Minutes of the March 8, 2011 Meeting

I. President Baker called the meeting to order at 4 PM.
II. Invocation was offered by John Lomax.
III. Minutes from February 8, 2011 were approved as submitted.
IV. New Business: University Council has circulated and submitted a petition that has been signed by 20 faculty members:

   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.

   a. Based on Article X of the Faculty Constitution, at least two-thirds of the votes cast by the faculty eligible to vote must approve the amendment in order for it to go into effect. The faculty must now select a polling date and voting method in order to allow all eligible voting members an opportunity to vote. Options include an electronic poll through CourseEval or a traditional paper ballot and polling location.

   b. Lisa Robeson made a motion to conduct the vote on the issue to amend the Ohio Northern University Faculty Constitution as proposed in the petition brought before the faculty today using ONU’s CourseEval system on Tuesday, March 15th 2011 between the hours of 8 AM and 5 PM. The motion was seconded. Approved by acclamation.

V. President Baker introduced Jenelle Sobotka as the first endowed chair of Ohio Northern University. Jenelle is the endowed chair of pharmacy practice and is also the President-elect for the American Pharmacists Association.

VI. Introduction and questions for President-elect, Dr. Daniel DiBiasio:

   a. President Baker introduced Daniel DiBiasio as the 11th president of Ohio Northern University.

   b. President-elect DiBiasio thanked President Baker for his time and assistance during this transition period.

   c. President-elect DiBiasio then introduced his wife, Chris Burns-DiBiasio. President-elect DiBiasio highlighted the fact that Chris grew up on a college campus and has been involved with college campuses her entire life. At Wilmington College, where the DiBiasios spent the past 16 years, Chris served as the affirmative action officer. In addition, she started a youth council, served on a school board, and was instrumental in the creation of the program “Grow Food, Grow Hope,” which was featured on NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt during
their “Let’s Make a Difference” segment. President-elect DiBiasio expressed his pride regarding his wife’s work at Wilmington College.

d. Chris Burns-DiBiasio remarked that it is wonderful to finally meet everyone at Ohio Northern University. She is looking forward to helping the university in future endeavors.

e. President-elect DiBiasio commented that he is truly honored to have been selected as the 11th President of Ohio Northern University. He also stated that he is pleased to have this meeting with the faculty and remarked that the faculty is the primary reason for the success of this university. He wanted to elaborate on five points during this meeting.

f. First, he is committed to developing a relationship with the faculty based on trust, mutual respect and honesty. While the faculty and the President have different roles, they share many common goals. He proposed starting a tradition that we operate on a first-name basis. He also invited the faculty to be candid with their views and noted that he has never met a faculty that did not embrace this suggestion. In light of this open, honest relationship, he specifically addressed two areas:

   i. He acknowledged the fact that some faculty did not support a confidential search process. He noted that a confidential approach allows sitting presidents to apply for positions while still maintaining a focused home campus. He vowed to serve as transparently and as openly as possible. He requested that his curriculum vitae and letter of interest be made available on the ONU website.

   ii. He also acknowledged that he has spent most of his career in administrative positions. He expressed hope that the faculty will see by his actions that he is fully committed to the central mission of the university faculty. He stated that he may not be “of” the faculty but wants to be “for” the faculty.

g. Second, he expressed that he wants this transition to truly be a new beginning. He will spend time in each college getting to know faculty and administration. His success as a fundraiser depends upon how well he knows the faculty and can share student success stories with external stakeholders.

h. Third, he would like to develop a transition plan and invited faculty input. A transition plan will allow an opportunity for him to listen, learn and develop insights regarding priorities for Ohio Northern University.

i. Fourth, he wants to create a clear channel of communication between the faculty and the Board of Trustees. He noted that he looks forward to working with Lisa Robeson as a member of both the faculty and the board to further this line of communication. He also welcomed any ideas about sustaining clear communication.
j. Finally, he expressed excitement regarding the desire of ONU to move from being a very good university to a great university. He noted that the desire for this university to be great was a source of motivation. He commented that we are poised to realize ONU as a great university.

k. President-elect DiBiasio then turned over the floor to questions from the faculty. Questions were asked and answered.

l. President-elect DiBiasio concluded that he is honored and privileged to be the next President of Ohio Northern University. He noted that he has always held ONU in high regard and is looking forward to working effectively with the faculty and the ONU community.

VII. Announcements:
   a. Nancy Woodley announced that District Science Day will be held at ONU on Saturday, March 19th 2011. We are still in need of volunteer judges. If anyone is interested in serving as a volunteer judge, please contact Nancy Woodley, Jane Brown or Melissa Keifer.

VIII. The meeting adjourned at 4:56.

There was a reception following the meeting for Dr. Daniel and Mrs. Chris Burns-DiBiasio.

Submitted by,

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Leslie A. Riley
Secretary