

## **Operating Staff Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday, August 16, 2006**

**Members in Attendance:** April Damon, Jennifer Dube, Jeff Jones, Matty Leighton (Recorder), Patrice MacNevin, Doreen Palmer (UNH-M), Lori Parent, Jason Brodeur (Chair)

**Members Not in Attendance:** Geri Sanders, Toni Searles, Lisa Wilder

**Guests:** Slava Bruder, SHARPP; Janet Davis, Facilities; Jim Layne, Alumni Affairs; Bonnie Newman, UNH Interim President; Lon Sattler, SPPC; Sharon Demers, Human Resources; Joy Winston, Cambridge/London Study Abroad Program

### **Agenda Items**

#### **Opening Remarks/Review of July Minutes – Jason Brodeur, Chair**

The July minutes were accepted by acclamation.

#### **Guest Questions**

**Q:** Are there any open OS Council districts?

**A:** Yes, Dining is in need of an additional representative, and two representatives, Steve Hunter/Facilities and Julie Johnson-Dubois/SHHS, have recently stepped down, leaving their districts open.

**Q:** Can current council members switch districts? Matty Leighton is interested in representing the SHHS district left open by Julie Johnson-Dubois, since she works in a department that is part of the school.

**A:** Yes, the council can look at allowing representatives to switch districts.

**Q:** Is there a web site where operating staff can see who their representative is?

**A:** Yes, the OS Council's web site is at <http://www.unh.edu/os-council/> and is currently in the process of being updated to a new layout with lots of additional features.

#### **Interim President Bonnie Newman's Remarks**

President Newman opened by expressing her confidence in the university and its personnel. She is excited at many of the initiatives that the university has undertaken and sees a bright future for the institution. She also sees challenges in the areas of funding, public perception, and community outreach. She discussed a number of main points:

- ▶ Being interim president is empowering, because your only goal is to do what is right for UNH and to continue the forward momentum of the previous president. On the other hand, it is important to remain action-oriented and not to become merely a "placeholder."
- ▶ It is easy for an interim president to become isolated. To avoid this possibility, President Newman will continue to seek ways to get out in the community.

- ▶ President Newman is looking for a primary focus for her tenure, and she feels that creating a sustainable funding model is emerging as her main issue. UNH is under-endowed, and a sustainable financial model will have to include a very significant increase in endowment from private sources.
- ▶ A secondary focus is serving as an ambassador for the university.
- ▶ She also wishes to create a generous sense of community.

President Newman answered a number of questions from the council and its guests, which are paraphrased below:

**Q:** How will the president’s message(s) be disseminated? Staff members really miss having a tangible, central communication organ since the Campus Journal moved solely to electronic distribution.

**A:** There is no single answer to the issue of communication. President Newman will use many tools – print, NH Public Television, speaking engagements, the UNH Magazine, Parenthesis, brochures, and the “Durham, It’s Where U Live” campaign – to get her message across. She also likes to wander campus incognito and speak to people.

**Q:** What are some potential “speed bumps” for the university’s current momentum?

**A:** We are a public institution, and everything we do, we do in the public eye. Bad student behavior, for instance, can set us back in many other areas. Finances are also a big challenge to continued growth and development.

**Q:** How does Manchester in UNH’s plans for the future?

**A:** The Manchester campus is very important and has a bright future. In particular, expect to see more graduate activity and greater interaction with businesses and the local community.

**Q:** How is the extra undergraduate enrollment this year straining UNH systems?

**A:** So far enrollment has gone smoothly. Everyone has courses; everyone has a room and a bed. This year’s freshman class numbers nearly 3100 students, the largest class ever, but the system is working as designed and everyone will be accommodated.

**Q:** For Sharon Demers – Why are raises given at the beginning of September and made retroactive to the beginning of the fiscal year?

**A:** Simply put it has to do with the legislative process and review cycle. The entire USNH budget is subject to review and approval by the legislature which typically is not completed prior to June 30th.

### **Announcements**

Lonn Sattler announced that the System Personnel Policies Council is looking for an alternate Operating Staff representative from UNH Durham. The commitment is five meetings per year,

and the representative could be a constituent from one of the OS Council districts, not necessarily a council representative.

The next council meeting will be September 13, 2006.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 PM.