



Professional Employees Council
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Binghamton, New York 13902-6000
<http://pec.binghamton.edu/>

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES COUNCIL

April, 7, 2004

Couper Administration Building, AD 148

Present: C. Altsmansberger, R. Barron, K. Fennie, G. Glover, F. Goldman, D. Guido, S. Lewis, N. Mabe, R. Mess, T. Robinson, D. Stone, D. Wood

Excused: S. Ballard, K. Burke, C. Fuller, B. Kilmarx, L. Klein, M. Lennox, L. Nesslage, P. Russell, R. Stanek, S. Warriner

Absent: L. Gilroy, M. Loveria, L. MacKenzie, M. Sollis

Guest: Provost Mary Ann Swain

I. Approval of minutes

Due to lack of quorum the minutes of Mar. 24th were not approved.

II. Announcements

- PEC is currently looking for a replacement for Sara Ballard and Chris Cullaine's position on the council.
- On May 5th, Vice President Sammakia will be speaking to PEC, followed by VP Kelly on May 19th, and VP Summers in June.
- PEC will hold it's annual luncheon in the first week of May.

III. Standing Committee Reports

a. **Communications:** None

b. **Rules:** None

c. **Professional Development:**

- This committee will also be hosting another Brown Bag Lunch presentation on Tuesday, April 20 at noon in the PSPC Dining Room. Karen Catalano will present "Healing Body and Mind with Yoga".

d. **Distinguished Service Award:**

- This committee met on April 2, 2004 in AD 148 from 3-4pm to discuss procedures for this award. Nomination materials will be posted to the campus soon. The deadline for award nominations will be in June.

e. **PEC History Committee:** None.

IV. Old Business

None

V. New Business

A. Provost Mary Ann Swain was the guest speaker at this PEC meeting. Discussion included the following:

- Binghamton University student enrollment is projected to stay at current levels or possibly be a little higher in order to maintain funding. An increase in state funds is not expected therefore there may be an increase in tuition in order to keep current funding levels for the University.
- There have been cases where campuses have been penalized for having increased enrollment, however Provost Swain stated that this will not be the case for Binghamton University as these penalties have been negotiated for the campus.
- There have been a record number of BU student applications and the quality of these applications continues to increase. The Provost would like to see more international student applications as this enriches our campus community. For BU and nationwide, international applications have continued to decrease due to stringent visa requirements for the U.S. In addition, visas are easier to obtain for the United Kingdom and New Zealand and therefore more students are applying for those visas. Returning BU international student numbers have currently not declined.

- In BU's funding model, 80 to 82 percent is enrollment driven. Unfortunately, Binghamton University lost funding and never recouped those losses. Tuition funding/stipends for graduate students decreased. The university eventually found additional monies by decreasing expenses.
- There has been an increase in the faculty salary gap between public and private universities. This affects Binghamton University's ability to hire and keep its current faculty and staff. Unfortunately at times, other universities are able to offer better salaries and/or funding. However, BU continues to attract quality students who offer intellectual challenges to its faculty. This is one of the many appeals that keeps faculty at BU.
- There may not be funding for additional adjunct faculty next year depending on the contract.
- In order to obtain needed funds for BU, the Provost encouraged faculty and staff to attend Advocacy Day on April 14th.
- Public support of universities has declined nationwide. Due to this fact, three Universities in Virginia are researching ways to become more autonomous. Private universities, who rely on interest from endowments, also did not fare well this past year.
- The Provost also encourages professionals to visit the Strategic Planning website on the Provost web page so that they can be a part of the campus planning process. Suggestions and recommendations are welcomed and may be made on the website.

VI. Next Meeting:

PEC will reconvene as regularly scheduled on Wednesday, May 5th, 2004 in AD 148 at 3:00pm.

On motions made by F. Goldman and C. Altsmansberger, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 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 Bob Mess, PEC Chair, X76039 or rmess@binghamton.edu

Please note that PEC meeting minutes are posted on the PEC website: <http://pec.binghamton.edu>