Minutes of the February 8, 2011 Meeting

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

II. Invocation was offered by Jonathan Smalley.

III. Minutes from January 10, 2011 were approved as submitted.

IV. Unfinished Business: None

V. Questions for the President:
   a. John Lomax asked about meeting the new President (Dan DiBiasio). President Baker said he has sent Dr. DiBiasio a list of various university faculty and council meetings for him to review. President Baker emphasized that we (the community of ONU) will do whatever we can to facilitate a smooth transition.
   b. John Lomax asked whether President Baker’s term is ending on July 1, 2011. President Baker confirmed that date, but added that he will utilize vacation days in June to assist with his move to Colorado. The Bakers’ actual departure date will be sometime in June.
   c. President Baker provided a brief report from the recent Board of Trustees meeting on February 4 and 5.
      i. He thanked the academic affairs committee of the board for their diligent review of promotion and tenure. All promotion and tenure recommendations were approved.
      ii. The board approved a 3.9% tuition increase for four colleges and a 4.9% increase for the College of Law. A 5% increase in room and board was also approved, which will include technological upgrades in laundry services.
      iii. The board received a thorough report from the admissions consultants (Maguire firm).
      iv. The Campaign is at $86 million and is anticipated to meet the $100 million goal in about a year.
      v. Conversation was held about the student center.
   d. Lisa Robeson commented that she was impressed by the research and content presented in the admissions report.
   e. President Baker presented an update regarding the new student center.
      i. A few weeks ago, a task force met regarding the student center. President Baker, Vern LaSala and Mike Milks attended.
      ii. Discussion focused on the placement of the student center. There was some consideration of placing the student center west of the chapel. The tundra could be extended by closing fraternity circle road and filling in the pond.
      iii. In order to raise money, President Baker noted that we need possible sketches for the student center. This is the next stage in the process.
      iv. The building will not be constructed until the financing plan is in place.
f. President Baker turned the reporting over to Mike Milks.
   i. Mike Milks expressed skepticism prior to meeting with the task force. How well would a task force listen to faculty questions regarding the student center given the lack of information previously? Mike voiced concerns to the task force. Many faculty members have an emotional attachment to the tundra. The reduction of green space can never be returned once the building is there. He also asked whether this was the right time to undertake this project given the current economic climate and low enrollment trends. He also noted that many student comments from the survey were negative.
   ii. Mike also relayed the position of the task force and their reasons for wanting to move forward with the student center. The proposed location is in the “heart of campus” by the chapel and the library. This will increase recreational opportunities and walking on campus. The center will allow students a convenient one-stop place for student services. The task force envisions the building as a “centerpiece” for student life.
   iii. Mike is pleased that the task force is listening to concerns and that we are currently in a planning phase.

g. Ray Person asked where the student center fit into the master plan. He expressed concern that the student center will have priority over other university needs because the center is in a planning phase. Lisa Robeson and Mike Milks both have requested that the board help publicize priorities that are being considered.

h. Paul Logsdon reported that a study had been completed several years ago about placing a center on the west side of campus. Efforts should be made to consolidate this information. President Baker responded that the master plan is updated frequently. This particular project was not on that plan.

i. John Lomax expressed concern about the physical appearance and location of the building.

j. Bill Theisen asked whether a parking lot would be present. He would prefer that not occur.

k. Dave Rouch asked about the impact on downtown Ada. Mike Milks and Lisa Robeson responded that we should pursue some joint venture opportunities.

VI. Report from University Council: Lisa Robeson reported on the recent Board of Trustees meeting. She requested that the board consider downtown Ada as the student center is developed. Lisa also noted that there has been an increase in interactions between the board and faculty. The Board of Trustees admits there was a breakdown in communication on the student center and are trying to be more open. Dan Walker has been very open with Lisa and others on behalf of the task force. Lisa also reported that the board will not proceed with the student center unless it does not
affect the operating budget and the endowment. She is confident this type of miscommunication between the faculty and the board will not happen again.

VII. Reports from Constitutional Committees:
   a. Budget and Appropriations: No report.
   b. Academic Affairs: John Lomax reported that the calendar proposal and final exam schedule for 2012 – 2013 was submitted to university council. He also noted that the committee is considering zero billing courses.
   c. Student Affairs: No report.
   d. Personnel: No report.

VIII. Reports from Operational Committees:
   a. Athletic Events: Tom Simmons announced a women’s basketball game on Wednesday and both a men’s and a women’s basketball game on Saturday.
   b. Cultural Events: No report.
   c. International Affairs: No report.
   d. Religious Affairs: Ray Person announced that a new chapel student staff has been selected.
   e. Information Technology: No report.

IX. New Business: Tammy Bash requested approval of winter term graduates with the following changes. (See Academic Affairs website under Faculty Agenda for the distributed list). Megan Pierce (Communication Arts, Theatre and Music) and Nicholas Workman (Construction Management) were added to the winter graduate list. Bobby Keung (Biology) was removed from the list. Ancuta Istoć (Business Administration) changed her name to Anca Deifendeifer. All requests were approved.

X. Announcements:
   a. Phi Delta Kappa will host an open forum on the crisis in Egypt tonight (February 8th) at 7:30 PM in Dicke 230. On February 10th, several students will share their study abroad experiences.
   b. On behalf of council, Lisa Robeson announced that we will need to amend the faculty constitution at the next meeting to update the language reflecting the semester conversion. A signed petition from 20 faculty members has been received that reads:

   It is moved that in order to reflect the change from quarters to semesters, the Ohio Northern University Faculty Constitution Article I, Section 2 be amended to read as follows:

   Members during their first academic term quarter of membership, unless otherwise provided for in this Constitution, shall not be eligible to serve on committees of the Faculty, or on University Council, to hold Faculty office, to vote on acceptance of new members, or to vote on membership of any Faculty committee.
c. Polaris magazine and the English department are hosting a rapid fire reading event on February 9th in the Elzay gallery.

d. Tammy Bash announced that a draft semester catalog is available on the registrar’s homepage.

e. Heterick Library is hosting a “Dead Valentines” party on February 14th with cookies and punch to celebrate dead week and Valentine’s Day.

XI. The meeting adjourned at 5:06 PM.

Submitted by,

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Leslie A. Riley
Secretary