Minutes, March 29, 2011

Roll: (Absentees Underlined) President Kendall Baker, Dr. David Crago, Dr. Robert Ruble, Mr. Ken Block, 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. Nathaniel Bird, Dr. Bob Carrothers, Dr. Keith Durkin, Dr. Kevin Hill, Dr. Brian Keas, Prof. Laurie Laird, Ms. Marsha McMunn, Dr. Michael Milks, Prof. Sue Montenery, Prof. Traci Moritz, Mr. Clyde Pickett, Dr. Harold Putt, Dr. Lisa Robeson, Dr. Sandra Schroeder, Dr. David Smith, Dr. Amy Stockert, Dr. Bryan Ward, Dr. Rob Waters, Dr. Dexter Woods, Dr. Kay Zekany

Dr. Lisa Robeson, Chair of Council, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

I. Minutes of the March 15, 2011 meeting were approved as distributed (Motion by Jon Sprague, second by Jeff Allison, motion carried.)

II. Reports from Constitutional Committees:
   a. Budget & Appropriations: is meeting weekly.
   b. Academic Affairs: has new business.
   c. Student Activities: No report.
   d. Personnel: No further report.

III. Reports from Operational Committees:
   a. Athletics: No report.
   b. Information Technology: No report.
   c. Cultural & Special Events: No further report.
   d. International Affairs: met on March 21, 2011. Three students were chosen to receive the Shuhaiber scholarships.
   e. Religious Affairs: will meet next week about the prayer garden. Founder’s Day is Wednesday, April 6. The founder of ONU, Dr. Henry Solomon Lehr (played by Mr. Chris Ciha) will tell the story, in his own words, of how he started ONU.
   f. General Education: No further report.

IV. Planning Council: No report.

V. Other Reports:
   a. David Crago highlighted the faculty handbook administrative changes (required by the move to semesters) that were provided in Attachment A of the agenda. If there are additional changes, or comments, on the changes in Attachment A, please contact Julie Hurtig or John Lomax (Chair of Academic Affairs Committee). Kay Zekany asked about section 3.14 Grades and Quality Points. Attachment A still requires that the GPA be calculated and then truncated after the second decimal point and Council voted to change that earlier this year. Julie Hurtig responded that the change to rounding of GPA’s will go into effect in the 2011-12 faculty handbook. Julie also commented that changes to the orientation program (section 3.12) are currently being determined and that section will change in the future as well. She reiterated the request for any comments be sent to her or John Lomax.
b. Karen Condeni commented that the colleges of pharmacy and engineering held junior visit days the previous weekend. Approximately 126 students visited the college of pharmacy and 53 students visited the college of engineering. Explore ONU Day will be held on Thursday, March 31 with approximately 60 students planning to visit.

c. Jim Fenton reported that the Higher Learning Commission unconditionally approved the Masters in Professional Practice in Accountancy degree. However, due to a variety of considerations, including the short amount of time to recruit graduate students from outside ONU, the college recommended that the program begin in fall 2012 instead of fall 2011. The ONU chapter of the American Marketing Association took 7th place out of 50 university teams in a marketing simulation competition in New Orleans, LA.

d. Catherine Albrecht reported that the Ninth International Play Festival will run April 6 through 9 and focuses on theatrical works by American Indians.

e. Jon Sprague stated that new faculty member, Jenelle Sobotka, is president-elect of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) and ONU pharmacy students won the region 4 APhA-ASP heartburn award for the fourth year in a row. Region 4 of the Academy of Student Pharmacists (ASP) includes Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Kentucky, Illinois and Wisconsin. Other news with regard to APhA: ONU alum Cathy Kuhn (PharmD 2006) received the Distinguished New Practitioner Award, Kim Broedel-Zaugg received a Distinguished Service Award from the APhA and ONU Healthwise (David Bright lead author) received the APhA-APPM Presentation Merit Award which recognizes the best practice-focused paper presented at the meeting. Also, ONU pharmacy graduates have graced the covers of numerous “Pharmacy Today” magazines in recent years. On March 28, the college received notification that they were one of four schools selected by Cardinal Health to receive a $125K grant to support scholarships for students interested in independent pharmacy ownership.

f. Student Senate: Marsha McMunn reported that approximately 40 student leaders had lunch with Dr. DiBiasio when he was on campus. Student senate held their cabinet retreat and a special budget & appropriations meeting for a new student organization that requested funding. Senate is discussing updating the McIntosh courtyard and is looking for potential groups to be candidates for student organization of the year.

g. Health Services Advisory Committee: No report.

h. Student Center Task Force: Michael Milks reported that he and Vern LaSala met with the architects on March 28 and discussed faculty desires/concerns about the new student center. Among suggestions, a faculty dining room where faculty could host guests and have some level of privacy. Concerns expressed to the architect include the location (in the middle of the tundra), timing of the new center (university financial situation), the location of a proposed prayer garden (would be at/near the proposed center) and questions about what size dining rooms would be left (needed?) in a repurposed McIntosh Center. Additionally, a private dining room for the President was eliminated from the center as it was decided the Inn could be used for private affairs.

i. Nominations subcommittee: Bryan Ward made a motion to accept the slate of candidates for at-large positions on university committees presented in Attachment B. Catherine Albrecht seconded the motion. After brief discussion, the motion passed. Lisa Robeson thanked the nominations committee for a job well done.
VI. **Announcements:** Julie Hurtig announced that Andrea Richardson, in the Registrar’s Office, would be unavailable for an undefined period of time and if anyone was in communication with her via e-mail, especially regarding the upcoming advance registration period, they should instead contact the registrar, Tammy Bash. Harold Putt announced that April is Math Awareness month and his department would be hosting the 10th annual Math Awareness Day on April 6. The event will bring approximately 48 high school students and their teachers to campus.

I. **Questions for the President:** Dr. Baker reported on the university’s financial situation. The university’s board of trustees decided over the weekend that we would not be refinancing our debt (which could have saved the university approximately $600,000 in the short term). This decision was based primarily on two things: increasing interest rates and the recent downgrading of ONU’s bond rating by Moody’s Investors Service. Moody’s annual review of the University’s financial health caused them to downgrade ONU’s bond rating two levels, from A3 to Baa2. This does not affect any of the University’s existing bonds, but does affect our ability to issue new debt and to refinance existing debt. Moody’s cited several areas of concern, including declining enrollment, a weakened balance sheet cushion, elevated endowment draws, and narrow unrestricted monthly liquidity (i.e. cash on hand). The president stated that this problem is solvable and the university and trustees will focus on improving the areas of concern. He will be presenting a balanced budget to the board of trustees and the campus community in May and our options for doing that are being assessed right now. Some things that are being looked at: summer capital projects, faculty and staff vacancies, tuition remission, etc. Keith Durkin asked if the downgrade impacts the university’s existing debt. President Baker answered that it does not; we will continue to pay our bills as we have been. Lisa Robeson asked if direct draws on the endowment and the role of the Inn on our bottom line are part of the conversation with the board. President Baker responded that yes, cost reductions are being put in place at the Inn and we must reduce special draws on the endowment. Every university expense is being looked at and discussed. The president plans to have additional meetings for faculty and staff to discuss the budget and he requested that any employee who has an idea or comment about the budget should contact him.

II. **Unfinished Business:**
   a. None.

III. **New Business:**
   a. Agenda attachment C from the Academic Affairs Committee makes changes to the final exam policy in the faculty handbook and on the registrar’s website. Julie Hurtig reported for the committee that the wording was previously approved by the committee and was inadvertently left out of council’s previously approved section 3.18.8. She also stated that there was one additional change: from “…in consultation…” to “…after consultation….” No other discussion occurred.

IV. **Adjournment:** Lisa Robeson adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m. Council will next meet on April 19, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie K. Laird, Secretary