

**Meeting of the Morrisville State College Council
5th Floor Board Room, Whipple Administration Building
Friday, April 18, 2008 – 10:00 a.m.**

Council Members Present: Chairman Matthew Morgan; Lawrence Baker; James Dunne; Arnold Fisher; Judith Noyes; Alexander Herzog, student representative

Excused: Susan Dietrich; Hugh Riehlman

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

Prior to the start of the meeting, Dr. Cross and the College Council walked to the Library to see the new area designated as the Academic Enrichment Center (EOP, International Students, Institutional Diversity/Affirmative Action, the Johnson Institute and the Academic Support Center - Disability Services and Tutoring/Skills Courses). These services are now all together in one area instead of being housed in different locations on campus.

The newly appointed College Council Chairman, Mr. Matthew Morgan called the meeting to order at 10:22 a.m. Mr. Morgan acknowledged that he and Mr. Fisher have been friends for a very long time. He complimented Mr. Fisher for doing a wonderful job as Chairman of the College Council and indicated that with Mr. Fisher's guidance, he hopes to maintain the same stature that he did as Chair.

Mr. Morgan nominated Mr. Arnold Fisher as Vice Chair. Mr. Baker seconded.

Mr. Fisher told the Council that he started at Morrisville College when Roy Whipple was President in 1967. It was a great experience. Mr. Fisher indicated that he has had the pleasure of working with four different Presidents, but the last one is by far the most outstanding person and has done a fine job. Mr. Fisher complimented Mr. Morgan on all of the "behind the scenes" work that he has done in support of Morrisville State College in his previous lobbying position. He indicated that Mr. Morgan was a great member of this organization and he is very pleased that Matt was selected by the Governor as Chairman. Mr. Fisher indicated that he was looking forward to working with Mr. Morgan as Chair.

Minutes:

The minutes from the February 29, 2008 meeting were approved. Motion by Mr. Lawrence Baker; seconded by Mr. Arnold Fisher.

President's Report:

Budget

SUNY's operating budget reduction is 2.9%, which for Morrisville is about \$350,000. Dr. Cross indicated that our strategy will be to be very careful as expenditures and new and replacement hires are reviewed. Mr. Fisher questioned controlling new hires since new programs will require new hires. Dr. Cross agreed and indicated that the programs that will bring immediate enrollment to help address those costs would be brought on line first, but changes will also have to be made in programs that are not doing well. New enrollment will generate new revenue. Dr. Cross emphasized the importance of meeting our enrollment. He indicated that as far as strategic initiatives, with a shift to a one year commitment, we could have the design completed on STUAC and Bailey Hall, and no more funding coming forward. At this point, Dr. Cross indicated, we just don't know.

Dr. Cross outlined what Morrisville had requested, what the Assembly had approved, what the Senate had approved, and what the Executive Budget is. For Capital Improvements, Morrisville did receive \$1M for Landscape Campus Beautification and \$5M to upgrade the athletic fields. Morrisville also received \$7M for the Equine Rehabilitation Center.

Mr. Fisher asked how the \$7M would come through for Equine Rehabilitation. Dr. Cross responded that it would either come through the ESCD or through DASNY. Our preference would be through the Dormitory Authority (DASNY) which will allow us to use the Morrisville College Foundation which would give us more flexibility.

Mr. Morgan asked if the Design Center was now on hold in view of the budget situation. Dr. Cross explained that it was not on hold since that money was approved last year. As visitors enter campus they will see the new Design Center, the improvements to the athletic fields with lighting and new turf, the improvement to the Student Activities Building, along with landscaping changes. These improvements will give visitors a very good first impression of the college.

Enrollment Management Report – Mr. Tom VerDow:

Currently applications are up 15.6% as compared to last year. Mr. VerDow indicated that when all is said and done, we should be up 10%. Active accepts are up - this figure changes every day. As of April 17, 2008, there are 754 paid deposits. Looking at the last three years, Mr. VerDow indicated that he predicts that we should be up about 100 at the end of the year which is usually a good predictor of how many students will actually enroll. Mr. Baker asked what impact that would have on the budget. Dr. Cross responded that we do keep the tuition; however, there is a lag.

Mr. Morgan commented that this is only the beginning. These figures reflect a job well-done. Mr. Baker agreed. Mr. VerDow responded that Admissions is back to "old

school” techniques with a great staff that deserve a lot of credit. The staff has been asked to do a lot more and they are rising to the challenge.

Mr. Baker noted that having Bachelor degree programs should also help to attract more students. Mr. VerDow agreed that having four-year programs does change the perception of the college. The increase right now could be typical of a four-year institution since those students typically have their decisions made by May 1.

Dr. Cross indicated that Tom VerDow’s efforts to visit schools and spend time with his staff have really made a difference.

Mr. Morgan asked Mr. VerDow to relay the College Council’s thanks to the Admissions staff – great job – great turnaround in a short time – and their work has not gone unnoticed!

KESMARC

Conversations are continuing with Hub and Kirsten Johnson of KESMARC. They want to partner with Morrisville State College to offer college level credit at the KESMARC – South facility that they plan to build in Ocala. This facility will be built at Farnsworth Farms which is near the HITS (Horses in the Sun) facility. Mr. John Roberts, a former Morrisville College Foundation and College Council member, lives near this area. Dr. Cross explained that our students in the Equine Science Bachelors program would take a 15 credit concentration in Equine Rehabilitation and Physiology at KESMARC-South. This experience would be more than an internship because the students would receive certification. There would be two levels of internships. Morrisville students would move right into the advanced experience. We would be able to accept students from all over the country in the first experience. Housing will be available onsite and we will also be offering extensive workshop and seminar activities. We expect to be ready to offer this experience in the fall of 2009.

Mr. Baker asked if any Morrisville Equine faculty live in Florida. Dr. Cross responded that there are.

Mr. Morgan asked if the KESMAR experience had to be approved by The NYS Education Department or by Florida’s Education Department. Dr. Cross responded that neither had to approve since this is a concentration.

Mr. Fisher commented that having Morrisville State College selected by KESMARC to be a partner certainly speaks very well for our College and our program.

Dr. Cross indicated that KESMARC is very well-known in the equine industry. There have been thirteen horses that a Vet had said would never race again that were treated at KESMARC and have since become high stakes winners.

Dr. Cross indicated that another concentration that is being considered with the HITS operation so close is Events Management for the horse industry.

Charlotte Farms

The owner of this 20 acre parcel is considering donating it to Morrisville State College if a buyer cannot be identified. If the property is donated to Morrisville, we would have the option of selling it, or perhaps partnering with Central Florida Community College to assist them in developing their Equine associate degree program. Dr. Cross will keep the Council updated on this possibility.

Grants

Dr. Cross summarized the recent grants that Morrisville State College has received:

- almost \$2M to establish a Renewable Energy Training Center and develop new AAS and BS/BT degrees
- \$250K from the NY State Economic Development Corp. for Controlled Environmental Agriculture (Smart Farming) and also Value-Added Processing
- Department of Energy Grant for \$300K with \$50K to Morrisville State College
- \$2K from the New York Council for the Humanities
- \$75K plus \$200K from the New York Farm Viability Grant for Algae Research (with Eltrex Corp.) and also Web-Based Marketing Solutions
- SUNY Grant – High Needs - \$400K
- NASA Grant - \$31K
- Kauffman Foundation Entrepreneurship Grant - \$40K

Dr. Cross has been working with O'Brien and Gere and Eltrex on a bioreactor for the controlled environmental agriculture project. We would like to create a small operation at the farm that would serve as a test site. Mr. Fisher asked where the algae research would take place. Dr. Cross explained that it would be set up behind the dairy barn.

Mr. Fisher acknowledged that grants are a lot of work to obtain and a lot of follow up work once you have them.

NYC Styrofoam Replacement Project

NYC uses four million trays per week. There is a company willing to come here from California to establish potato starch biodegradable container production plant here in upstate New York. A process to compost post-consumer food waste is also being developed that would save NYC \$20-25M per year in landfill fees. Dr. Cross indicated that Morrisville State College has begun composting food waste and mixing it with horse manure along with the trays and cups. Some cornstarch products are also being used. Mr. Baker asked how the students have reacted to this new process. Dr. Cross responded that feedback has been very positive. Mr. Herzog agreed and indicated that students have

said that this is a really good idea. Ms. DeCerce commented that the launching of this new project will occur on Earth Day and the press is covering the event.

Oxford Scholarship

Dr. Sheila Johnson has made an arrangement with Oxford University in England. She will be offering a full masters degree scholarship to one of our Nursing or Science, Technology and Society students. The recipient will be required to spend two years in an international country working for the CARE organization after completing their Masters degree.

Cabinet Reports:

Vice President for Administrative Services

Oneida Hall will be converted to all single rooms. Mr. Carreno indicated that the demand for housing is now for single rooms.

Construction has begun on a second Morrisville Commons (Morrisville Commons II) and should be completed by this time next year.

The third house has been completed by the Residential Construction program students and a buyer has been identified. The sale will be completed this spring and construction on the fourth house has begun. Building houses has had a very positive impact on the Residential Construction program. There has been a 25% enrollment increase in that program since we started building houses. Dr. Cross indicated that the possibility of building houses in the village of Morrisville is being explored. Mr. Fisher suggested that building a house for the President should also be considered. Mr. Morgan suggested that rehabbing houses might be something worthwhile too. Mr. Carreno indicated that students have designed and built garages in the village and the surrounding area in the past. Building a house takes two years since work is limited to the academic year. Dr. Cross indicated that the project in the village could include some rehab work. Mr. VerDow noted that students want to be able to build a house and having this opportunity here at Morrisville is a real draw for the program. Ms. Noyes asked if the College makes a profit when a house is sold. Dr. Cross responded that the profit is enrollment in the program.

Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Mr. VanRiper indicated that Academic Affairs is continuing to work on new program development and internal and external reviews.

The new two-year degree program in Autobody has been approved by SED.

SUNY requires that each academic program has to be reviewed on a five year cycle. External reviewers are invited to campus to review the program along with one internal person from a different School that is also part of the review team. The team reviews the self-study, meets with students, faculty, support services and visits the facility. The team prepares a report which is submitted at the completion of the review. Mr. VanRiper indicated that there are 80+ programs that are reviewed on a five year cycle. Colleges have an increasing responsibility to do assessment. With the upcoming Middle States Evaluation in four years, even more assessment will need to be done at Morrisville.

April is Academic Excellence Month. Schools, programs, clubs and organizations will be recognizing achievements through all kinds of activities.

We are developing a campus wide emergency management plan and part of that is a campus communication plan that is primarily Jessica DeCerce's responsibility. This plan will be shared with the faculty and professional staff at their next meeting. Then in late spring or summer we intend to start some practice sessions so people can watch a demonstration and think through what they should do in an emergency. Mr. VanRiper indicated that as an institution we need to be prepared in the event of an emergency.

A Professional Development Fund was created several years ago to assist faculty and professional staff with expenses associated with professional development activities. Mr. VanRiper indicated that his office received \$22,000 worth of requests. The Professional Development Committee supported 37 faculty and staff by providing awards ranging from \$70 to \$600 each.

SUNY sponsored a Professional Development conference in Syracuse. Morrisville sent nine faculty and staff to that conference which provided an opportunity for them to learn more about professional development strategies. Mr. VanRiper indicated that these faculty and staff have been very helpful in suggesting ways to increase professional development activities.

Student Government Report:

Mr. Herzog updated the College Council on the recent elections:

Patrick King is the new President-elect

The current Vice President, Armando Franco has been re-elected

Scott Nicolai has been elected as the Director of Budgets

The Mandatory Student Activities Fee vote took place and the fee will remain mandatory by an 80% vote. Mr. Herzog indicated that next year there may be an effort to try and increase this fee. He indicated that Morrisville has one of the lowest fees in SUNY.

The Dessert with the Deans event had a good turnout and everyone was pleased.

The semi-formal dance is coming up and the students are looking forward to that. Mr. Morgan asked what the attire for the dance would be. Mr. Herzog responded that a suit would not be required, but jeans could not be worn.

The SUNY Student Assembly Conference is being held in Auburn this year.

The SGO Awards Banquet is scheduled for May 2 at 4 pm. This event is open to the public. The Rays of Light Award will be given out during this event.

Dr. Cross asked Mr. Herzog if he had decided which college he would be attending next year. He responded that he had not. Dr. Cross indicated that it has been a pleasure having Mr. Herzog here at Morrisville. The members of the College Council agreed.

Faculty Speaker Report:

The 2009-10 and 2010-11 academic calendars have been voted on and approved in Faculty Congress.

The academic warning and dismissal proposals have turned into a discussion about retention and how we can help students to succeed. A Joint Task Force on Student Academic Advisement (faculty, professional staff and administration) is being proposed.

The Promotion Committee has been working on ways to improve their procedures and help faculty to better understand the process. A workshop for faculty is being planned.

The Awards Committee is also working to improve the language and updating their procedures to include changes in SUNY guidelines.

The Faculty Senate Winter Plenary will be held on the Morrisville campus in January of 2009. A committee has been established and plans for hosting this event are being made. Mr. VanRiper indicated that it is likely that the SUNY Chancellor and University Provost will attend.

Mr. Dunne requested an update on the status of the structured semester that the College Council approved a year or two ago. Mr. Zbock responded that discussions are currently taking place and recommendations will be coming forward from faculty and professional staff to make some modifications so that the structured semester program will benefit students and also assist with retention. Once those recommendations are made, they would come through the approval process and ultimately will be reviewed by the College Council. Mr. VanRiper commented that the Academic Enrichment Center has the primary responsibility for developing the courses that structured semester students would be required to take. Dr. Cross indicated that approximately 25-30% of the students enrolled in structured semester are saved. There have been some changes in the program since it was originally started. Mr. VanRiper indicated that the structured semester is not automatic as it was originally. The faculty determines whether or not a student should be offered structured semester.

Council Items:

Resolution to approve the citation for Charles Root. Motion by Mr. Dunne, seconded by Mr. Fisher.

Resolution to approve the Citation for O. Perry Tooker III. Motion by Mr. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Baker.

Resolution to approve the Citation for Alexander Herzog. Motion by Mr. Baker, seconded by Mr. Dunne.

Resolution to approve the Citation for Arnold Fisher. Unanimous approval.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm. Motion by Mr. Arnold Fisher; seconded by Mr. Larry Baker.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann Godfrey
Temporary Secretary to the College Council