Ohio Northern University
University Council

Minutes, March 30, 2010

Roll: (Absentees underlined) President Kendall Baker, Dr. David Crago, Dr. Robert Ruble, Mr. Thomas Stevick, Dean Karen Condeni, Ms. Adriane Thompson-Bradshaw, Dean Catherine Albrecht, Dean Eric Baumgartner, Dean Jon Sprague, Dean James Fenton, Rev. Vernon LaSala, Dr. Jeffery Allison, Dr. Khalid Al-Olimat, Dr. Robert Carrothers, Dr. Toni Clarke, Prof. Randall Ewing, Mr. Michael Hamper, Dr. Errol Katayama, Dr. Brian Keas, Prof. Laurie Laird, Dr. John Lomax, Dr. David Mikesell, Dr. Michael Milks, Prof. Traci Moritz, Dr. Sandra Schroeder, Dr. Kelly Shields, Dr. David Smith, Dr. Amy Stockert, Dr. Marjorie Walker, Dr. Bryan Ward, Mr. Scott Wills, Dr. Sunny Zank, Dr. Kay Zekany.

Dr. Sunny Zank, Chair of Council, called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

I. Minutes of March 16, 2010 were approved as distributed.

II. Reports from Constitutional Committees:
   a. Budget and Appropriations: No report.
   b. Academic Affairs: Will be meeting during the week of April 6-9.
   c. Student Activities: No report.

III. Reports from Operational Committees:
   a. Athletics: No report.
   b. Information Technology: No report.
   c. Cultural & Special Events: No report.
   d. International Affairs: ONU will host the Annual Multicultural Fair, in the McIntosh Activities Room on Monday, April 19, from 4-9pm. The fair will feature cultural displays of objects, artifacts, pictures and samples of ethnic foods.
   e. Religious Affairs: The new Student Senate Representative to the Religious Affairs Committee is Megan Beckemeier, a sophomore Language Arts Education major from Oxford, OH.
   f. General Education: No report.

IV. Planning Council: Is meeting weekly.

V. Other Reports:
   a. Karen Condeni reported that 143 prospective students and their parents were present on March 20 for Pharmacy Day, followed by 42 more students visiting for Junior Explore ONU Day on March 25. The Junior Open House will be held April 17.
   b. Jim Fenton reported that the Ohio Board of Regents plan to visit campus on May 2-4, 2010, to review the proposed graduate program in Accounting. Also, three students from the Business College, David Turner, Samantha Ludwig, and Daniel Humphrey, presented papers at the Bowling Green State University Undergraduate Economic Paper Competition and Conference.
   c. Student Senate held a successful cabinet retreat over the weekend of March 27-28, producing many promising ideas for future action. A brainstorming session will be held on May 2 for all of
senate, attempting to involve the entire body in planning and new initiatives. Applications for Student Organization of the Year were distributed and are due by April 15. Student Senate is taking on two large projects, campus recycling and laundry services, and will be surveying students regarding their opinions on these two items.

d. The Health Services Advisory Committee is reviewing the Summary Plan Document, editing to remove inconsistencies. They will also be issuing a request for proposal for providing a wellness plan.

e. Bryan Ward reported on behalf of the University Council Nominations Committee that enough names had been submitted for the ballot for nearly all at-large university governance positions. In order to have at least two candidates per open position, however, four more nominees are required for the Review Committee on Dismissal of Faculty and three more are required for the Hearing Committee on Dismissal of Faculty. Catherine Albrecht was concerned that not all Arts and Sciences faculty had received notice of the nominations. It was ultimately decided that the existing nominations would be approved via voice vote, which was unanimous, but that further nominations would be welcome and appended at a subsequent meeting. Peter Banfe’s name was stricken (due to clerical error) from the list of nominees for the Religious Affairs Committee published in the council agenda.

VI. Announcements:

a. John Lomax announced that Carol Wilson, a senior with a double major in History and Professional Writing, has been accepted into the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History’s History Scholars Program. Carol was one of ten students selected from roughly 1000 applications received annually for this very competitive national program, earning a $10,000 fellowship to participate in a five-week summer research experience in New York City.

VII. Questions for the President:

a. Dr. Baker added some details to his previous report on the “Annual ONU Scholarship Winter Golf Outing” in Naples, Florida. This outing took place at a course operated by an ONU alumnus, through whose generosity all greens fees were donated to the campaign. Approximately 80 people participated in the reception, with 44 golfing. The event grossed roughly $25,000 before expenses. All money raised will go toward scholarships.

b. On Friday, March 26, a Stewardship Dinner was held on campus to connect scholarship donors and the students receiving these named scholarships. All donors were invited to attend or send a family representative. Over 100 were present for the event, and Dr. Baker hopes even more can attend next year.

c. Dr. Baker outlined three construction projects currently in progress on campus. First is a plaza being constructed in front of the Hakes-Pierstorff portion of the pharmacy building, a generous gift from the Meijer Corporation which will become the new main entrance for the pharmacy school. This project is expected to be completed before commencement. The second project, visible on the west side of Klingler Road, is the construction of three wind turbines. The location of the turbines has shifted somewhat southward on this plot due to FAA concerns regarding their proximity to the Ada airport. NexGen Energy Partners anticipates that these turbines will be producing power by June. The third project is the campus observatory, which is part of the Mathile building project. The observatory was originally intended to be placed atop the Mathile Center, but the structure lacked the required rigidity. Thus a separate facility is being built on west campus adjacent to the baseball field.

d. The 2010-11 budget submitted to the Board of Trustees is based on two assumptions: first, that enrollment will be sufficient to sustain the budget, and second, that the conservative spending
patterns on campus continue through the end of the year. The budget includes a modest salary increase, five new faculty and staff positions, additional travel funds to facilitate faculty professional development, additional funds for faculty summer research, and additional supply and operational funds to recoup for cuts made last year. Dr. Baker acknowledges that these additions do not represent a full return to previous funding levels, but hopes that these additions will ease particular hardships occurring in several places across campus.

VIII. **Unfinished Business:**
   a. None.

IX. **New Business:**
   a. The Personnel Committee presented three separate items (listed in the council agenda) adapting sabbatical policy to the semester calendar. Discussion focused on whether the policy represents an increase or decrease in sabbatical availability. The proposed Appendix 10.VI states that undergraduate sabbatical leaves for up to eight (8) semesters of leave will be available, changed from ten (10) quarters of leave. From one perspective, it was possible that ten separate faculty members could take one quarter of leave each per year, compared to eight faculty under the new policy. It was pointed out, however, that quite generally it has been a much smaller number of faculty who take multiple quarters together, and that from this perspective the new policy represents an increase from 3-1/3 full sabbatical years to 4.

X. **Adjournment:** Dr. Zank adjourned the meeting at 6:03pm. Council will next meet for a special session on Thursday, April 8, at 11:45am in McIntosh Conference Room #7 to approve a final slate of at-large nominees.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

David R. Mikesell, Secretary