



October 24, 2011

Kathryn Grant Madigan, Co-Chair
James W. Orband, Co-Chair
Binghamton University Presidential Search Committee

Dear Ms. Madigan and Mr. Orband,

It appears from recent news reports that the Binghamton University Presidential Search committee is close to finalizing the names of candidates to forward to Chancellor Zimpher and the Board of Trustees.

We are disappointed that the search process did not include any input from the unions that represent faculty and staff at Binghamton University. The search committee was composed of people who could advocate for all the stakeholders in Binghamton University (faculty, staff, students, alumni, community leaders, and so on) except unions.

New York State and Binghamton University are highly unionized entities. It is vitally important that candidates for President meet with union representatives to obtain a clear picture of Labor-Management relations, so that they can make a more informed decision about whether to remain in the candidate pool.

Unions did have input into the previous unsuccessful open search for a BU President. While we do not necessarily agree with the changes made in the process for this search, we do understand the need for a closed search. However, a closed search does not preclude participation by unions. The recent presidential search at SUNY Albany included union input. Union representatives signed the same confidentiality agreements and participated in the same off-campus interviews as search committee members.

We request that UUP and CSEA, collectively representing over 2500 academic and professional staff at Binghamton University, have input into the remaining steps in the presidential search process.

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