Meeting of the Morrisville State College Council
Whipple Administration Building – Board Room
Friday, September 16, 2011

Council Members Present: Chairman Matthew Morgan; Lawrence Baker; Susan Dietrich; Steven Jones; Judith Noyes; Michael Oot; Hugh Riehlman; Nicole Williams, student representative

Morrisville State College Staff Present: Jean Boland; Richard Carreno; Jo Ann Godfrey; Heather Haight; David Rogers; Paul Buckingham

Chairman Morgan called the Morrisville State College Council meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Minutes:
The minutes of the May 14, 2011 meeting were approved. Motion to approve: Mr. Lawrence Baker; seconded: Mr. Michael Oot.

President’s Report:

Mr. Carreno introduced Heather Haight, Interim Director of Admissions. Ms. Haight will serve as Interim Director until a new Director is hired. A search is underway, but Ms. Haight has decided not to be an applicant.

Mr. Carreno introduced the new President of the Student Government Organization, Ms. Nicole Williams. The members of the Council welcomed her to the College Council.

The academic year has started very well. The opening All College Faculty/Professional Staff meeting was positively received this year. Mr. Carreno talked about a School of Business Advisory Council meeting he attended recently. In talking with several Council members at that meeting he learned that many employers are struggling to find employees with basic skills. Mr. Carreno indicated that he asked the faculty to challenge their students this year by encouraging correct spelling, proper speech, to demand quality and assignments turned in on time, to meet classes before breaks, and encourage civility.

Mr. Joseph Storch, Associate Counsel in the University Counsel’s Office at SUNY spoke to the faculty/professional staff about social media and the legal implications. His presentation was very informative and well-received by those attending the meeting. Mr. Carreno suggested to the faculty/professional staff at the opening meeting that 2011-12 be the “Year of Discovery” at Morrisville State College. He commented that members of the College community really do not know a lot about each other. He asked the group at that meeting to think about three questions: 1) What are the three elements of the Morrisville Experience? 2) What will our students look like in the future? 3) What will our faculty look like in the future? Mr. Carreno also asked the faculty to try and attend some events outside of their “world,” and to invite members of the college community to attend some of their lectures. Mr. Carreno explained that his goal is to build a sense of community at Morrisville State College.
Since 1991 faculty have been required to submit faculty reports. Some faculty have done them and some have not. This requirement has fallen by the wayside. Mr. Carreno indicated that the President at each campus is also required to make a report to the Chancellor each year and information contained in the faculty reports will be very useful. He indicated that he discussed this at the opening of school meeting and advised the faculty that these reports should be completed at the end of each academic year.

Morrisville State College has been cited for a NCAA infraction. The College has been awarding international scholarships; however, there are not as many international students attending now as in the past. As the overall number of international students dropped, the percentage of international students from Canada receiving the scholarship who came to Morrisville to play hockey increased. Campus officials are currently being interviewed by NCAA about this issue and a final report will be issued later this year. Mr. Carreno commented that there have been similar issues at SUNY Potsdam, Geneseo, Oswego, Brockport and Buffalo State. He advised the members of the College Council that Morrisville State College is no longer offering the International Scholarship.

Mr. Carreno indicated that the Chancellor and her staff should be commended for achieving a tuition increase for the next five years. The increase helps to make up some of the difference in the TAP shortfall since TAP was not increased. Mr. Carreno stated that this will be a lean year. He shared information from SUNY on the 2011-12 Estimated Tuition Credit for each campus. This information shows that Morrisville receives a greater percent of its budget from tuition than other universities in general. 25% of our revenue will be used for the credit which is a one year fix. Research colleges get more through state support so to say that Morrisville is somehow inefficient and taking a lot of SUNY resources to run is really not correct. Brian Hutzley mentioned a subsidy to small campuses, but that is not because we are inefficient, it is because we are budgeted in a hierarchal fashion within the university family. Mr. Carreno explained that this means the University Centers, for example, receive a budget for “x” number of staff at “x” level. So if you were to look at staff on this campus doing the same work, we would have fewer support staff, particularly at lower levels. Mr. Baker asked if the estimated tuition credit information had been shared with anyone. Mr. Carreno responded that it had not.

Mr. Carreno commented that asking for shared services from campuses that are already cut to the bone and are also the most efficient campuses, is simply not right. Wolf Yeigh will be coming to campus and visiting the Norwich Campus and the Syracuse EOC soon. He wanted to attend today’s College Council meeting, but Mr. Carreno indicated that he advised him that it was too soon to do that. Dr. Yeigh does not want to appear to be too aggressive. Mr. Carreno commented that he wants to try to reduce anxiety at Morrisville as much as possible so the approach to shared services needs to be controlled. Ms. Boland, Dr. Rogers, and Mr. Carreno went to SUNY IT recently and met with their counterparts – Bruce Riechel, Bill Durgin and Wolf Yeigh to talk about shared services and shared president. A social event was held at The Copper Turrett in August to bring SUNY IT and Morrisville State College staff together to get to know one another. Mr. Carreno advised the College Council that SUNY Canton and SUNY Potsdam still have a sitting President, and Candace Vankco has assumed her role as Officer-in-Charge at Cobleskill. Dr. Vancko is splitting her time each week between Delhi and Cobleskill. Mr. Baker commented that Cobleskill’s enrollment numbers are way down from a few years ago which may be partially contributed to so many changes in Presidents at Cobleskill. Mr. Carreno concluded his comments by explaining to the members of the College Council that the dates of Dr. Yeigh’s appointment as Officer-in-Charge and then as President are uncertain at this time.

Middle States Update

Dr. Griffin, Dr. Pisiak and Mr. O’Neil joined the College Council meeting to update everyone about the upcoming Middle States Commission on Higher Education site visit on October 2-5, 2011. The Evaluation Visit Team Roster was distributed. Dr. Griffin commented that the makeup of the Team is a good blend of representatives from both two-year and four-year institutions. The Team will want to meet
with the individuals that developed the self-study report. Dr. Griffin commented that the self-study is an honest image of Morrisville State College including both strengths and weaknesses. A luncheon meeting with the Team has been arranged with the College Council on Monday, October 3. The closing session is scheduled on Wednesday, October 5 in the STUAC Theatre and Dr. Griffin encouraged the members of the College Council to attend. He explained that there is no dialog with the Team at this session. The Chair of the Team will read each Standard and then read a statement explaining whether or not the Team feels that Morrisville State College meets that standard. Dr. Griffin thanked both Dr. Pisiak and Mr. O’Neil and acknowledged the tremendous amount of work that both of them have done in preparing for the Middle States visit.

**Cabinet Reports:**

**Vice President for Academic Affairs:**

Dr. Rogers indicated that student headcounts are down this fall as compared to last fall especially at the Norwich Campus and in the School of Science and Technology. He indicated that enrollments are stable elsewhere. Dr. Rogers commented that Heather Haight and her staff have done a remarkable job. New recruitment and retention strategies are being implemented that will hopefully offset the anticipated declines in the NYS traditional age student population.

Mr. Morgan requested an update on conversations with China. Dr. Rogers responded that some automotive faculty from China did come to Morrisville. The exchange rates in the currency between US dollars and China would mean that attending Morrisville would be a very high cost for them. Ms. Haight mentioned that she did meet with a representative from India recently and hopefully that will bring some students to Morrisville.

Mr. Baker questioned the drop in enrollment at the Norwich Campus. Dr. Rogers responded that the Norwich high school and surrounding schools are experiencing a decline in headcount. Students in Chenango County have a lot of online opportunities besides the instruction offered at the Norwich campus. We will be reaching out to these students encouraging them to combine online learning with face-to-face instruction. Mr. Carreno agreed that the Norwich Campus enrollment numbers were way down and he told the Council that a meeting will be convened soon to develop a strategy about how to increase enrollment at the Norwich campus. Mr. Baker commented that having one Dean for the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the School of Business will never work. Dr. Rogers agreed that he experienced some difficulty when he assumed the leadership for the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources in addition to his role as the Dean for the School of Business. As a dual Dean you do what you can do, but there just isn’t enough time for some of the strategic initiatives that you would like to promote. Dr. Rogers agreed that a dual Dean situation can be done for awhile, but ultimately there needs to be someone in the lead role.

Interim Director of Admissions, Heather Haight distributed information on fall enrollment comparisons which indicate a 7% decrease in enrollment from 2010 and a 5% decrease in enrollment from 2009. She also distributed a comparison of Fall 2009/2010/2011 of applications, acceptances, deposits and denials. Overall SUNY State operated and community college campuses experienced a 17.1% decrease in SUNY freshman applications and a 6.2% decrease in SUNY transfer applications from fall 2010.

Mr. Oot asked if there was ever consideration given to participating in the Rural Schools Association. Ms. Haight responded that this had not been considered.

Mr. Baker asked what impact this decrease in enrollment would have on the College’s budget. Mr. Carreno responded that the College’s reserves will be impacted.
OCC, MVCC, Herkimer and TC3 have been identified as focus areas by the Admissions Office. Members of the admissions staff will be reaching out to faculty at these community colleges. Ms. Haight indicated that an additional 40 out-of-state high school visits are planned for this fall. SUNY is launching a SUNY International Recruitment Initiative. Ms. Haight commented that little information is known at this time but she anticipates additional information with be forthcoming soon.

An E-Textbook pilot project has been implemented in CITA 220 with the financial support of the Morrisville Auxiliary Corp. Dr. Rogers explained that this unique pilot program involves Apple IPADS and electronic textbooks. He referred to the recent article in the Post-Standard that gives an overview of this project. Dr. Rogers commented that E-Textbooks are the wave of the future and this pilot project will help us see how our students will adapt to this format.

The 29th annual Morrisville State College Dairy Sale was held on Saturday, September 10. 79 cows were sold for an average of $2460 which is up $150 from the previous year. The sale grossed over $200,000. Dr. Rogers indicated that the College’s commission is about 9% which goes back to the Dairy Program.

The annual Yearling Sale will be held on September 25. Dr. Rogers indicated that there are currently 202 horses for sale, 19 of which are Morrisville State College horses. The College does get a commission on this sale and the proceeds do go to support the Equine program.

Morrisville State College will again host the SUNY Business Council meeting on October 13 and 14. SUNY Trustee Ron Ehrenburg has been invited to give the keynote address. Dr. Rogers indicated that Dr. Ehrenburg is the Irving Ives Professor of Economics at SUNY ILR at Cornell and the Director of Higher Education Research Institute.

Dr. Rogers and Mr. Carreno attended a strategic planning session for the Central New York Regional Economic Development Council. Drafts of mission/vision documents were reviewed in an effort to identify priorities for economic growth for Madison County. Morrisville State College has been asked to host an education session for County residents to further review the regional economic development plan in support of a $20M RFP submission.

**Vice President for Administrative Services and Information Technology**

Ms. Boland provided an overview of the campus projects that were completed over the summer. She commented that the renovations to the Library are making that facility the study location of choice on campus. The exit lights being changed over to exit signs with LED lights – a recommendation from the Budget Taskforce Utilities Team - will have an estimated annual savings of over $10,000.

The renovations to old Bailey will be complete by January 2012, Bailey Annex should be completed by fall 2012 and the Print Shop will be moving out of Bailey to Galbreath Hall in October.

The asbestos abatement has begun in Mohawk Hall and should be completed by December 2012.

Construction will begin in October/November on the Student Activities Building renovation. The Student Activities Office and SGO have temporarily moved to the Student Health Center.

Staff are moving into the Equine Rehabilitation facilities this week. Horses will be moved next week. There are thirteen students already enrolled. The Grand Opening for this facility will be held sometime during the spring of 2012.

The Charlton Hall renovation will be out for bid by late spring 2012. Phase I of this renovation will be done in this capital plan. Phase II will be included in the next capital plan.
The rifle range decontamination in Hamilton Hall had to be re-bid. Construction on the remainder of the renovation will begin on November 1. This area will house the Journalism program.

The underground pipe repair at Seneca is complete. New concrete sidewalks will be poured in September.

The new sidewalk on the north side of Madison Street is planned which will connect to a Village sidewalk along Eaton St.

The leak near the Administration Building and Crawford Hall has been repaired and new concrete installed. Faculty member Aida Khalil and staff members Carolyn Mansberger and Matt Buell will be working together to develop a new sign for the entrance area between both buildings.

Ms. Boland explained the situation with the President’s House. The President’s house on Clover Hill Drive was owned by the College Foundation. It was in need of extensive renovation before a new President was selected. It was determined that the Morrisville Auxiliary Corporation could do the renovations so a Quit Claim Deed was done to transfer ownership to MAC. An architect was hired and he confirmed that the house was in need of extensive renovations. As final discussions were taking place to proceed with the renovations, a house came on the market that was ideal for a new President. The house is well-built, well-designed and would be ready to move in. The five acre parcel includes a pond, fruit and nut trees, gardens, garden shed and golf hole. Mr. Baker asked who would live there. Ms. Boland responded that Wolf Yeigh has indicated that he is not interested in it. Mr. Morgan asked if the house could be rented or used for alumni. Ms. Boland responded that all possibilities will be under consideration. Mr. Baker asked if the property would have tax exempt status. Ms. Boland responded that she would assume so.

Mr. Jones asked if the President’s House on Clover Hill Drive was sold. Ms. Boland responded that it was.

Robert Haelen, head of the SUNY Construction Fund visited campus recently. He oversees $4 billion of construction funds for SUNY. Ms. Boland indicated that the visit went well and he appreciated the opportunity not only to see how capital funding has been spent on this campus but also to see firsthand what our needs are.

In response to some concerns identified in the Middle States self-study, a Budget Information Group (BIG) has been formed. The purpose of BIG is to disseminate information about the budget and the budget process to all areas of the college.

Four SUNY colleges have been selected for a Title IX Compliance Review and Morrisville State College is one of the four.

One of our student trained horses, Minute to Midnight, took first place at Presque Isle in Erie, PA bringing home $28,200. This horse has only raced once before and has only been ridden by a professional jockey three or four times. Another horse took second place in a race that same day winning $3400 with 10% of the winning monies going to the jockey.

CSEA has a new contract that includes a 5 day furlough. Ms. Boland indicated that the status of UUP contract negotiations is not known at this time.

The South Street speed limit has been raised from 20 to 25 mph. Mr. Jones asked why the Council was not consulted. Ms. Boland responded that she had no idea how this change came about, but she indicated she would check it out.

Mr. Jones indicated that more lighting is still needed on South Street. Ms. Boland acknowledged the need for lighting and indicated that she is still looking for another way for students to get across South St.
Mr. Jones mentioned that it was his understanding that the College would no longer be providing food for the Friendship Inn. Ms. Boland responded that she would follow up with Mr. Gaslin and get back to Mr. Jones to see if that was true.

**Student Government Report**

SGO President, Nicole Williams, indicated that the Student Government Organization has increased the number of members-at-large, but is still working to increase overall attendance.

Two clubs have been recognized – Information Technology and The Pagan Alliance. Recognized clubs can now obtain funds up to $1750 per year which is an increase of $250. The Club Fair took place on September 6 and was very successful. SGO TIPS will be held on September 19-22.

The SGO Constitution review will be conducted every five years instead of every three years. The Assembly has been informed about the proposed changes in the Faculty Congress. Ms. Williams indicated that she is hopeful that there will be a greater student involvement on the various Faculty Congress committees.

**Faculty Speaker Report**

Speaker of Faculty Congress, Dr. Paul Buckingham, updated the Council regarding what is planned in the coming months. The primary task will be revising the by-laws. The three key points that Faculty Congress will address are:

1. To clearly define membership in order to fully incorporate all academic and professional staff in a newly named College Senate.
2. To create more transparency with the committees reporting regularly to the Speaker and the faculty/staff, and the Speaker to the faculty/staff, and the administration (VPAA) back to the College Senate.
3. To revamp the committee structures.

Dr. Buckingham indicated that the overall goal is to strengthen the decision-making structure of faculty/staff governance and improve/focus the work of committees in a way most helpful in making decisions.

Dr. Buckingham commented that he has noticed that a number of faculty, staff, and students are utilizing the administrative quad now. The improvements to that area are a nice addition to the campus.

**Council Items:**

a) **Resolution to approve the appointments of Dominick L. Sabatino, Melanie Littlejohn, Barry S. Weiss, and Joe Delmonico to the School of Business Advisory Council.**
   
   Motion to approve: Mr. Steven Jones; seconded: Ms. Sue Dietrich.

b) **Resolution to approve the appointment of Kelly Boswell to the Nutrition and Dietetics Advisory Committee.**

   Motion to approve: Mr. Steven Jones; seconded: Ms. Judy Noyes.

c) **SUNY Helps (Hurricane Irene Recovery).**

   Mr. Morgan received an email from the Chancellor regarding the Hurricane Irene Recovery. The Chancellor is requesting a donation from Morrisville State College to the SUNY Helps fund for students most affected by Hurricane Irene. Mr. Carreno suggested that donations could be done through the Morrisville College Foundation to SUNY Helps if anyone wished to make a personal donation.
Announcements:

Mr. Morgan announced that he has submitted the Council’s annual report to SUNY. He explained that the annual report is simply copies of the agendas and the minutes from the preceding year.

Mr. Morgan reminded the members of the College Council that the ACT conference is scheduled on October 14 and 15. He encouraged the members of the Council to attend if at all possible. The ACT will be covering some of the expenses to keep the overall cost down.

At 12:03 pm, Chairman Morgan asked for a motion to move the College Council meeting into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter under provisions of Section 105 of Article 7 of the Public Officers Law. Motion by Mr. Jones; seconded: Ms. Noyes.

At 2:15 pm Chairman Morgan called the College Council meeting back to order.

Adjournment
Motion to adjourn: Mr. Steven Jones; seconded: Ms. Judy Noyes. Meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann Godfrey
Temporary Secretary to the College Council