Meeting of the Morrisville State College Council  
5th Floor Board Room, Whipple Administration Building  
Saturday, May 16, 2009 - 9:00 a.m.

**Council Members Present:** Vice Chairman Arnold Fisher; Lawrence Baker; Steven Jones; Judith Noyes; Hugh Riehlman; Armando Franco, student representative

**Excused:** Susan Dietrich, James Dunne, Matt Morgan

**Morrisville State College Staff Present:** Ray Cross; Jo Ann Godfrey; James VanRiper; Jason Zbock

Vice Chairman Arnold Fisher called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

**Minutes:**

The minutes of the February 27, 2009 meeting were approved. Motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Riehlman.

**President’s Report:**

**Enrollment**

As of yesterday, applications are up over 500 over last year and up about 1000 over the year before that! Morrisville is on a record-setting pace and we expect to receive more applications this year than in any year in our history. However, the increase in applications has not resulted in a corresponding increase in deposits. Morrisville is competing for the better students who have more options. Dr. Cross indicated that this was a good thing, but it does mean that the college has to be more competitive. The average fall 2009 accepted GPA is 81.70. Dr. Cross indicated that when he first came to Morrisville, the average was closer to 75%. Tom VerDow has indicated that he believes that the overall accepted students’ average will go even higher this year.

**Budget**

The adjusted funds budget for 2009-10 totals $26.5M – 40% ($10.6M) from State support and 60% ($15.9M) from revenue (tuition, fees, etc.). Dr. Cross commented that when he first came to Morrisville ten years ago the amount of State support was closer to 60% so State support has been steadily decreasing. The budget for Morrisville is made up of 25% OTPS and 75% salaries and wages. Dr. Cross provided the following comparisons between PSR (salary and wages) and OTPS at the University Centers (PSR – 85% and OTPS – 15%), Comprehensives
(PSR 82% and OTPS – 18%), the Tech Sector (PSR 78% and OTPS – 22%) and Morrisville (75% PSR and 15% OTPS).

Dr. Cross indicated that $1.7M has been cut from the campus 2008-09 budget with another reduction of $.4M still needed in the 2009-10 budget for a total reduction to the campus of $2.1M. Dr. Cross indicated that it is not known at this time what will happen with Federal Stimulus money. He further commented that he anticipates a mid-year reduction too. Dr. Cross outlined some of the efforts to meet the budget shortfall: holding some positions vacant, no M/C salary increases, fully implementing previous cost saving measures (and some will need to be permanent), continue efforts to save as much energy as possible. He commented that every effort will be made to avoid personnel reductions if possible. Dr. Cross encouraged the members of the Council to share any cost savings ideas that they might have with him.

The Morrisville Commons II project is almost finished and we expect to accept that in June. This building will be used this summer by conferencing. Construction will be starting in May 2009 on the Applied Design Center and we hope to have occupancy in January of 2011. It is anticipated that the BArch Architecture degree program will be implemented by then which is a five year professional degree. Dr. Cross shared several slides of the Applied Design Center and the Stadium and Athletic Field with the members of the Council. The bids for the Athletic Field and Stadium came in over budget even with construction within the State having dropped 20%.

The STUAC project is in the design phase/Architect selection process. Construction should start in the summer of 2010 with completion in early 2012. Dr. Cross commented that he would like to build a pool sometime in the future that would be professional size and be relocated somewhere else on campus.

Permitting for the Equine Rehabilitation Center should be completed in July and construction should begin this fall. Dr. Cross indicated that he hoped to have this facility ready for fall 2010.

Architect selection is currently underway for the Bailey Hall renovation. The design should be completed by November 2009; construction should begin in January/February 2010 with occupancy in spring 2011.

Construction for the Bicknell Hall renovation should be starting this summer with occupancy completed in 2010.

The initial concepts are under discussion for the Charlton Hall renovation. The design should be completed by 2010, with construction starting in the spring of 2010 and occupancy by January 2012.

Facilities Master Plan discussions will begin this summer and the next Facilities Master Plan should be completed in December 2010.

Construction on the Oneida Hall renovation will begin in June 2009 with occupancy in January 2010.

Dr. Cross advised the Council that the College has had some manure handling problems. Two wells have been contaminated – one near the Dairy Complex and one on Rocks Road. Dr. Cross explained that manure was applied when the ground was still frozen. The College has agreed to drill a new well for one person. Dr. Cross commented that since these events, the DEC is
scrupulously examining everything the College does. Some of this is due to the fact that good records were not kept and some of it is due to personnel problems. The College’s CAFO plan has been redesigned. Mosher Farms has agreed to take some of the manure and the CAFO will need to be modified to include that arrangement.

Cabinet Reports:

Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Mr. VanRiper provided an overview of the new programs that have been registered by The New York State Education Department – Business Administration BBA, Criminal Justice BT, and Renewable Energy Technology AAS. He commented that Morrisville State College received a grant (nearly $2M) for the development of a Center in Renewable Energy and one component of that grant was to develop an associate degree program. He indicated that the following programs are expected to be completed for a Fall 2010 start: Applied Psychology BS, Architecture BArch with an emphasis in rural architecture, Nutrition Management BT, Equine Science and Physiology BS, Automotive Engineering Technology BT and Technical Theater BS.

Mr. VanRiper commented that there are a number of new degree programs still being developed. Mr. Fisher asked if additional faculty would be needed. Mr. VanRiper responded that faculty are in place for now. As enrollment increases in the Business Administration BBA degree program, there will be a need for additional faculty. As far as the Criminal Justice Program, an existing faculty member from the Norwich Campus will move into the BT program and an additional faculty member will be needed in Norwich. He noted that there is one new degree program, Video Journalism, which will not be started because of a lack of staff, equipment and space available.

Mr. Fisher asked if the New Equine Rehabilitation facility and new degree program would be ready for fall 2010. Dr. Cross responded that it will not be quite ready by then.

Mr. VanRiper presented some information regarding “How Baccalaureate are We?” In 2007-08, of the total number of graduates, 453 were associate degree graduates and 132 were bachelor degree graduates which means that 23% of the graduates were bachelor degree graduates. Fourteen percent of the fall 2008 enrollment are bachelor degree students. Mr. VanRiper indicated that it is important to note that this percentage may be misleading because we have an unknown number of students who are in associate degree programs that will enroll in a bachelor degree when they are juniors. Of the 86 total certificate, associate and baccalaureate degree programs registered to date, 27% of them are baccalaureate.

Dr. Cross updated the Council on the Controlled Environmental Agriculture project which is underway. He indicated that money has been requested for two more projects:

- Morrisville Organic Waste-To-Energy: Morrisville State College and O’Brien & Gere will assess the feasibility/suitability of organic waste to energy facilities.
- Controlled Environment Agriculture and Energy Project: build at Morrisville State College with SUNY ESF a national demonstration greenhouse, closed-loop multi-level “fish and plant” production facility to demonstrate controlled environment agriculture and energy feasibility and suitability. This would be phase two of a three phase Federally funded project.
April and the first part of May is always a very busy time for Academic Affairs. There are a lot of celebrations of student achievements and other activities wrapping up the school year.

The first group of students in the Entrepreneurship degree are graduating this year. Some students are leaving with a business in-hand starting from scratch, while others are taking over a business from someone else. Dr. Cross shared a story of Entrepreneurship graduate, Jennifer Capparelli, who will be entering into a partnership with Tait Funeral Home in Cazenovia.

**Student Government Report**

Armando Franco opened his presentation by commenting that it has been a pleasure and a great experience being a member of the College Council of Morrisville State College.

The SGO Assembly voted to increase the $65 student activities fee by $15. The Assembly felt that this additional money would help to bring more and better quality events to campus. However, there was concern over this decision because the majority of the vote during elections by the students was to increase the fee by $10. Armando commented that many students didn’t realize what the student activity fee covers and they didn’t have enough information when they voted. However, it is the Assembly that makes that decision and they voted to increase the fee by $15. Next year, students will be voting on whether the Student Activities Fee should be voluntary or mandatory.

Dr. Cross commented that the Student Activities Fee at this campus is much lower than other SUNY campuses.

The results of the elections for fall 2009 are:

- President: Kimani Smith
- Vice President: Athena Lazo
- Director of Budgets: Scott Nicolai

and the following students have been appointed:

- Public Relations: David Cook
- Secretary: Kristin Clark
- Campus Activity Chairperson: Nathan Czamara

Campus Activity Chairperson, Kyle Russ is leaving this year. Armando commended Kyle for doing a wonderful job as CAB Chairperson. The number of events increased, the number of students participating in events increased and there were more students attending CAB meetings while Kyle was involved.

Melody Mercedes has been elected as President of the SUNY Assembly. Armando covered the main issues being reviewed by the SUNY Assembly (a vote on Charter Schools, a vote on a proposed 7% tuition increase for students in first professional programs, and a vote on a community college resolution to allow them to control their student activities fee).

The first SGO meeting this fall will be on September 7. SGO TIPS will be held on September 14-18 and the SGO Club Fair will be held on September 10.
Mr. Fisher asked if there was a good turnout for SGO meetings. Armando responded that there has been and commented that there are currently six members-at-large.

Mr. Fisher indicated that Armando had done a great job and the members of the College Council have appreciated working with him.

Dr. Cross asked Armando what he was going to do after leaving Morrisville. Armando responded that he will be attending SUNY Oswego to obtain his Bachelor’s degree and hopefully onto a Master’s degree. He also plans to obtain his CPA license. Armando commented that he knows of some other Morrisville students that are also going on to Oswego.

Armando indicated that he was very proud to be part of Morrisville State College – it was a great opportunity and he met a lot of great people! Mr. Fisher responded that Armando had done a great job and that he hoped that he never forgot Morrisville.

**Faculty Speaker Report**

Mr. Zbock provided copies of the fall 2008 and spring 2009 Faculty Congress Speaker’s Report to Faculty, Professional Staff, and Administration. The Marketing Committee, Chaired by Chris Scalzo, has set a timeline and scope for the committee and will continue to work this fall. Faculty Congress has endorsed the Ad Hoc Committee Report on Improving Student Retention with some additional recommendations and feedback. A written response from Dr. Cross has been requested.

Dr. Cross acknowledged receipt of the Ad Hoc Committee Report on Improving Student Retention and commented that discussions regarding the report have already begun.

Dr. Cross indicated that he looked forward to faculty and staff assistance with a marketing and communication strategy.

Mr. Zbock indicated that this was the end of his term of office as the Speaker of Faculty Congress. Ms. Roberta Sloan will be taking over as Speaker in the fall. Thomas Hogle has completed his term as Morrisville State College Faculty Senator and Mr. Zbock indicated that he has been elected to serve in that position.

Mr. Fisher acknowledged that Mr. Zbock has done a great job. Being the Speaker of Faculty Congress is a lot of extra work and Mr. Fisher extended the College Council’s appreciation for the work that Mr. Zbock has done. Mr. VanRiper agreed and indicated that he has worked very closely with Jason Zbock and he commented that Jason has proven to be a great faculty leader.

**Other Business**

Resolution to approve the student parking rate change.

Dr. Cross noted that only some of the rates are being changed.

Mr. Baker made a motion to approve. Seconded by Judy Noyes.
New SUNY Chancellor

Dr. Cross indicated that the new SUNY Chancellor, Nancy Zimpher will be visiting Morrisville State College on August 3. The agenda for the day’s visit has not been finalized.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 am. Motion by Mr. Larry Baker, seconded by Mr. Steven Jones.

Respectfully submitted,
Jo Ann Godfrey
Temporary Secretary to the College Council