

OHIO NORTHERN UNIVERSITY UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

Minutes, September 20, 2005

Roll: (Absentees underlined) Dr. Baker, Dr. Lippert, Mr. Green, Mr. Hunt, Dean Condeni, Dean Hilderbrand, Dean Manzer, Interim Dean Smalley, Dean Bryant, Dean Fenton, Dean Crago, Rev. LaSala, Ms. Essinger, Dr. Theisen, Dr. Loughlin, Dr. Robeson, Prof. Nutter, Dr. Sadurski, Dr. M. Govekar, Dr. Zekany, Dr. Reza, Dr. Yoder, Dr. Clarke, Dr. Gerber, Dr. Hrometz, Dr. Shields, Dr. Allison, Dr. Streib, Dr. Putt, Dr. Person, Dr. Woodley, Ms. Davlin, Mr. Block, Prof. Canagaratna

University Council Chair, Indra Canagaratna called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

- I. MINUTES: May 3, 2005 were approved as submitted. August 31, 2005 minutes were approved with the change that Prof. Nutter was in attendance.
- II. REPORTS from CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEES:
 - A. Budget and Appropriations: The organizational meeting was held and Dr. Lobenhofer was elected chair. The first regular meeting will be held this week.
 - B. Academic Affairs: No Report.
 - C. Student Activities: No Report.
 - D. Personnel: The Personnel Committee will meet this week.
- III. REPORTS from OPERATIONAL COMMITTEES
 - A. Athletics: No Report.
 - B. Information Technology: The University is again offering Teaching with Technology Grants. Ten grants of up to \$5000 each will be available. Proposals should be submitted to Dr. Lippert by November 3rd. Proposals will be reviewed by committee.
 - C. Cultural & Special Events: The Committee has met on September 20. Laurie Bell was elected chair, and Eva McManus secretary. Subcommittees have been formed.
 - D. International Affairs: No Report.
 - E. Religious Affairs: The Committee will meet next week. One of the agenda items will be the review of Chapel objectives.
- IV. OTHER REPORTS:
 - A. Vice-Presidents and Deans
 1. VP Lippert: The search process for the Dean of the College of Engineering is ongoing. A preliminary profile is being reviewed and will be finalized soon. International student enrollment (19) is quite low this year.
 2. VP Condeni:
 - a. The first overnight event is this Sunday, with 40 students expected to attend. The University is in full swing with recruiting efforts. The search for a Director of Financial Aid continues through the 26th of September.
 - b. The University has approved a bridging program (for 2006) for ESL for international students. The main purpose of this will be to attract more students from Asia, with Deanna Shine and Bruce Burton working to recruit students. The Saudi Arabian government has renewed interest in ONU. A number of applications have been received from Saudi students. They will likely need intensive English training before enrolling at ONU.
 3. VP Hilderbrand:

- a. The one fulltime counselor is currently seeing students with a wait of several days. Interviews will be finished soon for a second fulltime counselor, and this position is expected to be filled within the next few weeks. In the meantime other staff are available for emergency situations.
 - b. The groundbreaking for the new housing project will be September 29th at 11am. This is a \$24 million project and is Phase I of the plan to have all housing renovated and/or built by 2011. At that point all housing will have been updated in the previous nine years, a claim very few Universities can make.
4. VP Hunt: No Report.
 5. VP Green: No Report.
 6. Dean Smalley: No Report.
 7. Dean Bryant: No Report.
 8. Dean Manzer: The Arts and Sciences faculty have begun work to revise the strategic plan and constitution this year. Discussions have started on faculty evaluation issues, in order to clarify the tenure and promotions procedures as well as merit pay. It is felt that merit pay should be outside of the tenure and promotion process, rather than interfering with it. It is also felt that the current merit pay system, as applied in Arts and Sciences, is more of a punitive measure than a reward, and work will be done to remedy this. This issue will likely require Handbook changes and will therefore come to University Council.
 9. Dean Crago: No Report.
 10. Dean Fenton:
 - a. The Business faculty have begun to discuss how to better brand the college. To date, this discussion has been internal, but will soon grow to include external constituents. Part of this process will include the leveraging of the strength of the other Colleges at ONU.
 - b. The College tenure, promotion, and retention document is being reviewed. Merit pay will be next.
 - c. One of last year's graduates is in the final round of competition for an international business plan competition. The final awards will be announced later this month.
 - d. It is felt that an area of opportunity in the College is alumni engagement. Dr. Fenton is working with VP Hunt to develop a plan for this.

B. Student Senate

1. Ms. Davlin: The major focus this fall is Operation Lifesaver, to benefit those affected by Hurricane Katrina. This has started by working with the mailroom to collect supplies and ship them to areas of need. Working with Residence Life, a fundraising effort is underway to emphasize the power of a dollar by asking all students to donate one dollar. Other events that will benefit Operation Lifesaver will include a talent search at 8pm on October 1st in the ballroom, and athletics events which will donate all proceeds to the cause.

C. Health Services Advisory Committee:

1. VP Green: No Report.

D. Other Reports: None.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Dr. Gerber announced that the first event of the Dean's Lecture Series will be Friday, September 23 from 11:30 to 12:30 in room 129 of the College of Law. The speaker, Lawrence Mitchell from George Washington University, will present a lecture titled "The Trouble with Boards: Direct Election of CEOs."
- Dr. Lippert announced that the Constitution Day event was very successful, and thanked Dr. Gerber, Dr. Brant, Dr. Scott, and Robert Cupp for their participation and success in linking the Constitution to current events. This event will be held annually, and next year will be on September 18th.

VI. QUESTIONS FOR THE PRESIDENT:

- Dr. Person pointed out that we have over 100 students more than expected this year. Based on typical faculty loads, this would require eight additional faculty. Dr. Person asked the President how the University was dealing with this need. Dr. Baker responded that we have 3526 students as of the 10-day registration (actually 106 more than projected). Some additional temporary faculty were brought in during the summer so that the University would be ready for this number of students. Other uses for the resources provided by these additional students include an extra ½ % University contribution to TIAA-CREF. The final budget will be prepared by next week. If there are enough funds remaining, they may be used for additional TIAA-CREF contributions (possibly an additional ½ %), or for the unfunded priorities identified in last year's budgeting process.
- Dr. Sadurski asked if some of these funds may be required to cover increasing energy costs. Dr. Baker said that this may be the case, but the administration will be sure that increased operating costs do not consume all of the additional funds provided by the student numbers. Dr. Baker is very pleased that in this time of increasing costs, ONU has more students than expected, rather than fewer. It may be that the University may not be able to fully meet the new IRS guideline of \$0.485 per mile of driving expenses. Dr. Green also pointed out that the cost for departments to reserve the ONU fleet will not increase.
- Dr. Woodley asked about the requirement for more physical space for the additional students. Dr. Baker emphasized that the University is seeking balanced growth, looking to increase enrollment while at the same time providing more infrastructure to handle these students. It is not his goal to have classrooms "bursting at the seam." Dr. Woodley also asked if earlier recommendations of the Energy Committee had been implemented. Dr. Green stated that new construction was much more energy efficient. Dr. Baker also stated that hot water heaters had been turned down. He also noted that large numbers of lights are currently left on at times when rooms are empty.
- Dr. Robeson pointed out that while we have a larger-than-expected incoming class, Dean Manzer has completed a survey showing that many departments have very large general education sections and very small upper division sections. She asked if this was due to poor retention, and whether more focus should be on that area. Dr. Baker stated that our retention is quite good, and that a retention report is currently being drafted. However, Dr. Baker is very concerned that our graduation rates are under 70%, and feels this must be improved. As the University continues to grow, a balance will have to be struck between retention and recruiting.
- Rev. LaSala asked if in the quest for balanced growth, a target number of students had been established. Dr. Baker stated that this had not happened. However, part of the process of balanced growth will certainly require rejecting the applications of some students.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS: None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: Prof. Canagaratna adjourned the meeting. The next meeting of University Council will be October 4, 2005, at 5:30 p.m., in rooms 7 and 8 of McIntosh Center.

Respectfully submitted,

John-David Yoder, Secretary