Minutes of the April 8, 2008 Meeting

I. President Baker called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

II. Invocation was offered by Dr. John Lomax.

III. Minutes from March 11, 2008 were approved as submitted.

IV. Unfinished Business: None.

V. Questions for the President:
   a. In response to questions from the faculty, Dr. Baker discussed the allocation of funding for renovation of Northern On Main. The capital budget includes more than $4M for capital improvements, of which approximately $1.6M is designated for academic facilities. He also noted that due to accounting requirements, funds cannot be moved from the capital budget to the operating budget, so that the funds allocated for Northern On Main renovations cannot be diverted to operating expenses such as salary adjustments. When the facility was first established, no funding was provided for annual maintenance, so that after 7-8 years a substantial overhaul is required. Maintenance funds will be added in the future, as is done with current construction projects. The University has tried repeatedly to purchase the land, but the current owners have been unwilling to sell. Dr. Baker noted his pride in the high quality of all University facilities, and feels that the renovation of Northern On Main is necessary to maintain this level.
   b. Dr. Baker indicated that he expects to make an offer very soon for the position of Vice President for Financial Affairs. Hopefully the new VPFA will be able to join the University early in the summer to facilitate the transition process.
   c. The operating budget has been distributed. Some discussion of salaries and salary adjustments are ongoing, and may be reassessed in the Fall.

VI. University Council: No report.

VII. Reports of Constitutional Committees
   a. Budget and Appropriations: The B&A committee met with the Northern On Main committee to discuss the proposed renovations.
   b. Academic Affairs: No report.
   c. Student Activities: No report.
   d. Personnel: No report.

VIII. Reports of Operational Committees
   a. Committee on Athletics: Prof. Simmons noted that Jimmy O’Brien did well at a track & field meet at Princeton, and may be able to compete in the upcoming Olympic trials.
   b. Cultural and Special Events: No report.
   c. International Affairs: No report.
   d. Religious Affairs: A commencement chapel service will be held at 8:15 pm on Saturday May 17 in the English Chapel.
   e. Information Technology: No report.

IX. Other Reports:
   a. Dr. Lippert reported that the Semester Conversion Committee is meeting weekly. A website is available through the Academic Affairs website.
   b. VP Hilderbrand announced that a new Director of Undergraduate Career Services has been hired.

X. New Business: None.
XI. **Announcements:**

a. Nick Dunn has been awarded a 2008 Goldwater Scholarship, and Sam Manzer has received Honorable Mention. Chris Lemon, a former Goldwater Scholar, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship.

b. On Thursday, April 10 the English Department will host a “Celebration of the Arts” in the Wishing Well. Several students will be reading, displaying, or performing original works. The featured poet is Tom C. Hunley, assistant professor of English at Western Kentucky University. The event will begin with refreshments at 7:00 pm.

c. Honors Day will be held on May 3. The featured speaker this year will be Dr. Andrew Ludanyi.

d. On Thursday, April 17, the University Steering Committee for General Education will be holding a day-long Open Review of General Education Curricular Options in the Faculty Lounge in McIntosh. From 8am to 5pm members of the committee will be available to explain and discuss options for achieving the goals the faculty have set for the University General Education program. All faculty are encouraged to come at any time during the day.

e. On Tuesday, April 15 at 7:00 pm in the Dicke Forum, the ONU Working Group on Religion, Ethics, and Nature will be hosting a lecture by Dr. Pall Skulason, professor of philosophy at the University of Iceland. The title of the lecture is “On the Spiritual Understanding of Nature.”

f. Dr. Baker announced that a general manager has been hired for the Inn, and will start on Monday. The Inn is expected to open on October 3.

g. Dr. Baker provided an update on the worksite accident that occurred on Monday, April 7. The injured worker has a broken rib, bruised spleen, bruised shoulder, and is currently being held in ICU for observation. Dr. Baker thanked Emergency Services for their quick response to this incident.

XII. The meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Submitted by,

[Signature]

Dr. David R. Sawyers, Jr.
Secretary