

VII. Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Professional Employees Council will be Wednesday, April 9, 2003 from 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. in Room AD148 of the Couper Administration Building. President DeFleur will be the guest.

On motion by R. Stanek, and seconded by K. Burke, 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.

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.