Meeting of the Morrisville State College Council
5th Floor Board Room, Whipple Administration Building
March 10, 2006 – 10:00 a.m.

Council Members Present: Chairman Arnold Fisher; Susan Dietrich; Don Huller; Matthew Morgan; Charles Root; O. Perry Tooker; and Michael Watson, student representative

Excused: James Dunne and Hugh Riehlman

SUNY Morrisville Staff Present: John Angerosa; Richard Carreno; Ray Cross; Jessica DeCerce; Anne Englot, Faculty Congress Speaker; Joyce Malloy; and James VanRiper.

Minutes:
Chairman Arnold Fisher called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and indicated that our newest Council member, Susan Dietrich, will be here at 11:00. The minutes from the December 9, 2005 meeting were approved. Motion by Matt Morgan; seconded by Don Huller.

President’s Report:

Sports. Dr. Cross informed the Council that we won the national championship again in ice hockey. The season didn’t start that well, but you could see this team progressing as the year went on. It was a pretty exciting play-off game against North Country and we won it 4-3. Earl Utter did a great job bringing this team along. The men’s basketball team has a 26-4 record which is the best record we’ve ever had.

In the fall, we will start NCAA Division III with our first game against Cortland. There has already been some conversation between teams, so this might be a better game than we were hoping for. Because we had 26 intercollegiate sports, we looked at cutting some sports and made decisions based on which sports required considerable investment; and which sports would allow us to attract more students. We now have 17 intercollegiate sports.

Enrollment Update. Our enrollment goal for spring was 2900 students. We ended the spring semester with 2899 students, so we are down about 57 students overall. Jim VanRiper will talk more about this.

Construction. Dr. Cross discussed the various projects that are in progress. The design for the Theatre had to be changed, so we didn’t finish that as expected. However, it will be completed on Monday, March 13th. The Copper Turret has opened – they’ve been having some problems with the electronic ordering system which is frustrating, but it will soon be resolved. The STUAC food court and the beginning of the Student Center will be ready for occupancy in fall 2006. Some of that work has already begun and the contractors will begin actual construction on April 1st. The Methane Digester is covered and we are waiting for the engine. We anticipate a fall start for the digester portion and an April start for the heating operation. Some construction has been done on the Show Barn, but the remainder will be contracted with the Village. Morrisville Commons, the residence hall, has completed placement of the brick and are starting on the windows. This project is below budget and ahead of schedule. Renovation at the Rec Center will start very soon and we also want to get that done before next fall. Coaches’ offices will be located there and we will have a field turf inside so we can do more things in that facility. John Angerosa indicated that should be done in early fall. The Auto Performance Center is estimated to be way over budget, so we need to make some cuts to that.
John indicated he had a conference call with Albany and costs are up 50%. Given today’s construction costs, $4.9M isn’t that much money any more. We’re scheduled to rehab Galbreath Hall, but by the time we get to doing that, costs may have gone up again.

**Budget Update.** The Governor’s budget will not cover our costs. His budget gives SUNY $85M with the opportunity to raise tuition $500. The Senate has proposed a budget of $117M and the Assembly has proposed $108M with an increase of $47M next year. Although this information is only verbal so far, none of these proposals cover our mandatory costs.

**Proposed Capital Update.** We have requested $8.5M to remodel the dairy barn into a Design Center which is very, very promising. Bill Magee will carry this in the Assembly. We are also requesting $4M to reopen Homer Oil and $7.5M for funding for the Biodiesel project. It looks promising that we may get $4M from Sen. Seward although the funding won’t come through the capital monies but will come through economic development monies, probably through MDA in Syracuse. We were asking for $7M for the co-gen operation; but we have been able to cut that down to $5M. Magee has it in his bill – his staffers have been calling and I need to get them a break-down on this. Regarding the Equine Rehabilitation Center, we are pursuing private funds for that. It’s unlikely that the Ag Engineering and Tech Center will come out of this budget. Matt Morgan indicated that the April 1st budget date is very reachable at this point.

**Norwich Jewish Center.** “Rapp” called Arnold last week to let him know the owners of this building want to donate it to Morrisville College, and want to retain the right to use a portion for their religious services. In 2001, the cost to restore this building was approximately $250,000-$500,000 and the annual cost to operate the building was $50-$100,000 per year. Since we are working on new programs for the Norwich campus, we expect that enrollment will increase. We have talked with Clarence Rappleyea and Tom Libous and they want to help us out. We’ve asked for $1M to rehabilitate this historical, ornate building.

**Commencement Speaker.** Libby Pataki has verbally accepted our invitation to speak at Commencement 2006.

**Student Government Report:**

Mike Watson reported that each semester, SGO tries to focus on something different. This semester they have been working with the college and working with clubs and the Assembly in order to be more effective. He said they’ve been involved in discussions focusing on where funding is needed including the new fountain, inviting different speakers to campus and other initiatives as well. John Angerosa submitted a request to SGO to purchase another 15 passenger van for the institution and we were able to do that again this year. Another project they’re working on with Jim Hastie is the class gift.

SGO has been having roundtable discussions every week to discuss ideas such as “how to be an effective vice president;” and “how to plan better club activities.” The Director of Budgets held an information session to help clubs prepare their budgets – these sessions have been well attended.

One of the programs that the residence halls plan to run is a smoking cessation program in anticipation of future smoke-free residence halls. SGO will survey the students to see how they feel about smoke-free residence halls. During leadership week, the plan to have a G.A.I.N. Program – growing, advising, improving and networking and will invite two speakers to campus. The officers of the Executive Board are working on the format. There will be programs on ethical leadership, event planning and promotion.

Mr. Fisher commended Michael Watson on the fine job he’s doing with the Student Government Organization.

**Faculty Speaker Report:**

Anne Englot reported that on February 28th, there was an all-campus faculty meeting and the group discussed the “15 vs. 16 week semester.” Jason Zbock presented the Faculty Congress committee’s findings and led the discussion on the issue. Dr. Cross will prepare a response to Faculty Congress on their report. On of the things to consider is that there are two campuses within the Colleges of Technology that are on a 15 week semester and we are on the 16 weeks
semester. Should we move in the direction of 14+1? Anne summarized the feelings of the faculty like this: the Schools of Business and Liberal Arts are inclined to go for a shorter semester so that students can finish and get internships more quickly; whereas the School of Science & Technology seems to lean toward the longer semester so that students can benefit from more instruction time.

There was discussion from the Syllabus/New Court Approval committee. The Academic Affairs committee will study the list of items to be included in a syllabus to determine if a more involved document needs to be generated for inclusion in the Faculty/Staff Handbook. A New Course Approval Flow Chart was developed by the committee.

There was more discussion on the M-W-F, Tu-Th schedules. The issue was tabled for a future meeting when Marian Whitney will give input on the existing scheduling system.

Another issue that came up was the college catalog. It is only available on-line as it will not be printed in quantities as it has been in the past. A number of reasons exist for faculty wanting a printed catalog, especially when parents attend a visitation – they’d like to take a catalog home with them as a reference. It’s also a useful recruiting tool for prospective students. Dr. Cross pointed out that when we print a catalog for the academic year, no changes can be made to it until the following year. Since we are continually adding new programs and degree offerings, an on-line catalog gives us the opportunity to update that information sooner. Matt Morgan suggested that we have the catalog printed every five years. Jessica DeCerce told the group that the catalog can be duplicated at the print shop for in-house use.

Lastly, the Student-Faculty Committee on Student Affairs recommends approval of a new, full-time Aquatics Director position.

**Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs**

Jim VanRiper updated the Council on new program development. Since our last meeting, the BS in Human Performance and Health Promotion has been approved by System Administration and it has gone to State Ed. All colleges in central New York now have a chance to respond to our change in the Master Plan. The AAS in Early Childhood at Norwich canvas ended Monday of this week and, so far, we haven’t received any negative responses. We anticipate approval by State Ed very soon.

The BBA in Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management has gone to the external reviewers who are finalizing their report. The external review has been completed for the BBA in Agricultural Marketing and Management. Slight revisions have been suggested and that program should go to System Administration soon. The Horticultural Business Management BT is going to external reviewers on March 20th. We doubt there will be many changes to that and are still on target for fall 2006.

Regarding Information Technology: Cybersecurity and E-Commerce BTs, the faculty are creating some options in each of those areas that we will start under another program. Regarding the Nursing BS, State Ed has chosen to be the reviewer. They started that process with Dean Golden and it’s underway.

On-line Communication and Journalism will go through external review on March 30th. The AAS in Human Services for Norwich has been submitted to System Administration. It requires Master Plan Amendment with the Board of Trustees. The BS in Science, Technology and Society is a liberal arts baccalaureate degree and is under campus review.

Almost every faculty member on campus is working on program development right now. Program proposals that are in the works are Video Journalism BBA, Entertainment Electronics Technology BT, Technology Management, Rural Development and Leadership, Diesel Technology BT, Autobody Technology AAS, and Architectural Studies and Design BT.

Faculty are continually trying to develop new programs and some that are in the conceptual stage are Sport Management BT, Automotive Motor Sports AAS, Construction Management BT, Product Design and Development BT, Furniture Design BT, Graphic Design BT, Energy Engineering BS, Energy Systems Management and Nutrition
Jim VanRiper also reported that while Dr. Cross was on his annual alumni trip in Florida, he met with the President of Central Florida Community College and discussed a possible degree in equine events management.

**Middle States.** Every 10 years we need to be reaccredited following a comprehensive self study; five years after the self-study, we are required to complete a periodic review report and. A steering committee has been established to complete this report by spring 2007 and Vicky Fry and Paul O’Neil will chair that group. During our last review, no recommendations for change were made by the Middle States reviewers, which is extremely good.

**International Collaboration.** SUNY Administration wants to do more things internationally and they hired a recruiter in Poland to recruit for SUNY. He was in the U.S. a couple of weeks ago and visited Morrisville, so now have a potential connection with Poldasie University and maybe we can develop some programs with them.

**Structured Semester.** The last time we met, we talked about keeping some students at the end of the fall semester who normally would be dismissed due to poor grades. The early results are optimistic: 120 students stayed on at the college; 38 students have GPA’s above 2.0; 32 students have GPAs between 1.5 and 2.0; and 5 students have left. This will be updated as we go along. Dr. Cross commented that if they stay through next fall, we will have a better idea of the success of this program.

**Faculty/Staff.** We are headed into the recruiting season and we have about 15 searches open, including the Dean of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

**Vice President for Administration**

John Angerosa wanted to follow up on a few things that the President talked about. Because of the progress of the new residence hall, we are working on a rehab design for Cayuga Hall. Once we get this process going, we should be able to rehab an older residence hall every two years. Arnold Fisher asked how the increased cost of construction materials will affect this plan. John replied that we’ll have to wait and see, but he believes there is a direct link to high construction costs and Hurricane Katrina since most plywood is still being shipped to the south. If we wait a year, construction costs may not be where they are now.

We are also in design for Seneca Hall and the main dining hall will be brought up to par to better serve our students. We’re going to put an elevator in Hamilton Hall by the fall and Route 20 should be resurfaced sometime this summer. We also have some on-campus jobs that our staff will work on including a new roof on Hamilton Hall and a number of classrooms will be converted to “smart” classrooms, making them more high tech.

Also, we have an offer on the College Foundation-sponsored residential construction house on Clover Hill Road (house #1) and we have seen some interest in house #2. Given the success of the program, we will go forward and build a third house on the corner of Hart Road and English Ave. The faculty are very excited.

**Budget.** Due to the fact that we are under our enrollment goal; institutionally, we are $350,000 to $400,000 short. This year, we have been assured by SUNY that part of what was taken from our 2003-04 budget will be restored, so we are hopeful.

**Vice President for Planning and Institutional Effectiveness**

Rich Carreno asked the Council members to let Joyce Malloy know whether or not they plan to attend Commencement. With any luck, we’ll have decent weather.

As part of the New York State budget, the Governor has proposed a retirement incentive. If it goes through the way the Governor has proposed, people will get a lump sum or increase in benefits. While this provides some opportunities to restructure, we could lose 15-20 people easily if there is an incentive. In the past when we have had to fill those vacated positions, we had to eliminate the position or save 50% of that salary over the next two years. If this incentive gets into position elimination, we definitely have some problems as we don’t have a lot of people to assume those responsibilities.

http://www.morrisville.edu/College_Council/Docs/cc_3-10-06_mins.htm
We have been looking at a succession plan process. We looked at all positions on campus and discussed what we would do in the short term as they are vacated. We will utilize cross-training and short-term replacement; all vacated positions are reviewed by the President’s Cabinet for decisions regarding title changes, reorganization and whether or not the position will be filled.

Rich reported that he and Jessica DeCerce went to Albany this past Tuesday for SUNY Day. It was a well organized event and they visited with a number of legislators who are optimistic about the budget and the possibility of additional monies as well. The Chancellor seems to be a very active participant in this whole process. Rich said it was a very positive day, and while they may not have an impact on the decisions made by legislators, they do appreciate the information we bring to them.

**Council Business:**

a) Resolution to approve the Constitution for the Gaming Guild. Motion by Matt Morgan, seconded by Perry Tooker.

b) Endorsement of Policy #5002 – Student Alcohol Policy. At the last meeting, Charlie Root pointed out that we need to modify the policy to more directly speak to the ramifications of violating this policy. An addition was made to the policy in the form of three bullets setting forth the usual progression of events and sanctions that may apply. The Council agreed they were much more comfortable with the additional language. Motion by Charlie Root, seconded by Don Huller.

**Other Business:**

Dr. Cross told the Council members that he appreciates the time the give to the college, intervening on our behalf with the legislature and with local issues. He wanted the Council to know we value their advocating for the college.

Arnold Fisher commented that while he’s been recovering from knee surgery, he spent some time reading the E4 booklet on bio-diesel that Dr. Cross put together. He said it was fascinating reading. Matt Morgan indicated that the Council will be ready to help with the next phase of that project.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m. Motion by Perry Tooker, seconded by Don Huller.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Root  
Secretary to the College Council