



**Meeting of the Morrisville State College Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room, Whipple Administration Building  
December 7, 2007 – 10:00 a.m.**

**Council Members Present:** Chairman Arnold Fisher; James Dunne; Matthew Morgan; Hugh Riehlman; O. Perry Tooker; and Ahmed Rafiq, student representative.

**Excused:** Susan Dietrich.

**SUNY Morrisville Staff Present:** Ray Cross; Jessica DeCerce; Joyce Malloy; James VanRiper; and Jason Zbock, Faculty Congress Speaker.

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

**Minutes:**

The minutes from the October 12, 2007 meeting were approved. Motion by Matt Morgan; seconded by Perry Tooker.

**President's Report:**

Dr. Cross told the group that he wanted to talk about the SUNY Budget Request and new academic programs – a status report of where we are and what we are working on. I have asked Tom Verdow to join us with enrollment projections; Rich will cover the five-year capital plan; and I want to talk a bit about the Applied Design Center.

**SUNY Budget Request**

As a system, SUNY is asking for almost \$2.4B. Included in that request is the addition of 1,000 more full-time faculty, some of whom are embedded in the SUNY Compact. It will also include a tuition increase, although they won't ask for one every five years. Instead, it may likely be that a student will have a tuition amount that will remain the same for the four years that student is in college. Each year, that tuition amount could change.

As far as the 1,000 additional faculty is concerned, there are two extreme opinions. One is that UUP is only going to replace adjunct faculty with full-time faculty. The other is that research institutions may use some of those lines for new areas – new ventures. There will probably be a balance of the two. I very strongly support adding more research faculty – I think the State of New York needs to invest in research and spend more on research & development. Certain areas such as the NC triangle, Silicone Valley, Nashua, NH and now Albany are still growing. Perhaps CNY can be the renewable energy capital of the world.

## Capital Budget Request

The Governor indicated he would like to see about a 3% increase for education, health care and economic development. This is going to be a very tight budget so he might not be able to do that. These are the issues:

Broken down into a five-year plan, SUNY is asking for \$7.25B. SUNY wants to rehabilitation some of the old buildings on campuses (\$3.75B); there are some strategic capital initiatives (\$2.50B); and there are some evolving initiatives – whatever comes up (\$1,00B). In a separate category, there is the “Greening of SUNY” for \$541.9M. We have projects in all these categories. This plan is carefully thought out and the cost of construction and investment in the infrastructure will do a lot to stimulate the economy.

## Academic Programs

Programs that have been registered since the fall of 2006 include a BBA in Agricultural Business Development; an AAS in Early Childhood Development (Norwich); an AAS in Human Services (Norwich); a BS in Human Performance and Health Promotion; a BBA in Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management; a BT in Horticultural Business Management; a BS in Nursing; a BS in Journalism and Communications for Online Media; a BS in Science, Technology & Society; and an AAS in Criminal Justice (Norwich).

Programs expected to be completed for Fall 2008 are: a BT in Information Technology; Cybersecurity; a BBA in Video Journalism; a BT in Criminal Justice; a BBA in Technology Management; an AAS in Autobody; a BS in Applied Psychology; a BT in Nutrition Management; a BBA in Business Administration; and a BS in Equine Physiology. We are very excited about these programs. Added to our current 19 bachelor degrees programs, this will bring us up to 27 programs. We are also working on a bachelor’s degree in Architecture which we hope to have available in fall 2009. It’ll be a five-year program. Also, a BT in Automotive Engineering Technology may be coming on line soon as well as a BT in Entertainment Electronics Technology; a possible BS in Renewable Energy; a BT in E-Commerce; and a BT in Energy Systems Management.

Then, there are the programs that will be housed in the Applied Design Center: Graphic Design; Interior Design, Automotive Design Technology and Industrial or Product Design.

## Interim Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Jim VanRiper talked about the proposed Equine Physiology degree. In the past, in order to get a program through State Ed, it has always been necessary to obtain a review by external reviewers. In this particular case, however, we won’t have to go through that since we have our own faculty who can do that. We have four experts that rival anyone we can invite in, so we are going to request not to have an external review. This will show our growth as an institution.

Another thing: program names that were colonized such as Technology Management: Information Technology. Presidents of the Colleges of Technology have convinced State Ed to allow them to shorten the names. Our Admissions area and our faculty are very happy to get rid of some of those really long program names.

We will also be negotiating with Delhi to change the name of our Hospitality Management degree.

Mr. VanRiper wanted to tell the Council a little more about the work of the Academic Enrichment Center. It has expanded to include C-Step which is an academic enrichment program developed to promote students’ entry and performance in science, technology and licensed professions. That has taken off and done very well. We

also have the tutor program and EOP on campus to help students. We have been working with Syracuse to have graduates shadow our professors – it's the Visiting Professor program. The Honors Program is something we hope to develop. So, as soon as school is out, we will be moving reference material and stacks, creating space for the Academic Enrichment Center in the Library so that students will be able to find these services all in one space. We really think it's going to be a great service to the students. It's also going to look great. As you know, current libraries don't need as much space for books as they used to.

### **Director of Admissions**

Dr. Cross asked Tom Verdow to tell the Council where we are with enrollment and where we project ourselves to be in the future. Mr. Verdow told the group that our best case scenario will be that we'll come up short about 100 students for the spring semester to meet our average FTE goals. We will work hard to bring in more students. Right now, we have two areas that are doing well – readmits and previous grads looking to increase their two-year degree to a four year degree.

Mr. Verdow said that we are pushing for 3125 students. We could be 75-100 students short; or we could make it because our retention is going up. In addition, our bachelor degrees are creating better retention and attracting students to come back.

Next year looks better for us. Application counts for the Technology Colleges are up 20% during the last three years. And we are out-performing everyone else in our sector. If we can maintain that, our numbers will look very good. Although transfer applications are down (which we will work on); freshman applications are up. We also have increased the numbers in our contact database to 9,000 junior and senior high school students and mail has been sent to them. The conversion rate on those is fairly low, but the average return is 3%.

While applications are still very strong in Nursing, Equine and Automotive, it's pleasing to see that we have a smattering of growth everywhere, which is better than seeing two or three programs exploding.

Mr. Fisher complimented Mr. Verdow on getting things turned around -- he's doing an excellent job.

### **Vice President for Administration**

Mr. Carreno reported that 73% of the buildings on SUNY campuses are 30 years old or more. That will give you an idea of the backlog of work that needs to be done.

The first two projects for us, the Equine Rehabilitation Center and the Combined Heat & Power project will come out of economic development funds, so those are not included in the \$7.25B budget.

Our Critical maintenance list is lengthy and includes renovation of the gym, pool and fitness center; renovation of Charlton, Bailey, Galbreath, Marshall, and Shannon Halls as well as construction of a new computer data center, library upgrades, academic space upgrades – it's lengthy. If we were funded through Galbreath Hall (not the whole building – that would take our whole budget), I think we would be doing well on the critical maintenance side.

One of the things we'd really like to accomplish would be to upgrade our athletic fields with turf, better seating, new lighting and landscaping.

There was discussion about the transformation of the dairy barn into the design center. There will be a third

floor suspended from the roof and supported from below; there's going to be a big atrium; there will be an addition that looks like a silo, but will be the elevator and stairs for the building. It's going to be a beautiful facility.

Also, in terms of future construction, there are some things going on. The new auto performance building should be ready in June, 2008. We will occupy it during the summer and be ready to hold classes there in the fall. Dr. Cross commented that we are hoping that auto body associates' degree will be housed there and free up space on campus and the bachelor's degree will occupy some of the other space. Dr. Cross also said that we are having some serious conversations with Toyota who is looking for a northeast training center.

Mr. Carreno indicated that we are working with the architect now on the design facility. That will probably go out to bid in June, 2008; construction will begin in the fall; and we'll occupy the building in 2010. Seneca Dining Hall is largely completed – feedback from the staff is very positive.

The Morrisville College Foundation is planning to build The Commons II; it was approved at the last meeting. This is anticipated to be a twelve month project and should be completed in the spring of 2009.

### **Student Government Report**

Ahmed Rafiq indicated that he wanted to highlight what Student Government has done since the last meeting.

SGO officers went to the SUNY Assembly Conference in Binghamton

For Domestic Violence Awareness month, the Executive Board and a number of other people did a silent walk around campus. For Breast Cancer Awareness, Ahmed wanted to compliment the work of the RA's from October 26-28 as they raised \$1240 for breast cancer and it was donated to the national foundation.

The College Activities Board has been actively engaged in doing a number of events for clubs on campus this year. SGO is also examining both sides of the student activity fee; whether it should be mandatory vs. voluntary.

Ahmed concluded his report by saying that some of the SGO positions are changing. There are two positions open that need to be filled by the end of the semester.

### **Faculty Speaker Report**

Jason Zbock reported on the actions of Faculty Congress since the last College Council meeting in October.

They are continuing with their revision of the Academic Warning and Dismissal policy. This would combine several existing policies into one readable policy statement. The initial draft has gone out to the faculty.

Faculty Congress accepted the Ad-Hoc Committee recommendations on Honors Designations on October 16, 2007. That has moved on to Academic Council for their approval.

There has been much discussion and a vote was taken on an amendment allowing athletics representation on Faculty Congress. The amendment did not pass. Mr. Fisher asked Jason what the objection is. He indicated it concerns the wording of the broad Faculty Congress membership. Because Athletics is so large, they would have more representatives than any of our schools. This will be looked at again. Matt Morgan commented that

he believes there should be athletic representation and hopes that Jason will continue to lobby for athletics.

A discussion was started regarding the academic calendar for 2009-2010 and 2010-2011. We are looking at the final exam week. One model will give students with disabilities an extra day to work out any conflicts. Dave Symonds put together some needs for his area and Marian Whitney will compare that to what other institutions are doing at the end of the semester to determine when grades are due and still allow time off for professional staff. We hope to have this issue completed by the end of the spring semester.

Tim Penix gave a presentation regarding the services of the Academic Enrichment Center. It was very informative and Jason indicated Faculty Congress will ask for similar presentations on are updates.

### **Council Items:**

- a) Resolution to approve curriculum advisory committee appointment of Cynthia Thurston to the Nursing Advisory Committee. Motion by Matt Morgan; seconded by Perry Tooker.
- b) Resolution to approve the Workplace Violence Policy; policy #2118. This is a pretty standard policy and we are just finalizing it. This was brought about by a change in the labor law. Motion by Perry Tooker; seconded by Hugh Riehlman.
- c) Resolution to approve the Academic Honors Designation; policy #6107. Motion by James Dunne; seconded by Perry Tooker
- d) Resolution to approve the constitution of the Morrisville State College Collegiate FFA Chapter. Motion by Hugh Riehlman; seconded by James Dunne.

### **Other Business:**

Dr. Cross reminded the College Council members that he introduced the dashboard indicators to them at our last meeting. He plans to have that updated and will distribute it at the next meeting.

Also, Dr. Cross wanted to be sure to remind everyone to take home a poinsettia plant. There's one for each of you and they were grown in our greenhouse by our students.

Finally, Joyce Malloy is planning to retire and this is her last College Council meeting. Arnold Fisher and Dr. Cross would like to introduce a resolution on her behalf. Arnold then read the citation. Motion by Matt Morgan; seconded by Perry Tooker.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. Motion by Jim Dunne, seconded by Hugh Riehlman.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Malloy  
Temporary Secretary to the College Council