Ohio Northern University Faculty

Minutes of the February 10, 2009 Meeting

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

II. Invocation was offered by Dr. Harold Putt.

III. Minutes from January 13, 2009 were approved as submitted.

IV. Unfinished Business: None.

V. Approval of Winter Term Graduates: The list of graduates presented by Ms. Richardson was approved as amended.

VI. Questions for the President:
   a. In response to a question from the faculty, Dr. Baker indicated that he expects future campus building projects, including a possible new student center, to be LEED certified. He also noted that at present there is no funding for a student center, so he does not know when construction might begin.
   b. Dr. Baker provided an update on recent budget decisions made during the February Board of Trustees meeting. As a result of a proposal by the Deans, the Trustees approved in principle a $1M draw on the endowment, to occur next year (2009-10). These funds would be used to create endowed chairs in pharmacy and chemistry, and to increase University marketing efforts. Final approval will be subject to a detailed multi-year plan specifying the costs and benefits of the proposal. The Board also favorably received proposals for endowed chairs in engineering, business, and the LLM program — however, methods of funding these positions still need to be developed.
   c. In response to questions from the faculty, Dr. Baker noted that the 71 new faculty positions included in the “Becoming ONU” concept proposed by the Deans last year would not be limited to signature programs. However, these positions cannot all be funded by drawing on the endowment. Given the current economic situation, it will be difficult during the next several years to find the investment dollars need to add these positions.
   d. In response to concern that the phrase “signature college” rather than “signature program” implies a two-tiered culture within the University. Dr. Baker agreed that that phrase should not be used in general discussions. However, it has been useful in discussions with the Board, where the differences in size and scope among the various colleges is not always clearly understood.
   e. Dr. Baker provided an update on enrollment figures. The number of applications received has been consistently around 3% - 3½% below last year’s numbers. The number of deposits received is 20% - 25% below deposits receive at the same time last year. This is slightly better than the average reported by our peer group.
   f. In response to a question from the faculty, Dr. Baker indicated his belief that this decrease in deposits is due primarily to the current economy. It seems clear that families are waiting longer to make decisions than in the past, due to concerns about potential job loss, stock market losses, and reductions in state financial aid (College Choice grant, Ohio Scholars program).

VII. University Council: Dr. Zank noted that two modifications to the Faculty Handbook were approved at the recent University Council meeting. The modifications were provided as attachments to the agenda. Additionally, nominations are being solicited by March 31 for at-large committee positions. Elections will take place at the May faculty meeting.

VIII. Reports of Constituitional Committees
   a. Budget and Appropriations: The committee will be meeting next Wednesday to discuss the 2009-10 budget.
   b. Academic Affairs: No report.
   c. Student Activities: No report.
   d. Personnel: No report.
IX. 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: No report.

X. Other Reports: None.

XI. New Business: None.

XII. Announcements:
   a. The Committee on Cultural Affairs and Special Events will be hosting a talk by Dr. Daniel Masters, assistant professor of political science at the University of North Carolina – Wilmington. The presentation, titled “International Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism in the Post 9-11 World” will be held in the McIntosh Ballroom at 7:00 pm on Thursday, February 19.
   b. The Phi Beta Delta International Forum will be hosting a talk by ONU graduate and West Point English Professor John J. Smith on the topic “Teaching English at the Military Academy of Afghanistan and the Situation There.” The presentation will be held on Tuesday, February 17 at 7:00 pm in the Dicke Forum.
   c. The Working Group on Religion, Ethics, and Nature will be hosting a conference on the ONU campus April 17-19. The conference theme is “Recreate, Replace, Restore: Exploring the Intersections Between Meanings and Environments,” and will feature keynote speakers, along with more than 40 papers submitted by authors from around the world. Anyone interested in attending should contact Dr. Jay Mager, Dr. Mark Dixon, or Dr. Forrest Clingerman.

XIII. The meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Submitted by,

[Signature]

Dr. David R. Sawyers, Jr.
Secretary