Ohio Northern University Faculty

Minutes of the November 14, 2006 Meeting

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

II. Invocation was offered by Rev. Vernon LaSala.

III. Minutes from October 10, 2006 were approved as submitted.

IV. Unfinished Business: None.

V. Approval of Fall Term Graduates: The list of graduates was presented by Mr. Carpenter. The faculty unanimously passed a motion to approve the list.

VI. Honorary Degree Recommendations: Dr. Lippert explained the procedure regarding honorary degrees. The list being presented to the faculty would be presented to the Board at the Feb. meeting. Dr. M. Govekar asked for clarification regarding the fact that names could be deleted from this list, but not added, and Dr. Lippert responded that this was true. Dr. Scott Gerber requested clarification about why names he submitted this fall were not on the list, and Dr. Lippert pointed out that the names had to be on the list for a year before being considered. Historically candidates have had either regional/national recognition and/or a connection to ONU. A motion to approve the list was unanimously approved.

VII. Questions for the President: Dr. Ludanyi read a statement regarding the agreement to have Sodexo employ the physical plant staff. He then asked three questions to the President: Why was the decision made, why was it made without involving faculty and those affected by the decision, and what are the ramifications involving benefits. Dr. Baker responded that the decision was made this summer to outsource this function rather than to increase staffing to deal with increasing grievances. He stated that legal concerns prevented the type of dialog the University would have normally preferred. Finally, he stated that Sodexo had assured ONU that no jobs would be lost, no one would lose pay, and that benefits would be as close as possible to what they were (including tuition remission). There was a problem from August to October regarding the 401k plan, but this is being resolved. Also, quality of the work will be assessed regularly, and the contract could be severed by either party with sixty days notice after the initial twelve months. Dr. Ludanyi responded that he felt that while it may have been a good decision in terms of numbers, that a sense of community had been lost. Dr. Baker acknowledged that there was a sense of anger and abandonment among some people, but that he wants to stress that all of us (including people in food services, which has been under Sodexo for some time) ultimately have a responsibility to ONU. John Green pointed out that it was also agreed that no one would lose seniority or the option of early retirement. Dr. Lomax questioned whether the missed 401k payments would be ‘made up’ with interest. Dr. Baker said that this is in process and that Sodexo has promised to ‘make it right.’

VIII. University Council: No report beyond item under new business.

IX. Report of Constitutional Committees
   a) Budget and Appropriations – The committee met last week and is in the planning stages for the 2007-08 budget.
   b) Academic Affairs – No report.
   c) Student Activities – No report.
   d) Personnel – No report.

X. Reports of Operational Committees
   a) Committee on Athletics – Dr. Baker pointed out that the fall sports teams are enjoying great success.
   b) Cultural and Special Events – The committee met on Nov. 10th and reviewed current and proposed projects.
   c) International Affairs – No report.
   d) Religious Affairs – A survey regarding Chapel is complete, copies are available from Rev. LaSala. Seven students will be going to Exploration, a program for those considering the church as a vocation.
   e) Information Technology – Mr. Gulbis reported that there have been complaints about Spam. In a recent day, there were 219,912 emails received, of which 169,603 were removed as Spam. About another ten thousand messages were passed on but tagged as potential Spam, leaving about forty thousand potentially legitimate messages. This is an ongoing and growing problem.
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XI. **Other Reports:**
a) University Assessment Committee: Dr. Goldberg reported that the proposed change was due to concerns related to the IRB. Dr. Clarke asked why the statement regarding student responsibility had been removed. Dr. M. Govekar responded that student involvement must be voluntary.

XII. **New Business:**
a) Elections: Jeff Allison, Forrest Clingerman, and Bruce French were elected to the University Disciplinary Board. John Lomax and Jed Marquart (with alternate, Susan Bates) were elected to the University Board of Appeals.
  b) The faculty unanimously approved the proposal to amend Faculty Bylaw 3 sec. 1.

XIII. **Announcements:** None.

XIV. The meeting adjourned at 5 pm.

Submitted by,

Dr. John-David Yoder
Secretary pro tem