Meeting of the Morrisville State College Council  
5th Floor Board Room, Whipple Administration Building  
Friday, September 25, 2009 - 10:00 a.m.

Council Members Present: Chairman Matthew Morgan; Susan Dietrich; James Dunne; Arnold Fisher; Steven Jones; Judith Noyes; Kimani Smith, student representative

Excused: Lawrence Baker; Hugh Riehlman

Morrisville State College Staff Present: Richard Carreno; Ray Cross; Jo Ann Godfrey; Melissa Reider; James VanRiper; Tom VerDow; Jason Zbock

Prior to the start of the meeting, Chairman Matthew Morgan welcomed everyone to the first College Council meeting for 2009-10.

Chairman Morgan introduced the new Student Government President, Kimani Smith, to the members of the Council.

Chairman Morgan called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Minutes:

The minutes of the May 16, 2009 meeting were approved. Motion by Mr. Arnold Fisher; seconded by Mr. Steven Jones.

President’s Report:

Assemblyman Bill Magee was honored this morning at a ceremony held in the Theatre of the Student Activities building. Dr. Cross was pleased to be a part of the ceremony honoring Assemblyman Magee who was presented with the Honorary American Degree from the Future Farmers of America.

Katie M. Stanley, an Ag Business major, was killed in an automobile accident just prior to the start of the fall semester. She was a very outgoing student and she was very active in numerous activities on campus. Katie had completed her freshman year in the Ag Business Bachelor’s degree program. Mr. Fisher commented that a collection is being taken at the dairy barn for a scholarship in her name.
Chancellor’s Visit

Dr. Cross indicated that Chancellor Zimpher was well-received by the campus when she visited here on August 3. Mr. Fisher agreed and mentioned that he thought she was a very down-to-earth person.

The Chancellor has completed Phase I - the 64 campus tour - which she started in June. Statewide Town Hall meetings will be scheduled as Phase II of her plan. The Chancellor wants to engage 200 people within the system to participate in discussions in preparation for the next State University of New York Strategic Plan.

Chairman Morgan commented that he is very impressed with the new Chancellor – she understands what College Councils are and she wants to utilize them more. She has planned a very aggressive schedule. Dr. Cross agreed and indicated that the future of New York State rests with our young people and the Chancellor has indicated that the SUNY system will be part of the economic recovery of this state.

As Dr. Cross outlined the SUNY Strategic Plan 2010 for the Council, he complimented Chancellor Zimpher on this undertaking. New Program Growth is the Chancellor’s Strategic Goal #1. Mr. VanRiper relayed the status of the new Applied Psychology degree program currently being reviewed at SUNY. Arrangements are underway for taking a number of Bachelor degrees off campus to Cayuga, OCC and MVCC as a start. Dr. Cross commented that there will be some Baccalaureate programs at Norwich as well. Mr. VanRiper noted that a Master Plan Amendment would be required to offer an entire degree off campus.

Approval has been received to close the Electrical Engineering Technology and Engineering Science associate degree programs. Dr. Cross indicated that there will be some retrenchments.

Mr. Dunne asked about the status of Video Journalism. Dr. Cross responded that this new program does have approval; however, the facility and equipment needs are not yet resolved. Additionally, there is a condition to the registration approval – the faculty member has to complete her doctorate before the program can be implemented and to date, she has not. Hopefully this new curriculum will be implemented fall 2010.

The TAC ABET accreditation team was on campus this week for the ten-year accreditation site visit. The accreditation team has been apprised of the closing of the Electrical Engineering Technology AAS degree program and the Engineering Science AS degree program. The idea of developing a BS degree program in Engineering Technology with an option in Automotive was discussed and the accreditation team was supportive of this idea. Ms. Dietrich asked if there was not a market for Electrical Technology graduates. Dr. Cross responded that the Electrical Engineering Technology program is a two-year degree so graduates need to transfer on to another college to obtain a baccalaureate degree. Four or five years ago SUNY IT was given permission to develop the first two years of this degree program. Now that their program is developed, students can attend SUNY IT and receive their Bachelor’s degree. This means that SUNY IT is competing for the same pool of students as we are for the two-year degree. In order to bring this program up-to-date, and get the technology upgraded to a computer enhanced program, we would have to spend considerable money on that program and the enrollment is not there.

Strategic Goal #2 is to maximize institutional effectiveness. Our enrollment is one measure in that goal. Dr. Cross indicated that Morrisville’s target enrollment is around 3000 AAFTE and efforts will be made to improve the quality as we maintain that number. Another area is retention. Dr. Cross indicated that efforts are being made to address retention. The Faculty Congress Ad Hoc Committee on Retention did
a great job of reviewing this and has presented a lot of ideas in their report. The Ad Hoc Committee focused on advising in the first year and the importance of building relationships with the students, not just building a schedule.

Strategic Goal #3 – Student Opinion of Physical Environment. Morrisville falls between 3.0 and 3.5. This is increasing and by 2012 Dr. Cross anticipates that this will be at or above 3.5.

Strategic Goal #4 – Student Opinion of Technology. Dr. Cross commented that Morrisville is OK.

Strategic Goal #5 – Student Opinion of Support Systems. Efforts have been made to dramatically increase weekend activities and student response has been positive.

Strategic Goal #7 – Enhance and Expand Institutional Resource Development. Dr. Cross introduced Melissa Reider, the new Executive Director of Institutional Advancement and College Relations. Ms. Reider provided the members of the College Council with an overview of her background and some of the things she plans on focusing on over the next several months. She also thanked the members of the College Council for their many contributions and support of the College over the years. Ms. Reider indicated that she would be working closely with President Cross and a consultant, Dick Miller, to develop a plan that focuses on the infrastructure of what we are trying to do, fund raising activities, and also developing a new marketing plan for the College. Dr. Cross commented that he has asked Ms. Reider to reinvest the Institutional Advancement office.

Budget

The Governor’s office has issued a notice regarding a mid-year correction because of a $2.1 to $3B shortfall. Mr. Carreno indicated that he was not sure what this will mean for Morrisville and whether or not the mid-year correction will be based on the mid-year State calendar or the mid-year SUNY calendar. The Governor predicts a $5B shortfall in the 2010-11 budget.

Enrollment

Mr. VerDow indicated that in terms of head count, enrollment is up from last year at this time. The annual average FTE will not be known until next spring, but right now it looks like we will be just about where we wanted to be. Mr. VerDow indicated that headcount for fall 09 is 3377 which is a 137 increase in FTE’s over last fall. He noted that academic quality is something that the Admissions staff looks for in the incoming freshman which also has a positive impact on retention.

Chairman Morgan asked whether or not the two academic policies being reviewed at today’s meeting will have an affect on retention. Mr. VerDow responded that these two proposals probably would have an effect, but what kind of effect is really yet to be determined.

Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK) – The National Leadership Honor Society

ODK is a National Leadership Honor Society for bachelor level students. Morrisville has requested permission from ODK to establish a Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa here. Professor Paul O’Neil has coordinated arrangements for ODK to visit the campus on September 28.
Research

One of our Computer Information Technology faculty, Greg Tyler, is involved in a research project at Morrisville State College on an electric car which has zero dependence on foreign oil, zero emissions, and the average cost per mile for electricity is 6.5 cents. As part of this research, the vehicle is charged while it is on campus.

Donations

The State has decommissioned New York State prison farms and Morrisville State College has received some equipment and some cows. We have been able to cull out our existing herd and milk production has increased significantly.

Chrysler has previously used Raytheon for their training. Raytheon is now closing a significant number of training centers in New York State and has given us first choice of anything in these facilities. Morrisville has been able to obtain nearly $1M worth of equipment. Raytheon wants Morrisville State College to become a training center and we have agreed to a three year contract. A lab in Galbreath Hall has been remodeled to meet their specifications. We are hiring an instructor for the Training Center, our faculty will be trained and Chrysler technicians will be coming to our campus to be trained.

Melissa Reider commented that Morrisville State College just received a gift of $72,000.

Dr. Cross conveyed a special thanks to Chairman Morgan for his involvement in the Bayer Health Care donation of an OBJET rapid prototyping machine. They will be making some minor repairs to the machine, bring it here, set it up, and make sure it is ready to go.

NCAA

Dr. Cross indicated that Morrisville State College has full membership in the NCAA. Colleges normally serve a four-year probationary period but Morrisville was allowed an abbreviated probationary period so full membership was received in three years.

Remodeling/New Construction

Remodeling of Bicknell Hall is moving along nicely. The bricks have been cleaned and the building’s appearance is greatly improved.

Construction on the new stadium and athletic field is also moving right along. The field will be completed this fall and work will continue on the stadium through the winter months.

Construction on the new applied design center is also taking shape. It has been exciting to watch the progress on these projects.
Priorities and Personal Goals

Dr. Cross reviewed his priorities and personal goals for 2009-10 with the College Council:
- deliver bachelor programs on at least two community college campuses;
- develop a new marketing plan for the college;
- re-invest the Institutional Advancement office to improve operations, systems, and fund raising;
- engage the campus in the development of a new “campus master plan;”
- help advance the assessment process within the college;
- work with all members of the college community to improve retention;
- work with the Chancellor to develop and implement a SUNY Strategic Plan; and
- complete an article or the draft of a manuscript on entrepreneurial leadership in a bureaucratic entity.

Mustang Weekend

Dr. Cross indicated that Mustang Weekend starts today and the Equine Sale will be held tomorrow. Many activities are being planned. Thanks to John Sabini, Chair of the NYS Racing and Wagering Board, the two and three year old high stakes race will be held at Vernon Downs on Saturday evening with $1.2M in prizes. Having the high stakes race held at Vernon Downs on Saturday could also bring more buyers here for the Equine Sale.

The Alumni Board will be meeting this evening and the parade is tomorrow. Dr. Cross indicated that there are a lot of things going on this weekend and the members of the College Council are welcome to participate.

Cabinet Reports:

Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

The College again participated in the New York State Fair with displays in the Morrisville Building (former Bartlett Barn), a display in the FFA building, the Equine Hitch competed and Nelson Farms was heavily involved in the Pride of New York building near the entrance to the Fair.

Mr. VanRiper indicated that the College will be nominating a student for the Association of Council Members and College Trustees academic scholarship and also a student for the ACT Initiative Award. Chairman Morgan commented that there is an “in house” rule within the ACT that members do not vote on their own candidates.

Marsha Cornelius has been appointed as the Interim Director of the Norwich Campus until a nationwide search for the Dean of the Norwich Campus is held. Dean David Rogers has been serving as the Director since Dean Nichols left. With the appointment of an Interim Director, Dean Rogers will no longer have to oversee the Norwich Campus operation. Mr. Fisher asked if Marsha Cornelius could be a candidate and Mr. VanRiper responded that she could be.

A delegation interested in agriculture from the Wuxi Province in China will be visiting the College in late October. Mr. Fisher asked if anything ever developed with the automotive program and China. Ray Cross responded that the Dalian University of Technology has an Automotive Engineering Technology program which is relatively new. They would like Morrisville to offer an automotive degree on their
campus at some point in the future. We would need to educate their faculty about the program first. They would like to visit Morrisville in the spring 2010 semester so they can see how we teach in this curriculum. Dr. Cross explained that System Administration no longer handles the necessary visas so we are trying to find another institution that could bring them in under their existing arrangement.

**Student Government Report**

Kimani Smith, a School of Business student majoring in Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management, is the new President of the Student Government Organization. The other members of the Student Government Organization are:

- Athena Lazo – Vice President
- Scott Nicolai – Director of Budgets
- David Cook – Director of Public Relations
- Kristin Clark – Secretary
- Nathan Czamara – CAB Chairperson

SGO is currently seeking student members for openings on the MAC Board, Academic Affairs Committee, Student Affairs Committee and Awards Committee.

ESS has volunteered to sponsor the Blood Drive.

The SGO Club Fair went well with over 200 students attending, the SGO Tips was scheduled on September 14-17, there was a tribute to September 11 held and a lawyer will be brought in for free consultations in the near future.

Students have had some concerns with the lighting on South Street between Helyar and Mohawk Halls. The Campus Safety Committee is looking into this concern and will be walking the campus in a couple of weeks to see if there are other areas for concern.

**Vice President for Administrative Services**

Mr. Carreno indicated that trees have been trimmed on South Street in an effort to alleviate some of the lighting problems that Kimani Smith had mentioned earlier. The College is also looking at whether or not the Village will allow a stop sign installed on the hill on South Street.

A number of campus improvements have been accomplished over the summer. A 50 car parking lot was built behind the Ice Plex with an access road between the Ice Plex and the Rec building. A new Shop 24 has been located at the Pond Quad.

There was a major delay in the contract for the new athletic field. The turf should be down before November 1.

An architect has been identified and the design phase will begin this fall on the Bailey Hall renovation.

The building concept study for the Charlton Hall renovation has been completed.

The rehab work on Oneida Hall is progressing and the building should be available by January 2010.
The dairy barn is gone and the steel is up for the new Design Center. Completion is scheduled by December 2010.

An architect has been identified for the STUAC project and the design phase will begin later this fall. Construction should start fall 2010 and will continue for about a year.

The permitting process has delayed progress on the Equine Rehabilitation facility. The design is currently being completed and construction should start sometime this fall and will take a year to complete.

Commons II is finished and is occupied this fall.

Ben Domingo will be reporting information on H1N1 to SUNY on a daily basis so that System Administration will be kept up-to-date.

Mr. Fisher commented that the sign was up at the Equine Center. Mr. Carreno acknowledged that the sign was installed and thanked Mr. Fisher for his generous donation.

**Faculty Speaker Report**

Roberta Sloan, Speaker of Faculty Congress, could not attend the College Council meeting. Former Speaker, Jason Zbock, attended for her and presented the Faculty Speaker Report.

The first Faculty Congress meeting of the 2009-10 academic-year was held on September 15. Roberta Sloan demonstrated the Faculty Congress web page and described the purpose of Faculty Congress and the role of the Faculty Congress representatives. Faculty Senator, Jason Zbock, described the purpose of the Faculty Senate and his role as Senator. President Cross discussed his perspective on shared governance and the relationship between the Office of the President and Faculty Congress. The Ad Hoc Marketing Committee has begun working.

Dr. Cross acknowledged that Mr. Zbock has been assuming a quasi Institutional Research role in addition to his full-time faculty load and he has done an excellent job.

**Council Items:**

a) **Endorsement of Policy #6802 – Early Academic Dismissal**
Mr. VanRiper explained that there has been a minor change in wording to help clarify this existing policy.
Motion to approve by Mr. Jones; seconded by Ms. Noyes.

b) **Endorsement of Policy #6106 – Academic Warning, Academic Probation & Academic Dismissal**
Mr. VanRiper explained that Faculty Congress and the Vice President for Academic Affairs reviewed all of the academic policies related to suitable academic progress. What came to light was that Academic Warning and Academic Dismissal are defined, but placing students on “contract” was not defined. A “P” is printed on transcripts when averages fall below a 2.0. This revision is an attempt to clarify this process.

Prior to the College Council meeting, Mr. Dunne and Mr. Jones brought to Mr. VanRiper’s attention the wording of the fourth paragraph regarding Academic Probation. Mr. VanRiper agreed that the wording needed to be revised and the fourth paragraph has been rewritten as follows:
**Academic Probation** is a contractual arrangement, such as a “conditional semester” contract or an “academic warning/deferred dismissal” contract. Students offered a contract are not in good academic standing as a result of failure to meet GPA requirements or failure to maintain progress toward graduation requirements. Failure to successfully complete the terms of the contract may result in Academic Dismissal.

Mr. VanRiper explained the academic review process to the members of the Council.

Motion to approve Policy #6106 (with the fourth paragraph as amended above) by Mr. Fisher; seconded by Mr. Dunne.

c) **Endorsement of Criminal Justice Club Constitution**
Kimani Smith explained that the Criminal Justice Club has been working to correct/update their Constitution. Motion to approve by Mr. Smith; seconded by Ms. Dietrich.

**Other Business:**

Mr. Morgan encouraged the members of the College Council to attend the Fall 2009 Association of Council Members and College Trustees of SUNY Conference on October 23-25, 2009 which is being held at the Otesaga Resort Hotel in Cooperstown, NY.

Dr. Cross indicated that the College had a great year at the Fair. Mr. VerDow agreed and commented that the Morrisville building (former Bartlett Barn) is a great location and he is already looking at ways to improve what we do for next year.

Dr. Cross announced that at 1:30 pm today, there is a celebration of the naming of the Dairy Complex in honor of Mr. Arnold Fisher. All members of the Council are invited to attend.

Mr. Fisher commented that Ray Cross was the Grand Marshall at the Village of Hamilton 4th of July Parade. The six-horse hitch was there and was the highlight of the parade. Dr. Cross acknowledged that the students will be cutting down Cherry trees on the Georgetown property to build a new wagon for the hitch. He would like to see the hitch used in more marketing efforts for the College.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Jones; seconded by Ms. Noyes. Meeting was adjourned at 11:58 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann Godfrey
Temporary Secretary to the College Council