Minutes of the October 12, 2010 Meeting

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

II. Invocation was offered by Dr. Catherine Young.

III. Minutes from September 14, 2010 and September 28, 2010 were approved as submitted.

IV. Unfinished Business: None

V. Questions for the President:
   a. Dr. Baker noted a correction from the September 14, 2010 meeting. Dr. Ron Kieffer has an endowed chair position in the Department of Education.
   b. Dr. Baker announced that Homecoming 2010 was a success. On Saturday, 6000 – 7000 people were on campus and the football team won 44 – 10. Dr. Baker also noted that an alumni meeting took place at 11 AM with photographs immediately following. Dr. Baker was overwhelmed by the amazing performance of some selections from “Wicked” on Saturday evening that ended with a roar from the audience. The performance presented ONU to our alumni in a very positive light.
   c. Dr. Baker presented an update on the budget. Currently, criteria for filling vacant positions have been distributed to the Vice Presidents. The criteria are as follows: 1) the centrality of the position to the University’s mission and vision; 2) whether it is essential to the maintenance of quality and excellence; 3) the demand for the program/activity the position supports; 4) the cost of the position; 5) the efficiencies and/or enhancements of the position, and 6) the revenue/resources enabled by the position. These criteria apply to all support and faculty positions that are under review for being filled. Dr. Baker also noted that they are in the process of reviewing university expenditures from the past 4 years. The goal is to think about moving the university forward. We are not just cutting expenditures, but also looking into new program options that will have positive revenue consequences for the university. Dr. Baker thanked faculty members who have sent suggestions and ideas.
   d. In response to a question from Dr. Margot Cullen, Dr. Baker stated that he is not envisioning the dismissal of tenured faculty as a component of the budget cuts. A more likely scenario would be to combine units, departments or administrative positions if it were to maintain continued excellence at ONU.
   e. Dr. John Lomax inquired about the level of involvement of the Budget and Appropriations Committee in the budget revision process. Dr. Baker indicated that he has invited the Committee to be active participants and to offer recommendations. These recommendations will be incorporated into the decision-making process. In addition, proposals and budget numbers will be presented to the Committee for review. The President noted that it is difficult to quantify how much weight the Committee will have. Different components of campus have different weight, and all aspects will be considered.
f. Dr. Forrest Clingerman asked how we can ensure that budgetary decisions are not based solely on economics. Dr. Baker responded that the intent is to have conversations with everyone involved to avoid that happening. The goal is to provide the new President with viable options.

g. Dr. Catherine Young asked when visiting faculty would be notified of contract renewals. Dr. Baker responded that visiting faculty will be notified as soon as possible. Institutional research is currently compiling data on loads and service for various positions.

h. Dr. Baker noted that if there were other questions in the interim, please send him an email.

VI. Report from University Council:

a. Dr. Lisa Robeson noted that the budget was the main topic of discussion at the recent Board of Trustees meeting. She indicated that the Board of Trustees deeply cares about ONU and genuinely wants to help ONU become a better place. She was also pleased to announce that two new Board members are ONU alums who now are faculty members at other institutions (Dr. Greg Allenby from Ohio State Univ. and Dr. Carla Kim from Harvard Univ.). In total, the “Campaign for ONU’s Tomorrow” has attained $82 million of the $100 million goal. The Campaign has met 89% of its $25 million goal for academic programming. The largest contribution has been to the Dicke College of Business. The campaign donations have exceeded its $20 million goal for scholarships. In the area of capital projects, the campaign is at about 49% of the $45 million goal. Dr. Robeson then turned the reporting over to Dr. Mike Milks.

b. Dr. Michael Milks reported on his attendance at the 2 PM Board of Trustees meeting on Financial Affairs and the 4 PM meeting on Admissions, Enrollment and Financial Aid on Oct. 1. Dr. Milks indicated that Dr. Baumgartner discussed the facility needs of the College of Engineering. Overall, the Board is taking a long hard look at how the University can be improved. Everything is on the table for cutting, but they are also exploring revenue enhancement through endowments and increased enrollment. Maguire Associates will help perform a review of admissions and financial aid. Currently, there is no clear reason for lower enrollment other than the economy. The University is not yet in crisis mode, but everyone should be engaged.

VII. Reports from Constitutional Committees:

a. Budget and Appropriations: None.

b. Academic Affairs: Dr. John Lomax reported that Academic Affairs is busy with housekeeping measures and policies regarding the semester transition. Zero-billing hour courses are being discussed. Under semesters, there will be no automatic zero-billing hour courses. To keep a zero-billing hour course or start a
new one, departments must submit proposals to the Committee. Departments will be asked to submit their courses for zero-billing later this month.

c. **Student Affairs**: None
d. **Personnel**: Dr. Sunny Zank reported that the Committee is drafting a phased retirement plan. Currently, there is only a severance plan. They are also changing language in the faculty handbook to appropriately reflect the transition to semesters.

**VIII. Reports from Operational Committees:**

a. **Athletic Events**: Dr. Baker shared an email he received from Tom Simmons. At the recent cross country invitational at Furman University, Alison Steinbrunner won the women’s title. The ONU men placed second and the ONU women placed third.

b. **Cultural Events**: Dr. Laurie Bell reported that they are meeting on October 13th at noon in McIntosh.

c. **International Affairs**: Dr. Julie Hurtig reported that 129 international students are currently enrolled. Another 30 international students will be entering the Prison Management Certificate Program in January.

d. **Religious Affairs**: None
e. **Information Technology**: None

**IX. New Business**: None

**X. Announcements:**

a. Dr. Lloyd Butler announced a Kremlin Chamber Concert this evening.

b. Dr. Kathryn Cowles announced some upcoming readings in the English Department. Renowned author, Jacob Paul, will be reading on Thursday, October 14th at 6 PM. The Creative Writing students will have their “Rapid Fire” event next Tuesday, October 19th at 5:30 PM.

c. Dr. Baker noted that Dr. David Sawyers presented on wind turbines to all the trustees and board members. It was an incredible presentation and we all understood the technical material. Thanks David!

d. Dr. Baker also noted that Dr. Kathryn Cowles performed an incredible poetry reading for the trustees’ spouses.

e. Dr. Ray Person announced the upcoming Keiser lecture on Monday October 18th at 7 PM in the Freed Center. Dr. Reijo-Pera’s talk is entitled, “Human Health, Development and Stem Cells.”

**XI. The meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM.**

Submitted by,

__________________________
Dr. Leslie A. Riley
Secretary