Minutes of the January 22 Meeting

I. President DiBiasio called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

II. Invocation was offered by Paul Nutter.

III. Minutes from November 22, 2012 were approved as submitted.

IV. Unfinished Business: None.

V. Report from University Council: Rob Alexander welcomed everyone back and announced that the next University Council meeting will be held on February 5. The Board of Trustees meeting will occur on February 15 and 16. If there are issues you would like brought up at either meeting, please contact him. Rob also mentioned that he would like to examine ways of improving university governance on our campus during the remainder of his term. Lisa Robeson asked if there were specific areas to which he was referring. Rob responded that he is not aware of specific areas that need to be addressed but would like to start that conversation.

VI. Reports from Constitutional Committees:
   a. Budget and Appropriations: No report. However, Mike Milks voiced concerns about raises and retirement, especially for the younger faculty. He hopes the university is making an effort to restore TIAA-CREF contributions to what they were previously. Even if the contributions only improve slightly next year, he feels we should make an effort to move in that direction. John Lomax added that the university’s contribution to TIAA-CREF was reduced by 3%. The 3% taken away from younger faculty will exponentially increase over time. The university should consider restoring 1% a year over the next few years.
   b. Academic Affairs: No report.
   c. Student Affairs: No report
   d. Personnel: Paul Logsdon announced that the committee will be meeting on January 31. He also suggested crafting an email regarding TIAA-CREF contributions as a way to start that conversation amongst the faculty.

VII. Reports from Operational Committees:
   a. Athletic Events: No report.
   b. Cultural Events: No report.
   c. International Affairs: Brian Keas announced that information about the Shuhaibar Scholarship for international students will be distributed shortly. Be on the lookout for an email.
   d. Religious Affairs: David MacDonald announced that they will be accepting new applications for religious life staff. Have students pick up packets in the religious life office. Interviews will begin shortly.
   e. Information Technology: Jeff Rieman requested that faculty attend the faculty training presentations. Chandra Dunbar and Joseph Blankson have been preparing training on MoodleRooms, Turn It-In, ooVoo and various other topics. He also announced that IT is examining the feasibility of phasing out the use of
Luminus on campus. If you find there are things you cannot do in self-service Banner, please let the IT staff know. Nancy Woodley mentioned that she has had trouble with forwards not sending from her Gmail account. Jeff said he would look into it. John Lomax commented that he finds it very useful to be able to email students from the class list in Luminus but that it has not worked from Gmail. Jeff responded that he believes there is a way to restore that capability in self-service Banner and will look into doing so.

VIII. Questions for the President: President DiBiasio highlighted a few items before opening the floor to questions.

a. In April, the date of the university faculty meeting will be switched with that of the Arts and Sciences faculty meeting. Thus, the university faculty will meet on April 16; the Arts and Sciences faculty on April 23.

b. In the wake of the university forum presentations last fall, the President and if possible, Vice President Ballard and Provost Crago, will be conducting a number of faculty conversations with smaller groups of 12 – 15 individuals. A random number generator was used to pick faculty names for each meeting. The meetings will be conducted until the end of the semester. Look for an email regarding specifics. Attached to the email will be two articles discussing current macroeconomic forces shaping higher education today. These are meant to provide some context for our conversations.

c. The Board of Trustees meeting is February 15 and 16. Tuition and fees will be discussed. These are difficult conversations to have right now given the current economic state of higher education. Recent articles predict that most higher education institutions will be facing a net tuition revenue decline during the 2013 fiscal year. This outlook has changed from the previous year when some institutions were thought to be exempt. Now it appears that even the Ivy League schools will be facing significant challenges. As for tuition and fees, we have been looking into all possible options, including a tuition freeze, reducing the sticker price, implementing a small price increase or a graduation guarantee or any combination of these options. Currently, it appears that we will be discussing a 2% -3% tuition price increase for next year with the Board. This is the smallest increase the university has implemented in a long time. We will also discuss a graduation guarantee. If certain criteria are met and a student is not able to graduate in four years, then the university will provide the tuition for the fifth year. Sixty schools have implemented the four-year guarantee.

d. Bill Theisen asked about the level of institutions that have implemented the four-year guarantee. The President responded that schools at all levels have done so – state, regional and national levels.

e. Margie Walker inquired about the President’s description of where ONU was going that he outlined in his talk at the beginning of the school year. She noted
that he did not use the phrase “Becoming ONU” and was wondering if he could provide a synopsis of the ideas that he presented. The President responded that we will have an opportunity to have that discussion very soon.

IX. Other Reports: Provost Crago directed everyone to the two documents that were attached to the agenda.

a. Higher Learning Commission information: The first attached document provides information regarding the criteria for accreditation that occurs through the Higher Learning Commission. Every 10 years, we have to undergo a reaccreditation as an institution. This is important for many reasons, including the fact that it makes our students eligible for federal loans. There are five criteria. Traditionally, we have divided the workload by creating committees to develop responses that address each of the five criteria. The following individuals will serve as chairs for each of the committees: Bob Carothers (Criterion One: Mission), Sherry Young (Criterion Two: Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct), Tena Roepke (Criterion Three: Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources and Support), Pat Croskery (Criterion Four: Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement) and Jill Christopher (Criterion Five: Resources, Planning and Institutional Effectiveness). The Higher Learning Commission will be on campus during the fall of 2014 or the spring of 2015. Lisa Robeson inquired about the timeline for the Higher Learning Commission. Provost Crago responded that we will have a more definitive timeline once we know when they are coming. If they will be on campus during the fall of 2014, the report will need to be finished by the end of summer 2014. Julie Hurtig and Brian Keas will be attending the annual meeting and will have more details upon their return.

b. Academic calendar: The second attached document provides a 7 year academic calendar through 2019 – 2020. We have tried to incorporate many requests from the faculty. For example, the fall break has been reinstated for the next 7 years. We will also make sure that letters of appointment will match calendar dates. Some had voiced concern about this. Finally, we wanted to go ahead and provide convocation and move-in dates so students and faculty could plan ahead. Bill Theisen voiced confusion over the process of determining the academic calendar. Provost Crago responded that the calendar is the responsibility of Academic Affairs and indicated that they have tried to incorporate many different perspectives.

c. The President added that Dicke College of Business received official notification that it received reaccreditation. The College hit the “gold standard” with no need for interim reports.

X. New Business: None.

XI. Announcements:
a. Adriane Thompson-Bradshaw announced a Martin Luther King, Jr. themed cultural conversation hour today at 11:45 AM. The conversation will be led by University Chaplain, David MacDonald, and Admissions Counselor and Multicultural Advisor, Reginald Onyido. She also announced that a special exhibit of artifacts related to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s visit to the ONU campus will be on display in the Heterick Library on Wednesday, January 23 at 10 AM and again at 2 PM. In addition, Ellis Post will be speaking at 7 PM on Thursday, January 24 and the Soul Rebels will be performing on Friday, January 25 at the Freed Center. She also welcomed LaShonda Gurley as the new Director for Multicultural Development.

b. Mike Milks announced that Habitat for Humanity is currently collecting donations.

c. Lisa Robeson pointed out that a special edition of the Northern Review was distributed. This edition contains a lot of the text from Martin Luther King Jr.’s speech at ONU prior to his assassination. She noted that it is interesting to observe how far he had evolved regarding his stances on the Vietnam War and the role of civil disobedience. Mike Milks added that there used to be an audio file of that speech. Paul Logsdon stated that the link to the audio file was also in the email that was distributed.

XII. The meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM.

Submitted by,

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Leslie A. Riley
Secretary