Minutes of the March 24 Meeting

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

II. Invocation was offered by John Lomax.

III. Minutes from January 27, 2015 were approved.

IV. Unfinished Business: None.

V. Report from University Council (Jeff Allison): Nominations were accepted for additional faculty at-large positions (please see Attachment A of the Faculty Agenda for the original list). No additional nominations were taken. Voting will occur at the April meeting. Council approved revisions to the intellectual property policy. New business includes revisions to Section 3 of the Faculty Handbook to define what a student is and to clarify confusing terminology.

VI. Reports from Constitutional Committees:
   a. Budget and Appropriations (Jeff Christoff): No report.
   b. Academic Affairs (Firas Hassan): The committee finalized the intellectual property policy and it was approved by University Council. The committee is currently working on Section 3 of the Faculty Handbook to clarify the use of “College of Registration” versus “College of Enrollment.”
   c. Student Affairs (Alisa Agozzino): On February 28th the committee approved the following student organizations: The Society of Collegiate Journalists, Sigma Alpha Iota, Brother to Brother and The Business Law Society.
   d. Personnel (Bryan Boulanger): The committee provided University Council with revisions to Section 2.3 of the Faculty Handbook. Revisions will be voted on at the next Council meeting.

VII. Reports from Operational Committees:
   a. Athletic Events (Tom Simmons): The baseball team will play, and hopefully finish, a game in a major league stadium (Progressive Field) on April 21st.
   b. Cultural Events (Laurie Bell): The committee is working on end-of-the-year programming. Please watch faculty-L’s.
   c. International Affairs (Brian Keas): The committee will meet this Thursday (March 26th).
   d. Religious Affairs (Lobenhofer): The committee is working on establishing expectations for affiliates that come to campus.
   e. Information Technology (Julie Hurtig): Jeff Rieman is currently involved in a supercomputing teleconference.

VIII. Questions for the President: President DiBiasio made comments on a few items before opening the floor to questions.
   a. Monitoring of the 2015 fiscal budget continues. There will be a net tuition revenue shortfall, but this should be covered. Please slow or defer discretionary spending.
b. Building the budget for next year is ongoing and there will continue to be pressure on net tuition revenue. A preliminary budget will be presented to the Board at the April meeting. Even with budget pressures, we are mindful of personal compensations moving forward.

c. Thanks to all that were involved in the HLC visit and had an opportunity to interact with committee members. They had many positive comments about faculty, staff and students. A few concerns were raised as well. A draft report will arrive shortly with the opportunity to correct factual errors. The final report should arrive in late summer or early fall.

d. The National Association of Schools & Colleges of the United Methodist Church has a senate that acts like an accrediting body and is responsible for reviewing Methodist-related universities. They will come to a campus for a site visit in November. The NASCUMC has also presented a resolution that will be a special focus next year: Heralding Our Commitment to Justice and Dignity. We are already involved in many activities that address these issues.

e. With respect to personnel transitions, Larry Lesick is finishing his last week on campus. President DiBiasio thanked him for his service to ONU. The new Vice President for Enrollment Management, Bill Eilola, begins on Monday, March 30th. Ken Block will be retiring at the end of August and a search committee is in the process of narrowing the list of candidates for his replacement as Vice President for University Advancement.

f. This has been a big year for grants. Last semester, J.D. Yoder received the largest private grant ($1.2 million). This semester, Phil Zoladz in Psychology received the largest federal grant in the history of the College of Arts and Sciences from the National Institute of Mental Health (over $423,000).

g. Under Rob Alexander’s leadership, our nominee for the Campus Compact program was selected as one of the 201 Newman Civic Fellows from across the country. Amanda Liebrecht played an integral role in establishing a preschool program in a local church, among many of her other accomplishments.

h. John Lomax inquired about the enrollment outlook for next year. President DiBiasio responded that the deposit rate is ahead of last year at this time, but the applications were down. We will continue to look for ways to increase the number of applications in the future.

i. Keith Durkin asked how much net tuition revenue per student varies from graduating seniors to incoming freshmen. President DiBiasio responded that this will continue to be a challenge moving forward but did not have exact values with him. ONU is not alone; a recent Moody’s report stated that 73% of private colleges and universities had stable or declining tuition revenue.

IX. Questions for the Provost: Provost Crago shared a few items before opening the floor to questions.
a. College Credit Plus is the new dual enrollment program in the state of Ohio. This program is free for students attending public institutions and thus, has made it very challenging for private universities to compete. This year we had 480 – 500 students enrolled in dual enrollment. We have retained nine high schools that will continue with ONU even with the increased tuition relative to public institutions.

b. At the April Board meeting, a few new programs will be presented: two new minors in political science and one new interdisciplinary concentration in forensic accounting.

c. Ohio Health and the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church are working with ONU to expand clinical placement options for our students. We have a number of programs that could benefit from an increased number of options for clinical sites (e.g. Pharmacy, Nursing).

d. Lisa Robeson inquired about the high schools that are retaining ONU for dual enrollment. Are the high schools buying a class, or 15- or 30-hour packages? Provost Crago responded that we will have to start over with all of the high schools to ensure compliance with the new credentialing requirements of the College Credit Plus program.

X. Other Reports: None.

XI. New Business: None.

XII. Announcements:

a. Rob Alexander announced that ONU alum Jared Hardesty from Boston College (and currently teaching at Western Washington University) will be presenting on “Slavery in Colonial Boston” at 5 PM in Dicke Forum on Thursday, March 26. The Department of History, Politics and Justice, under the leadership of Rob Waters, will be hosting the Ohio Academy of History on campus March 27 – 28. Jo Ann Scott will present a panel discussion on human trafficking on April 1st at 6:30 PM in the McIntosh Ballroom. This event is sponsored by the Department of History, Politics and Justice and the Department of Psychology, Sociology and Criminal Justice.

b. Lisa Robeson announced that March is International Women’s Month. A reading of literary works by women is scheduled for Tuesday, March 31 from 7 – 8 PM in Heterick Library and is sponsored by the English Honorary, Sigma Tau Delta.

c. A former Huffington Post reporter will present via Skype in the Freed Center, Room 131, on Monday, March 30th at 6 PM.

XIII. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

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Leslie A. Riley  
Secretary