

# Ohio Northern University Faculty

## Minutes of the September 16, 2008 Meeting

- I. President Baker called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.
- II. Invocation was offered by Dr. Ray Person.
- III. Minutes from May 13, 2008 and September 3, 2008 were approved as submitted.
- IV. Unfinished Business: None.
- V. University Council: Dr. Zank reported that during the initial organizational meeting Dr. Jeffrey Allison was elected vice-chair, Dr. Kay Zekany was elected secretary, and Dr. Bryan Ward was appointed as parliamentarian. Dr. Zank reminded the faculty that as chair of University Council she will serve as a regular voting member of the ONU Board of Trustees in 2008-09.
- VI. Report on Opening of School: President Baker reported the following:
  - a. The number of students on campus during the first day of classes this year was 3615, an increase of 18 students compared to last year. This also exceeded the budget forecast of 3565.
  - b. The total enrollment, including 109 high school students and others not actually on campus, was 3724. The equivalent total enrollment last year was 3603. Final enrollment numbers will be reported on the tenth day of classes.
  - c. The student body is more diverse and includes more international students than ever before, and has an academic profile that is among the best in ONU history.
  - d. In order to obtain the diversity and quality seen in the incoming class, significantly more financial aid was offered than planned for in the budget. Financial aid exceeded the predicted amount by approximately 3-3.5% (\$1.1M - \$1.7M).
  - e. All open faculty positions were filled on schedule this year. While a significant accomplishment, this results in less budgetary flexibility than in previous years. For example, last year there were 9.5 open positions, corresponding to \$998,000 that was used to make up for financial aid cost overruns.
  - f. A temporary hold has been placed on equipment budgets; however, over \$1M in carryover funds are still available to be used for equipment purchases.
  - g. Rising fuel costs have been a significant factor for the University. A number of new hybrid or all-electric vehicles have been purchased, and the traditional gasoline fleet will continue to be replaced with alternatives-fuel vehicles in the future.
  - h. Funds will not be available this year for the salary adjustment program, or for the proposed Speaker's Program.
- VII. Questions for the President:
  - a. Concern was raised by the faculty over the fact that similar budget problems occur every year. Is anything being done to prevent this in the future? Dr. Baker responded that the University will take a close look at how financial aid is allocated. It may be necessary to increase the budgeted amount to avoid overspending. We need to do a better job of finding out how much is needed in advance and then funding it properly.
  - b. Dr. Baker was asked if he had been contacted regarding the current initiative by a group of university presidents regarding possible changes to the legal drinking age. He responded that he had received some literature, and has indicated that ONU would like to be involved in the discussion. However, he has not signed the petition the presidents advocating this change are circulating. Dr. Baker has also received information from the Office of Student Affairs regarding some of the concerns related to this issue.
- VIII. Other Reports:
  - a. Dr. Lippert reported on the current searches that are underway for the Registrar, the Dean of Arts and Sciences, and an Institutional Research Analyst. The Registrar search is being expanded nationwide.
  - b. Dr. Baker announced that the external consultant who is conducting the Vice-President for Academic Affairs search will be on campus Monday, September 22. Faculty are invited to provide input during sessions to be held 10:30-11:30 am and 2:15-3:15 pm in the Dicke Forum.
  - c. VP Hilderbrand reported that a new program is being instituted campus-wide to address the issue of student drinking. This program uses the nationally-recognized "Alcohol.edu" materials, and was previously introduced within the College of Arts and Sciences.

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- d. Dr. Baker reported that the construction of four new buildings will begin soon in the Affinity Complex. The Inn is expected to open on October 3. The Mathile construction project is about one month behind schedule, but should open in time for faculty to move in during the summer of 2009.

IX. Recognition of Endowed Chairs for 2008-2009: Dr. Baker presented the following endowed chairs with a certificate of recognition of their award:

- a. LeRoy H. Lytle Chair: Dr. David Sawyers
- b. George W. Patton Chair: Dr. Michele Govekar
- c. Sara A. Ridenour Chair: Dr. Lisa Robeson
- d. Ella and Ernest Fisher Chair: Dr. Scott Gerber
- e. Eleanor H. & Robert W. Biggs Chair in the Sciences: Dr. Terry Sheridan
- f. Eleanor H. & Robert W. Biggs Chair in Chemistry: Dr. Christopher Bowers
- g. Eleanor H. & Robert W. Biggs Chair in the Arts: Prof. Melissa Eddings
- h. Mary Reichelderfer Chair: Dr. Donald Hunt
- i. Kernan Robson Chair: Dr. JoAnn Scott
- j. Pharmacy Alumni Chair: Dr. Jeff Christoff
- k. Engineering Alumni Chair: Dr. Robert Ward
- l. Wilfred E. Binkley Chair: Dr. Ellen Wilson
- m. The Irene Casteel Chair in Education, Professional and Social Sciences: Prof. Paul Nutter
- n. Mary Alice Accountis Endowed Chair: Dr. Shane Martin

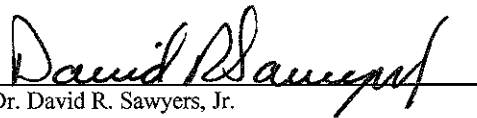
X. New Business: Mr. Gulbis distributed announcements for the 2009 Teaching with Technology grant program.

XI. Announcements:

- a. A silent auction to benefit the Northern Fund will be held in the Hill Building beginning October 1. Bidding will end at noon on October 28.
- b. A Constitution Day Program will be held at 7:30 pm in the Freed Center on Wednesday, September 17.
- c. The Volleyball Team will be hosting Bluffton University tonight.
- d. Marching Band will be leaving Friday for a trip to Montreal.

XII. The meeting adjourned at 5:02 pm.

Submitted by,



Dr. David R. Sawyers, Jr.  
Secretary