Ohio Northern University Faculty

Minutes of the December 8, 2009 Meeting

I. VP Crago called the meeting to order at 4:13 pm.

II. Invocation was offered by Prof. Nils Riess.

III. Minutes from November 10, 2009 were approved as submitted.

IV. Unfinished Business: None.

V. University Council:
   a. The next Council meeting will be in January. Faculty are encouraged to attend the continuing Master Teacher workshops. The next workshop will be held on December 15 at 1:00 – additional details have been provided by email.

VI. Reports of Constitutional Committees
   b. Academic Affairs – The committee will meet next week.
   c. Student Activities – No report.
   d. Personnel – The committee has considered the possibility of providing extended time for employees in four-year contract positions due to family or other external issues. It was decided that this is not relevant for contract positions, since the purpose is to allow additional time to meet scholarly activity requirements which are generally not a part of such contracts. The committee is still considering the possibility of extending tenure deadlines for tenure-track faculty who are dealing with such issues.

VII. Questions for the President
   a. Concern was raised from the faculty that, as the Arts & Sciences College discusses core requirements, there is no clear understanding of how these requirements should be developed to support “Becoming ONU.” Dr. Baker replied that developing core requirements is a curricular issue that should be dealt with by the faculty rather than the President. While “Becoming ONU” is an effort to improve the recognition of ONU both regionally and nationally, what we want to be recognized for is a question that must be answered by the faculty. He noted several unusual aspects of ONU, such as the integration of liberal arts and professional programs at a school of our size. In the ensuing discussion it was suggested that while certain universities have developed unique identities, the process is usually only successful when led by the administration, rather than developing as a grassroots movement. Further discussion ensued regarding the relationship between liberal arts and professional programs, both within the A&S college, and between A&S and the other colleges.
   b. Dr. Baker announced that a new Director of Institutional Research will be joining the University in February. The first priority of the new Director will be to fill the two additional open positions within that department. A new Director of Human Resources has also been hired, and will be joining in January. A strong candidate for Registrar will be interviewed on Thursday. Dr. Baker also announced that Adriane Thompson-Bradshaw has accepted an appointment as Vice-President for Student Affairs, a position she has held in interim.

VIII. Reports of Operational Committees
   a. Committee on Athletics – No report.
   b. Cultural and Special Events – No report.
   c. International Affairs – No report.
   d. Religious Affairs – No report.
   e. Information Technology – Mr. Gulbis encouraged faculty to start thinking about how their WebCT requirements will be affected by the transition to semesters. He also announced that ONU is a member of “Quality Matters” – a peer review process designed to certify the quality of online courses. Additional information will be provided in the future.
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IX. Other Reports: None.

X. New Business: None.

XI. Announcements:
    a. The University Christmas party will be held on December 17.

XII. The meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Submitted by,

[Signature]

Dr. David R. Sawyers, Jr.
Secretary