Ohio Northern University Faculty

Minutes of the October 14, 2008 Meeting

I. President Baker called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.

II. Invocation was offered by Dr. John Berg.

III. Minutes from September 16, 2008 were approved as submitted.

IV. Unfinished Business: None.

V. Questions for the President:
   a. Dr. Baker and VP Ruble discussed the effects of the current economic situation on ONU.
   - The 3% annual draw from the endowment is based on a three-year average value, which will alleviate the short-term impact of the stock market on the budget.
   - ONU invests about $10M of its short-term operating cash in the Commonfund Short Term Fund. The trustee, Wachovia, has recently announced that this fund is being liquidated. This liquidation means that investors will not have immediate access to all of their investment. ONU has currently withdrawn the maximum allowable (approximately $4M) and expects to be able to withdraw a further $2M by the end of the year, but the remaining $4M will not be available until sometime next year. By limiting withdrawals, the fund managers expect to be able to avoid selling the underlying investments at a loss. While ONU should be able to recover all of the money invested in this fund, the restriction on withdrawals does put pressure on the University’s immediately available cash.
   - As a result of the above issues related to the short-term fund, there was a run on the Commonfund Intermediate Fund which resulted in liquidity restrictions on this fund as well. To date, ONU has withdrawn the maximum allowable amount ($1.4M) of its $4.4M investment in the Intermediate Fund.
   - ONU has taken two immediate steps to deal with tightened cash flow. Bills will continue to be paid on time, but not earlier than the due date. Also, the University has applied to several banks for lines of credit.
   - The value of the endowment has decreased from $173M (as of June 30) to approximately $150M. At present the impact of decreased interest income on the budget is unclear.
   - The Trustees have adopted a revised budget which includes two significant changes: equipment budgets have been cut by 50% (but may be restored at some point), and work-study budgets have been cut by 10%. When applying reductions in work-study to individual departments, past utilization will be taken into account.
   - In response to a question from the faculty, Dr. Baker noted that the decision to liquidate the Commonfund Short Term Fund was made before the Wachovia takeover process began, so this had no effect on the situation.
   - In response to a question from the faculty, Dr. Baker agreed that the tight credit situation may impact the ability of individual students and parents to receive loans. The University is working to identify students with financial concerns. Dean Condeni added that the Stafford loan program is being shored up by the government. However, the private loan industry may feel the effects of the tightening credit market, which may impact parents with credit issues. At present only a couple of students have been seriously affected, but the situation is still unfolding.
   b. Dr. Baker reviewed the latest version of the University Strategic Plan.
   - In the new plan, a consistent effort was made to use more precise and concise language, including removal of objectives that have already been accomplished.
   - The Mission Statement is no longer integrated into the Strategic Plan, but will be treated as a separate document that the plan is meant to support.
   - Goal #1 was rewritten to strengthen the commitment of the University to excellence.
   - A new Goal #10 was added to underline the importance of the relationship between the University and the Ada community.
VI. University Council: Dr. Zank reported that she attended the Board meeting last weekend.

VII. Reports of Constitutional Committees
   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 – Proposals for Teaching with Technology Grants are due to Dr. Lippert by November 7.

IX. Other Reports: None.

X. New Business: None.

XI. Announcements:
   a. The College of Business Administration will present the first Dean’s Distinguished Lecture of the year on Thursday, October 16 at 7:00 pm in the Freed Center. Three recent alumni will be returning for a panel discussion titled “How I Found My (First) Great Job.”
   b. Marc Bekoff, Professor Emeritus of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Colorado at Boulder, will be this year’s Keiser Distinguished Lecturer in the Life Sciences. His areas of expertise are animal cognition and animal emotion. His public lecture, titled “Animal Passions, Beastly Virtues, and Wild Justice: Reflections on Redecorating Nature,” will be held on Tuesday, October 28 at 7:00 pm in the Freed Center. He will also be speaking in a variety of classrooms, including biology, philosophy, religion, and psychology.
   c. Tuition Exchange applications are due by Monday, November 3.
   d. The Alumni Jazz Band will be performing on Sunday, October 19 at 2:00 pm in the Freed Center.
   e. The first lecture in the “Polar Bear Nation” series will be held on Wednesday, October 15 at 7:00 pm in the Freed Center. The speaker will be Dr. Steven Amstrup who is a Research Wildlife Biologist with the United States Geological Survey at the Alaska Science Center.
   f. On Tuesday, October 21, visiting playwright Cathy Plourd will present “The Thin Line,” a 30-minute mono-drama that will explore the effects of eating disorders. Two performances will be given, at 1:00 pm and at 7:00 pm in the McIntosh Ballroom, and will be immediately followed by panel discussions.
   g. Homecoming is this weekend. Tickets are still available for Micky Dolenz of the 1960s rock group “The Monkees,” who will perform Saturday, October 18 at 8:00 pm in the Freed Center.
   h. Dr. Baker reminded the faculty of Article IV, Section 1 of the Faculty Constitution, which states: “Matters shall not come before the faculty for a vote unless the matter appears on the published agenda.”

XII. The meeting adjourned at 4:53 pm.

Submitted by,

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