Minutes of the March 11, 2008 Meeting

I. President Baker called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

II. Invocation was offered by Dr. Bob Ward.

III. Minutes from February 12, 2008 were approved as submitted.

IV. Unfinished Business: None.

V. Questions for the President:
   a. In response to a comment from the faculty, Dr. Baker acknowledge that there had been some confusion about the effect of weather-related closures on class schedules. Dr. Baker noted that after the first closure, the wording of subsequent announcements had been modified to reduce confusion, and that future announcements would provide more specific details of how class and lab schedules would be impacted.
   b. Dr. Baker discussed the decision to cancel the Commencement Chapel Service this year. The main reason for the cancellation was that the Pharmacy Hooding Ceremony conflicts with the chapel time. In addition, on Commencement morning many students prefer to have their families accompany them to the churches they usually attend during the school year. Concern was raised that the Religious Affairs Committee was not consulted before the decision was made. Dr. Baker acknowledged that the committee should have been consulted.
   c. A Semester Transition Coordinating Committee is being formed. Dr. Baker read the names of those who had already accepted and stated that an initial meeting will be held once the committee membership is complete. The committee will be responsible for 1) developing standards and principles for the transition, 2) developing a schedule of tasks to be completed, 3) assigning responsibilities, and 4) coordinating among the various constituencies.
   d. In response to a question from the faculty, Dr. Baker indicated that he has reviewed a draft of the operating budget, and that he expects information to be distributed to the departments next week. The new budget will provide several options that individual departments may take.

VI. University Council: Dr. Zank reported that the most recent meeting was cancelled due to weather, and Council will meet again next Tuesday.

VII. Reports of Constitutional Committees
   a. Budget and Appropriations: Dr. Woodley reported that the committee approved an operational budget that included a 4% salary increase, but that due to projected enrollment figures and deficits in other areas, the new budget would temporarily suspend salary adjustment funds. These funds would be added back in if enrollment targets are exceeded. At its March meeting, the committee will continue to review the proposed renovations of Northern on Main.
   b. Academic Affairs: No report.
   c. Student Activities: No report.
   d. Personnel: No report.

VIII. Reports of Operational Committees
   a. Committee on Athletics: The NCAA Division III Indoor Track & Field Championships will be held on campus March 14 and 15. Expected attendance is 4,000-5,000.
   b. Cultural and Special Events: No report.
   c. International Affairs: No report.
   d. Religious Affairs: At its March 10 meeting, the committee approved a proposal to transition chapel services from the current Contemporary Christian format to a “Faith Lift” format, which will provide weekly opportunities to share statements of belief similar to the PBS “This I Believe” program.
   e. Information Technology: No report.

IX. Other Reports: None.

X. New Business: None.
XI. **Announcements:**

a. District Science Day will be held on campus Saturday, March 15. More than 200 projects will be displayed by participants from 21 schools.

b. Three ONU alumni were recently awarded Prescott Medical Scholarships, which provide $5000 each to exceptional ONU alumni in their second year of medical school.

c. On Thursday, March 13 at 6 p.m. at the Chapel, Stephanie Malbas will be speaking to the Prelaw Society on “What To Do With A Law Degree If You Don’t Want To Practice Law.”

d. The College of Engineering will be sponsoring the 2008 Spotts Lecture at 7:30 pm on March 26 in the Freed Center. This year’s speaker will be Dr. Joseph Hager, Senior Project Scientist of the Edison Materials Technology Center, who will be discussing the current state-of-art in alternative energy and where this field will be headed in the future.

e. Dr. Baker congratulated Dr. Baumgartner, who has been selected as a recipient of the 2008 IEEE Robotics & Automation Award for his work on the Mars Rover project.

f. The 7th annual Math Awareness Day will be held on campus April 2. Approximately 44 students from 11 area high schools will be attending.

g. The 2008 Keiser Lecturer in Life Sciences, Dr. Carl Winter, will be providing a public lecture March 11 at 7:00 pm in the Freed Center, titled “How Do Organic Foods Stack Up? A Food Safety and Nutritional Comparison of Organic and Conventional Foods.” Dr. Winter will also be giving a lecture to Sigma Xi on March 12 at 7:00 pm in HPPEC 151, and will be performing “Still Stayin’ Alive: A Musical Look at Contemporary Food Safety Issues” on March 13 at 7:00 pm in the Freed Center.

XII. The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Submitted by,

[Signature]

Dr. David R. Sawyers, Jr.
Secretary