

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

**PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES COUNCIL**  
April 9, 2003  
Couper Administration Building, Room AD 148

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

**I. Approval of minutes of March 12, 2003**

On motion by R. Mess and second by L. Gilroy, the minutes of the meeting of March 12, 2003 were approved. The Minutes of March 26 were not distributed in time for approval at this meeting.

**II. Announcements**

**President DeFleur**

President DeFleur attended the PEC meeting and reported that we have received 21,000 applications for enrollment and this is the third year in a row we've set a record for number of applicants to BU. International applications are up by over 40%. Despite the high number of applicants, we will only increase student body slightly because of concerns about housing/resources to support additional students. We continue to look for ways where we can grow and increase revenues such as increasing out-of-state enrollment. The budget situation will continue to challenge the University. The Governor's 15% reduction coupled with a tuition hike should make our budget whole, but everything, including whether or not a budget will even be passed is in question. However, it is a fact that the state portion of our funding continues to get smaller and smaller. The President is concerned that if there is no budget this year, the legislature could also walk away without approving a tuition increase. With next year as an election year, there would probably not be an increase in tuition proposed at that time either. The President reported that all the VP's continue to look at ways to streamline and do things differently with fewer resources such as not filling many positions. She reported we have been able to hire some faculty. She reported that as advocacy efforts are increasing, we are letting our legislators know we are operating on a bare bones budget scenario. We are stressing to them facts about the high quality education we provide, and the economic impact BU has on the area economy. We've talked to them about our student's concerns about tuition increases, TAP assistance reductions and EOP cuts. She indicated that BU's EOP graduation rate is at 60%, which is higher than many of the other SUNY campuses overall graduation rates. The President continues to work with the Binghamton Coalition. An economic plan has been commissioned and paid for by the county. Many of the recommendations include ways the University can work together with the community to benefit everyone. Things that need improvement include better marketing of the area, improving community gateways, recruiting and retaining more young people, clean up of brownfields. We have offered much of our expertise, but have not committed any funds to the project. The President confirmed that the SUNY trustees make tuition recommendations but the legislature has to approve them. The President also indicated that even with the world turmoil going on, our International students have reported that they like Binghamton and feel respected here. We have not heard anything recently of the Turkish students who were going to be attending Binghamton. Regarding capital projects, President DeFleur confirmed that research and scientific space is a priority and that the new ITC building is being renovated on both the inside and the outside to make it a modern scientific building. Karen Fennie thanked the President for attending, and thanked her again for allowing the PEC plaque to be hung in the lobby of the Couper Administration Building.

### **III. Standing Committee Reports**

- a. Communications:** No report
- b. Rules:** D. Wood reported that we should be able to see and vote on the nominations in the next few days.
- c. Professional Development:** No report
- d. Distinguished Service Award:** No report.

### **IV. Old Business**

#### **List Serve**

K. Fennie called for a formal vote on the decision to move forward with electronic distribution of the PEC minutes. Everyone agreed that we should proceed with electronic distribution with a paper distribution two times per year. These minutes will be distributed both ways, electronically and via paper.

### **V. New Business**

None

### **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.)

#### **Rally, Saturday, May 3**

Darryl Wood reminded everyone of the rally planned in Albany at 1 p.m. on May 3 in support of educational aid for K-Higher Education. The rally, which hopes to draw over 50,000 participants, is sponsored by a number of umbrella organizations in New York State. For more information or if you'd like to participate, contact Darryl Wood at [dwood@binghamton.edu](mailto:dwood@binghamton.edu).

- VII. Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Professional Employees Council will be the Spring Constituency meeting on Thursday, April 17, 2003. See details above.

On motion by D. Guide, and seconded by S. Ballard, the meeting was adjourned at 3:42 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/>