Meeting of the Morrisville State College Council
Whipple Administration Building – Board Room
Friday, April 22, 2011

Council Members Present: Chairman Matthew Morgan; Lawrence Baker; Susan Dietrich; Arnold Fisher; Steven Jones; Judith Noyes; Hugh Riehlman; Stephen Paravati, student representative

Morrisville State College Staff Present: Jean Boland; Richard Carreno; Jo Ann Godfrey; David Rogers; Roberta Sloan

Chairman Morgan called the Morrisville State College Council meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

Minutes:
The minutes of the February 25, 2011 meeting were approved with the following change in the next to the last paragraph in the President’s Report. Mr. Jones indicated that he was not the one that said the crossing on South Street “is a disaster waiting to happen.” The sentence now reads: He asked if there was a plan for a covered walkway or something else in the master plan. Motion to approve as amended by Mr. Arnold Fisher; seconded by Mr. Hugh Riehlman.

President’s Report:

Middle States
Dr. Stephen Pannill, President of Cecil College in Maryland will be Chairing the Middle States Reaccreditation Team. Mr. Carreno indicated that the campus has yet to be advised who the rest of the review team members will be. The campus visit is scheduled on October 2-5, 2011. The College Council will be involved at the opening session in the Hospitality Suite. On the morning of October 5 there will be a formal exit presentation in the Little Theatre where the reviewers will tell us what they think Morrisville’s strengths and weaknesses are. The process is proceeding very well. The Self-Study Report (Version 1 draft) has been sent out to the campus community as well as to the members of the College Council.

Dr. Paul Griffin, Mr. Paul O’Neil and Dr. Roxanna Pisiak joined the College Council meeting. Each member of the College Council received an Executive Summary outlining Morrisville’s strengths and challenges as they relate to the fourteen Middle States Standards. Dr. Griffin indicated that Middle States insisted that as much of the campus community be involved as possible in this process. Teams were identified that involved approximately 220 faculty to work on the fourteen standards. He indicated that Paul O’Neil and Roxanna Pisiak are doing an outstanding job of organizing this effort. Chairman Morgan commented that when the President of the Middle States Association was here, she complimented them very highly for the preliminary work that was done.

Dr. Pisiak anticipates that there will be two more versions of this draft. Open forums have been scheduled to provide the college community a chance to respond to the findings reported in the draft. There have already been some changes identified.
Mr. Baker asked about the level of involvement each group will have in the review process. Mr. O’Neil responded that each edit has been sent back to the working groups for their review. The Steering Committee will be meeting next week and at that time will formally accept the document with the changes. Dr. Pisiak indicated that the report is intended to be a snapshot of what the campus is now and not a summary of the years since the last Middle States visit.

Mr. Morgan commented that he had not received feedback from anyone regarding this process which speaks to the great job that has been done involving everyone on campus.

Mr. Carreno commented that the self-study was a very well written and useful document. He complimented the working groups for spending the necessary time reviewing all of the information. Dr. Pisiak indicated that all information has been put on the “V” drive in the Middle States 2012 folder.

Mr. Baker asked if there would be a schedule of events for the visit. Dr. Griffin responded that there would be once there has been an opportunity to talk with Dr. Pannill about the visit. When Dr. Pannill visits the campus this summer, Dr. Griffin indicated that it is very important for him to have an extensive tour of the campus. He needs to understand who we are so that a team can be put together that fits Morrisville.

Mr. Fisher complimented Dr. Pisiak, Mr. O’Neil, Dr. Griffin and the rest of the faculty and staff that worked on this draft. He indicated that a lot of work went into creating this document and everyone has done a really great job.

Dr. Rogers indicated that Academic Affairs is already moving forward with a number of initiatives that have been identified through the internal Middle States review process. One of these is outcomes assessment which will be part of the sessions included in the end-of-the-year All College Faculty/Professional Staff meeting in May.

**Budget**

Mr. Carreno indicated that the State budget was passed in April, but at this time it is not known how that will impact Morrisville. It will probably be the end of May before more information is available. There are four different budget cut scenarios ranging from a $754,000 to a $1.2 million cut. It is not known at this point whether or not SUNY will assist the hospitals in addressing their shortfall so the hospital subsidy is having an impact on us. The rational tuition plan, which includes maintenance of effort, is still in play. Mr. Morgan commented that the students had voted to accept the tuition plan last year.

**Presidential Search**

Mr. Carreno indicated that the search process is underway. The search consultant has been identified and is now involved. SUNY has eight searches currently in process. The Chancellor is calling for a new search committee at Binghamton and that search is starting over. The search at New Paltz is also starting over. Mr. Carreno indicated that he is hopeful that Morrisville’s new President will be identified and able to start mid-year.

**NEAC (North Eastern Athletic Conference)**

Morrisville State College is in Division III which includes all of our sports except football and hockey. Being part of NEAC has definitely had a positive impact on recruiting and is a very positive experience for students.

**Tactical Exercise**

There was a training exercise held on campus on March 16 that involved multiple law enforcement agencies from the surrounding area. The exercise involved a simulated armed perpetrator situation on campus. Mr. Carreno indicated that there were well over 200 law enforcement personnel on campus.
He and Dr. Rogers were stationed in the Command Center and learned a lot about this process from a law enforcement perspective. The campus will also have an internal exercise as a follow up to the law enforcement tactical exercise. Mr. Morgan commented that he has been involved in these exercises and they are very worthwhile. The law enforcement personnel learn a lot about the people and the facilities while they participate in the exercise.

Workplace Violence Policy
Mr. Carreno explained that this policy differs from the previously approved policy that addresses domestic violence. The need for this policy was identified in an Executive Order. Training will be offered through the Human Resources office.

At this point, Chairman Morgan asked for a motion to move the College Council meeting into Executive Session. Motion by Mr. Baker, seconded by Mr. Fisher.

At 11:15 am, Chairman Morgan called the College Council meeting back to order.

Cabinet Reports:

Vice President for Academic Affairs:
May 14 marks the 100th Commencement at Morrisville State College. Dr. Rogers commented that a lot has been going on in Academic Affairs wrapping up the spring semester. Dr. Rogers mentioned several events that he has participated in during Academic Excellence month.

The Carnegie Foundation establishes criteria for the classification of schools and for the first time, Morrisville is being acknowledged as a Baccalaureate/Associate degree institution. This means that given the number of graduates in the baccalaureate degree programs, Morrisville is being recognized as a Baccalaureate institution with Associate degrees. Dr. Rogers commented that the number of students that continue on at Morrisville is steadily increasing. Faculty are reaching out to community colleges, especially in Central New York, and formalizing transfer articulation agreements. More students are attending Morrisville from all regions of the state, and there are an increased number of students transferring in from area Community Colleges. Another strategy that has worked well is Side-Kick Days. Students that are uncertain about coming to Morrisville can spend an entire day with a “side-kick.” Prospective students get to see a current student’s life for that one day. Dr. Rogers read an email that the Admissions Office received from a prospective student that had just attended “Side-Kick Days.” She sat in on five classes and watched two presentations by graduating CITA students, got to see Commons II, met several students, ate in the dining hall (loved the food!), and remarked that our campus is very clean as compared to some others. She concluded her letter by saying that “This was by far the best campus tour I’ve ever had. (I’ve been on 5 of them to date).” Dr. Rogers indicated that her comments reflect the kind of faculty and students we have and show that everyone, faculty, students, administrators and staff – everyone helps to create a welcoming environment and plays a part in recruitment efforts. Dr. Rogers assured the members of the College Council that in spite of budget uncertainties, Morrisville continues to move forward. Mr. Morgan agreed and indicated that this is one of the things that make Morrisville so great – the people here!

Vice President for Administrative Services and Information Technology

The Stadium/Hospitality Suite/Athletic Field has been selected as a finalist in the Best Educational Project - $10 million or Less for the A Time to Build Award. Winners will be announced on May 5. The project will be included in a special supplement issue of the CNY Business Journal on April 29.

The 2013-23 Facilities Master Plan has been completed by the architect firm of Chan Krieger NBBJ. Two representatives from Chan Krieger NBBJ will present their findings and recommendations at a community forum on April 26.
SUNY has renegotiated the natural gas contract with Amada Hess. Ms. Boland explained that a savings of $0.20/dekatherm in the cost of natural gas equates to an annual savings of approximately $25,000 (based on the projected usage).

Work on the Administrative Quad should be completed in time for Commencement. The renovation of the gym in STUAC has been rolled into the larger project. The new Fitness Center will be going out for bid in September and Ms. Boland indicated that construction should begin October 2011.

The conceptual design of the Charlton Hall rehabilitation project will be presented by Ashley McGraw Architects in May. They have been working on three alternative interior building design layouts. Phase I of this project is included in the current Capital Plan and Phase II is in the next Capital Plan.

The bid date for Bailey Hall renovations is April 21. Ms. Boland indicated that construction should start in early June with completion of “old” Bailey in time for the start of classes in 2012. The completion date for the remainder of the project (infrastructure and Bailey Annex) is by December 2012.

The bid for the renovation to the basement of Hamilton Hall will be going out late May or early June. Decontamination of the old Rifle Range will begin in July and the entire project should be completed in time for the start of classes in the fall of 2012.

The Equine Rehab facility should be done in September. The new facility includes three buildings: riding arena (about the size of a football field), thoroughbred stable, and a rehabilitation building that includes two classrooms. Money is still needed ($300K) to be able to include the hyperbaric chambers. Mr. Fisher commented that he and his wife, Arlene, are donating the sign for this facility.

Ms. Boland indicated that plans are underway to renovate the President’s House. Many of the changes being accomplished were suggested by Miriam Cross. Ms. Boland shared the proposed floor plan with the College Council. The new design allows for a nice sized entertaining area. The house is currently heated by electric heat which is very expensive. Mr. Carreno indicated that he anticipates quite a savings with a different heating system. Air conditioning will also be added in the house. Ms. Boland indicated that plans are being developed to try to bring gas, public sewer and water to the President’s house. Mr. Fisher mentioned that he and his wife own the Hammond Organ that is currently in the President’s house and he wondered if he should leave it at the house or move it out. Ms. Boland responded that she would follow up on that. Mr. Morgan commented that the President’s house is 30 years old and this is the first renovation that has been done.

Student Government Report

Stephen Paravati announced the newly elected positions for fall. Nicole Williams has been elected President. Stephen commented that Nicole has been involved everywhere on campus and especially with SGO and she will do a good job as President. The new Vice President is Rebecca Barlow and the new Director of Budgets is Megan Collins. Stephen commented that both of these individuals currently hold positions within SGO and he is very comfortable with them in their new roles.

Raising the Student Activities Fee from $80 to $87 per semester is included in the Upcoming Budget approval. Mr. Morgan questioned the odd number. Stephen responded that increments of $5 all the way to $100 were considered, but in calculating how much money would actually be needed, the end result was $87 per semester.

Stephen mentioned a couple of projects he had been involved in. He would like to see the finals schedule completed and posted much earlier instead of being informed near the end of the semester, and he would also like to establish a scholarship in memory of David Camp.
The Norwich Campus feels left out. When it is available, distance learning will be offered as an option for students in Norwich so they will be able to participate in campus SGO meetings.

Stephen indicated that it is not often that SGO disagrees with administration. Regarding the recent discussions concerning the elimination of wrestling, he indicated that it is not that SGO entirely disagrees, but there have been some concerns discussed. Interim President Carreno has attended an SGO meeting and addressed many of the concerns. He commented that it is actually good that students care about what is going on outside of the normal student government activities on campus.

Mr. Fisher asked Stephen what his plans were after graduation. Stephen responded that he will be attending SUNY Geneseo.

**Faculty Speaker Report**

Before he left, Dr. Cross approved the Faculty Congress recommendation for the 2011-12 academic calendar. Faculty Congress recently forwarded recommendations for the 2012-13 and 2013-14 academic calendars to Interim President Carreno. The 2012-13 academic calendar recommendation was approved by Mr. Carreno; however, he thought it wise, and members of Faculty Congress seem to agree, that the 2013-14 calendar recommendation be held to provide the next President with an opportunity for input.

Jason Zbock, Working Group Co-Chair for Middle States Standard 14: Assessment of Student Learning, provided an update at the March 1 Faculty Congress meeting about the data that has been gathered and the corresponding recommendations which will be made relative to Standard 14 in the Middle States Report.

Dr. Rogers attended a Faculty Congress meeting recently to engage the faculty in a discussion about deactivating or discontinuing an academic program and providing an avenue for consultation with the faculty.

**Council Items:**

a) **Resolution to approve the Workplace Violence Policy.**

   Motion to approve: Mr. Larry Baker; seconded: Ms. Judy Noyes.

b) **Resolution to approve the citation for Roberta Sloan, Speaker of Faculty Congress.**

   Motion to approve: Mr. Larry Baker; seconded: Mr. Arnold Fisher.

c) **Resolution to approve the citation for Stephen Paravati, SGO President.**

   Motion to approve: Mr. Arnold Fisher; seconded: Mr. Steven Jones.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn: Mr. Steven Jones; seconded by: Ms. Judy Noyes. Meeting was adjourned at 12:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann Godfrey
Temporary Secretary to the College Council