Ohio Northern University Faculty

Minutes of the February 16, 2010 Meeting

I. President Baker called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

II. Invocation was offered by Dr. Eva McManus.

III. Minutes from January 12, 2010 were approved as submitted.

IV. Unfinished Business: None.

V. Questions for the President
   a. Concern was raised over uncertainty in faculty and chair course load policies under the semester calendar. Dean Albrecht responded, with Dr. Baker’s concurrence, that course load policies would be determined primarily at the college level.
   b. Additional concern was raised over expectations for faculty research being added to normal teaching loads as a result of the “Becoming ONU” concept. A related concern was expressed over using endowment funds through the Signature Program concept to attract high-profile researchers while faculty from traditionally-funded positions maintain heavy teaching loads. Dr. Baker responded that “Becoming ONU” would be implemented gradually to allow for workload adjustments. He also noted that while using endowed chairs to attract high-profile individuals was one model for a signature program, it was not the only approach being used. Continuing efforts can be made to attract individuals at the assistant professor level who show promise to support both teaching and research. He also noted that in recent years the faculty has been expanded significantly without relying on draws from the endowment. This process will continue, although it has been slowed by economic conditions.
   c. Concern was also raised over some programs which seem to require a significantly increased number of credit hours in the proposed semester curriculum. Dr. Hurtig noted that the A&S Curriculum Committee was currently reviewing majors, and agreed that some external evaluation may also be needed. She suggested that the Academic Affairs Committee might be the appropriate body to conduct such reviews.
   d. Dr. Baker reported on the February 5 Board of Trustees meeting. In addition to regular business, the Board discussed ways that growth may be compatible with the “Becoming ONU” concept. While initially focusing on increased capacity, the discussion moved toward growth based on program evolution. The Board has also determined that the principal capital project to be funded from the remaining Comprehensive Campaign will be a new student center. The new building will be in a different location (probably on the Tundra), while McIntosh will be renovated to contain meeting rooms and administration offices. Estimated cost for the new building is approximately $40M, with an additional $15M for the renovations. At the Board meeting, Dr. Zank pushed for faculty inclusion in the discussion process, which has so far been limited to representatives from the Board of Trustees, Student Senate, and Vice-Presidents Ruble and Thompson-Bradshaw. Concern was raised over allocation of Comprehensive Campaign funds for this project at the expense of other needs such as financial aid. It was suggested that in addition to construction projects, the Board also needs to consider student recruitment, which relies on financial aid. Dr. Baker noted that $21M in scholarship funds has been raised by the current campaign, and that donations allocated to specific needs will not be redirected. Concern was also raised over the need for additional faculty offices and classrooms to support the new faculty positions proposed by the “Becoming ONU” concept. Dr. Baker agreed that the need for additional academic space exists, but noted that numerous projects have been accomplished recently to increase academic facilities on campus. He also noted that the need for a new student center has captured the Board’s attention, and will almost certainly proceed even if donations from the Comprehensive Campaign are insufficient.
   e. In response to a question from the faculty, Dr. Baker noted that all future construction projects will be LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified.
   f. Dr. Baker provided an update on the Office of Academic Affairs. With the transition to semesters, revision of general education, and the recent or future hiring of key staff, the workload is very heavy. To provide stability and minimize disruptions, Dr. Crago will continue to serve as
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both VPAA and Dean of the Law College until sometime next year. In the fall, the President and Dr. Crago will decide which position Dr. Crago will retain permanently. A search to fill the other position will then be conducted.

VI. University Council:
   a. No report.

VII. Reports of Constitutional Committees
   a. Budget and Appropriations – The committee met today, and will be making salary recommendations.
   b. Academic Affairs – No report.
   c. Student Activities – No report.
   d. Personnel – No report.

VIII. Reports of Operational Committees
   a. Committee on Athletics – No report.
   b. Cultural and Special Events – No report.
   c. International Affairs – No report.
   d. Religious Affairs – No report.
   e. Information Technology – Nathan Oliver will be conducting a WebCT lecture tomorrow. The University will be hosting a workshop on “Quality Matters” to evaluate online instruction. The workshop will be held on February 26, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm in the Dicke Forum.

IX. Other Reports: None.

X. New Business: The list of Winter Term Graduates was approved as distributed.

XI. Announcements:
   a. District Science Day is March 13. Faculty who are willing to serve as judges should contact Dr. Woodley or the Biology Department Office.

XII. The meeting adjourned at 4:17 pm.

Submitted by,

[Signature]
Dr. David R. Sawyers, Jr.
Secretary