Minutes of the October 28 Meeting

I. President DiBiasio called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

II. Invocation was offered by Ray Person.

III. Minutes from September 23, 2014 were approved.

IV. Unfinished Business: None.

V. Report from University Council: Jeff Allison shared that University Council met briefly last Tuesday and the Board of Trustees met the week prior. The Board approved a budget that includes some raises for faculty. Thanks to the Board and the Administration, the long-term outlook is very positive.

VI. Election of Faculty At-Large Member on the Tuition Exchange Committee: Alissa Agozzino was elected by acclamation.

VII. Reports from Constitutional Committees:
   a. Budget and Appropriations: Bill Ballard shared that the committee is completing review of the budget. Budget requests for 2015 – 2016 will be coming soon, so stay tuned.
   b. Academic Affairs: Julie Hurtig announced that the committee is reviewing Section 2.15 of the Faculty Handbook dealing with intellectual property. This section was last updated in 1989. The committee is also developing a new policy for student intellectual property.
   c. Student Affairs: No report.
   d. Personnel: Bryan Boulanger announced that the committee has met twice in the past month. The committee reviewed sabbatical applications and discussed Section 2.3 of the Faculty Handbook regarding faculty expectations. Section 2.3 was last revised in 1992.

VIII. Reports from Operational Committees:
   a. Athletic Events: No report.
   b. Cultural Events: Laurie Bell announced that the committee is continuing with programming and thanked everyone for supporting “Dancing with the Ada Stars.”
   c. International Affairs: Brian Keas shared that the committee has been discussing the Ebola virus and the implications for general university precautions as well as international travel of students and faculty. More information to come.
   d. Religious Affairs: No report.
   e. Information Technology: Jeff Rieman announced that group is working on a Data Security Policy to assign levels of sensitivity to data, how/where data is stored and how it is transmitted. And an interesting statistic – ONU just printed our 2 millionth page since installing Konicas.

IX. Questions for the President: President DiBiasio made comments on a few items before opening the floor to questions.
a. The HLC Self Study Draft has been in the public domain for almost a month. Please review and make comments. We would like to complete this phase by early November.

b. The President provided an update on the recent Board of Trustees meeting.
   i. The Board approved retaining a compensation increase for faculty. Financial forums will be held on November 18\(^{th}\) to discuss the budget in more detail. A written communication will be circulated with locations and times of the forums.
   ii. The Board approved refinancing. All debt is now privately placed. The University will still provide information to Moody’s on an annual basis. Rates for refinancing were very favorable.
   iii. The Board endorsed the campus master plan. Priorities include the Engineering building, Presser Hall, rearranging the first floor of Heterick library to better utilize that space, renovating and expanding McIntosh and a recreation center to address student and faculty needs.
   iv. The Board approved the addition of a new member: Pam Hirschberger. Pam is an accountant and a graduate of the Dicke College of Business.
   v. The Board is in the process of reviewing bylaws. The biggest substantive change will be the addition of a fourth meeting each year that focuses on education rather than business.
   vi. John Bishop stepped down as Chairman of the Board. Oscar Mifsud will serve a two-year term as Chairman. Daniel Walker will remain as the single Vice Chairman. Two Vice Chairmen are permitted, but not required.

c. The search for a Vice President of Enrollment Management is now down to eight semifinalists that will be interviewed by phone Wednesday and Thursday of this week. The four finalists will visit campus the week of November 10\(^{th}\). There will be an opportunity for each candidate to participate in an open forum consisting of a short presentation and a Q & A session. Dean Albrecht is chairing the committee and they hope to have someone hired by Thanksgiving break.

d. A number of campus administrators and staff members have been meeting regularly to research and discuss a university plan for handling the Ebola virus. A statement will be sent to the campus community at the proper time.

e. Lisa Robeson inquired about the nature of future faculty raises. How much will be merit-based? The President responded that it will primarily be a merit-based approach. However, information that was requested about faculty salaries across the University will be used to provide contextual information for Deans and Vice Presidents as a potential prelude to a future compensation philosophy and policy.

X. Questions for the Provost: David Crago made a few announcements before opening the floor to questions.
a. Since joining the New American Colleges & Universities (NAC&U), Brian Keas has agreed to serve as the University’s faculty ambassador to this group. Brian will receive notifications from the organization. If you have questions about exchange programs involving other NAC&U schools, please contact Brian.

b. Friday, October 31st is the deadline for comments regarding the HLC Self Study Draft. The draft needs to be completed by Thanksgiving.

c. The President encouraged the faculty to peruse the NAC&U website to see the scope of opportunities from these institutions. We would like to make these resources more widely available to students and faculty. For example, there are opportunities for student exchanges between universities with respect to different signature programs.

XI. Other Reports: None.

XII. New Business: The President announced that a draft proposal is circulating regarding becoming a tobacco-free campus. This serves as a way to move our health and wellness initiatives to the logical next step. Relevant committees are examining this possibility.

XIII. Announcements:

a. Julie Hurtig announced that part of the HLC review involves the campus student body. The students will receive an online survey on November 10th. Please encourage students to participate and stress the importance of assessment for organizations. The students need to know who the HLC is and why this assessment is important. Student comments will be made available to the HLC immediately and to the University in February.

b. Shane Tilton announced that the Northern Review is now issuing a weekly digital digest of top stories. If you have suggestions for stories, please contact Shane.

c. Rebecca Casey announced that the Music Department will be hosting ONU Choral Day on November 1st and Band-O-Rama on November 2nd.

d. Ann Donnelly Hamilton announced the annual Town and Gown on Monday, November 3rd. Please encourage those attending to fill out an attendance sheet.

e. Lisa Robeson shared that she has received many calls and emails regarding a communication skills center on campus. The Writing Center is now housed where the Communication Skills Center was previously located. The Writing Center focuses on written projects. Please encourage students to make appointments in person, through email or by phone (x2186).

f. Adriane Thompson-Bradshaw reminded everyone about the Health Screening tomorrow from 6:30 – 9:30 AM.

g. President DiBiasio commented about the recent outstanding Symphony Orchestra concerts. And on a recent drive through Chicago, use of the EZ Pass triggered an electronic billboard, “Tag Accepted.” Maybe a sign that General Education is here to stay.
XIV. **Adjournment**: The meeting adjourned at 11:34 AM.

Respectfully submitted by,

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Leslie A. Riley  
Secretary