Meeting of the Morrisville State College Council  
Whipple Administration Building – President’s Board Room  
Friday, October 24, 2012

Council Members Present:  Arnold Fisher; Lawrence Baker; Steven Jones; Galen Morehead, student representative; Judy Noyes; Michael Oot

Morrisville State College Staff Present:  Jo Ann Godfrey; David Rogers

Minutes
The minutes of the September 21, 2012 meeting were approved with the following additional notations under Council Items – paragraph one:
A vote was taken resulting in unanimous agreement.  Motion to approve:  Mr. Jones; Seconded:  Ms. Noyes.  Approved.

Motion to approve the minutes as amended:  Mr. Jones; seconded:  Mr. Baker.  Approved.

Vice Chair, Mr. Fisher called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

Dr. Rogers introduced Mr. William F. Howard, Senior Vice Chancellor, General Counsel and Secretary of the University.  Mr. Howard was visiting Morrisville State College the morning of October 24 which provided an opportunity for him to meet briefly with the members of the College Council.  Some highlights of that discussion:

- Does the College Council have the privilege of utilizing the SUNY Counsel’s Office?  Mr. Howard responded that the Counsel’s Office would be available to the College Council.
- The College Council had the opportunity to respond to the Chancellor and Board of Trustees regarding a shared President and shared services last summer.  The Council never received an acknowledgement of that response.  The Council noted that it was unclear and difficult to determine who to send their response to, but ultimately they were able to figure that out.  They were unable to utilize any facilities on the Morrisville Campus and had to prepare the report themselves.
- Mr. Oot had sent a FOIL request to System Administration and he never received an acknowledgement of that request or anything else for that matter.
- The Council stated that Dr. Yeigh took reorganization action without consultation.
- It was asked if it would be possible for the College Council to copy Mr. Howard on future correspondence?  Mr. Howard responded that they could.
- Some members of the College Council attended the recent ACT conference.  This conference provided an opportunity for them to talk with other College Councils about such things as the power and responsibilities of the College Council, and who attends College Council meetings, how often do other Councils meet, etc.
- SUNY is interested in saving money through shared services, yet we have not been able to get any information on the accounting of that.
- The public has raised the question, “Does Morrisville still exist?”
- Contributions are not coming as in years previous.  Many are responding that they will not contribute “until you have a President.”
- The Middle States Reaccreditation noted concern over the uncertainty of the leadership of Morrisville State College.
Provost and Chief Operating Officer

Dr. Rogers advised the members of the College Council that he and Dr. Yeigh and Mr. Reichel met with System Administration to discuss budget matters including the loss of the small campus adjustment, transitional funding, and the new budget model built on the distribution of students across programs and not just FTE. Dr. Rogers indicated that he would be working on a business plan showing how the College would utilize transitional funding to help with increasing enrollment and with retention efforts.

The Monitoring Report to Middle States is due April 1, 2013. Dr. Rogers indicated that the Monitoring Report has to include evidence of a sustained process for documenting how assessment results are used for improvement of teaching and learning (Standard 14), evidence that there is a Chief Executive Officer whose primary responsibility is to lead the institution toward the achievement of its goals and for the administration of the institution (Standard 5) and an assessment of the effectiveness of institutional leadership and governance, in relation to recently implemented shared services agreements (Standard 4).

Dr. Rogers noted that a project update was included in everyone’s folder so he would not be covering that item in detail.

Dr. Rogers read a letter from a student who attended the recent Open House. The student was very appreciative of the time that Dr. Rogers and other faculty and staff spent providing information and showing him what Morrisville has to offer.

The Director of Admissions, Ms. Leslie Crosley is not on campus today, but will attend a future Council meeting to provide a report. Dr. Rogers commented that enrollment is down but the freshman applications and transfer applications for January are the highest they have been in a while. Mr. Baker asked whether or not the Admissions Office would be changing their outreach efforts. Dr. Rogers responded that Ms. Crosley has identified some different strategies. An Enrollment Steering Committee has been established to work with Ms. Crosley to develop a strategic enrollment plan including campus and departmental enrollment targets, assess new and changing recruitment markets and strategies, and planning for implementation of target market initiatives. The committee includes Dr. Rogers, Ms. Crosley and other faculty and staff. Dr. Rogers stated that he believes the decrease in enrollment is more of a communication issue and not a customer service issue. Mr. Baker asked if there had been any feedback from faculty on the quality of the entering class this fall. Dr. Rogers responded that any comments he has heard have been typical for the start of the semester. Many students do not understand what is required to succeed in college and that is why a Freshman Experience or First Year Experience course is something that should be considered to help increase retention.

Dr. Rogers indicated that the Council will find a letter from Gerard O’Sullivan, Superintendent of the Norwich City School District in their meeting folders. Mr. O’Sullivan cites the success thus far of building a cooperative program between the Morrisville State College Norwich Campus and the Norwich City School District.

Student Government Report

Galen Morehead announced that there will be a “Pizza with the Presidents and Provost” on October 30 from 5-7pm. This is an open forum with the students and the members of the College Council are invited to attend.

On November 2-4 the Executive Board will be attending the Student Assembly Conference being held in Syracuse.

The membership for the Assembly has increased three-fold through the members-at-large. Mr. Morehead commented that at the start of the semester there were four and now there are 18.
The Executive Board participated in the recent Open House. Prospective students were excited to learn that there are events for students on weekends.

Mr. Morehead announced that he has a Disney Internship next summer from June through August. The members of the College Council congratulated him on this great opportunity.

Mr. Baker asked if a lot of clubs participated in Mustang Weekend. Mr. Morehead responded that there were a lot of clubs involved in the carnival that weekend.

Mr. Jones questioned whether or not there was any progress on discussions about the College Council moving away from the approval process of new clubs. He added that the members of the College Council would be glad to move away from the approval process. Mr. Morehead responded that he was waiting to receive more information from Nichole Williams who is now the Vice President of the Student Assembly. Mr. Morehead responded that at this point he was more concerned about the number of clubs that have not sought approval and were not currently sponsored by SGO. Mr. Buckingham questioned the College’s liability when clubs that are not sponsored by SGO are meeting on campus.

Mr. Morehead responded that even though these clubs are not recognized by SGO the School does recognize them. Once additional information is known, Mr. Morehead indicated he would bring this item back to the College Council for discussion.

**Speaker, College Senate Report**

A copy of the Memorandum that was sent to Dr. Kenneth O’Brien, President of the University Faculty Senate was provided to the members of the College Council. Mr. Buckingham asked for the College Council’s endorsement of the request contained in this memorandum that the “College Senate asks that they be accorded the same consideration that students have achieved, a voting seat on the College Council.” It was agreed that any change to the membership of College Council would require legislative action. Mr. Morehead asked if he could share the memorandum with the Assembly and Mr. Buckingham indicated that he could.

The College Senate has completed review of the academic calendar proposals and will be sending a recommendation to Dr. Yeigh. The College Senate is also reviewing the Tuesday/Thursday meetings schedule.

**Other Business:**

Ms. Noyes led the discussion on information from the ACT conference that some members of the College Council attended.

The College Council requested an update on the next Capital Plan and an update on the Research Foundation activities on campus.

Mr. Oot indicated that he would do some research on why faculty have not been included on the College Councils as a voting member.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn: Mr. Baker; Seconded: Mr. Oot. Meeting was adjourned at 11:47 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann Godfrey  
Temporary Secretary to the College Council