

**Meeting of the SUNY Morrisville College Council**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room, Whipple Building**  
**December 13, 2002 – 10:00 a.m.**

**Council Members Present:** Sarah Blood, Student Representative; Chairman Arnold Fisher; Don Huller; James Dunne; Matt Morgan; Hugh Riehlman; and Perry Tooker.

**Excused:** Thomas Morrone and Charles Root.

**Morrisville State College Staff Present:** John Angerosa; Charles Blaas; Rich Carreno; Michael Corpin; Ray Cross; Jessica DeCerce; Joyce Malloy; Michael Oppedisano, Faculty Congress Speaker; and Marian Whitney.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Arnold Fisher.

**Minutes:**

The minutes from the November 8, 2002 meeting were approved. Motion by Matt Morgan, seconded by Don Huller.

**President's Report:**

Dr. Cross distributed to each member of the College Council a Morrisville State College lapel pin and asked each to take a poinsettia plant when they leave. He also distributed a copy of our new brochure on our bachelor degree programs. We now have 12 and we are working on three more for next year.

**Budget:** As far the budget is concerned, we won't know before the middle of January what the Governor will propose and what will be in the budget. We anticipate another 5% cut in state aid. The reality is we need to increase tuition but be sure there is no reduction in TAP. There will be no lay-offs because of the budget decrease; however, we can look at closing programs due to low enrollment. This is also the time to borrow money to remodel the infrastructure and stimulate our local economy. We'll know more when the Governor submits his budget at the end of January.

**Projects:** Right now, our Methane Digester is in the final phase of design bidding within the next month. We have the funding but we're not sure if we have all of it. It's coming along rather well. It'll be a great project.

**Heifer Barn:** We're going to try to get this done in another way. We badly need this operation because we can't buy replacement cows fast enough.

**Fountain View Dormitory:** The structure is enclosed and it will be worked on over the course of the winter. It'll have 88 rooms, all singles.

**Co-generation:** We were 95% complete with this project before we discovered an error in the engineer's figures. It changes the payback significantly so we will look at this from another perspective. We may be able to get additional funds if we can "green" up the system to burn bio-fuels. The design could be modified to burn different fuels. Right now, the project is on hold.

**Next five-year plan:** One of our main priorities is to remodel four of our academic buildings to accommodate new programs and instructional labs. Those buildings are Galbreath, Marshall, Charlton and Crawford. We have also requested two more things:

- 1) A campus center be built by remodeling STUAC and covering the area between the Administration Building, the Library and STUAC.
- 2) Modify Brooks Hall for use as a hospitality center. We are working with private corporations to get some of that money donated to us.

Whether we get these things will depend on how aggressive the Governor is in requesting this five-year plan.

**Small Scale Food Processing Center** : We are in the process of trying to find a way to build a small food-processing center to complement our dairy capabilities. This institution used to have a powerful food-processing program but it was focused on serving large cannery operations. It is apparent that the growth in this area is happening in specialty foods, organic foods, and “nearly meal-ready” foods. New York products are not penetrating New York markets and we need to change that. We hope to use the Nelson Inn and will co-partner with the Adirondack Kitchen to operate a packing and distribution center for specialty foods. We have been given \$50,000 from the Key Bank Foundation, \$100,000 from Ag & Markets and we have applied for other grants from \$60,000 to \$500,000 each. This has the support of a lot of people and has captured the attention of a lot of influential people in and out of the state, including Kraft and Nabisco. This has tremendous potential for the farmer who wants to milk 60-70 cows and also do something on the side. This would give them a secondary income.

### **Student Government Report:**

Sarah Blood reports that the Student Government Organization has been very busy. This last week, they’ve been interviewing to replace Ben Dunigan as the CAB Chairperson. Ben is transferring to Cornell. John Stokes, a freshman, will replace Ben. John has been very active in CAB this entire semester and is more than qualified. Sarah said that John has a lot of good ideas and it will be good to work with him.

SGO members participated in the tree lighting ceremony at Crouse Community by volunteering to be Santa’s elves. It was nice to be able to work with some of the residents there. SGO is going over proposals and constitutions for new clubs and organizations that will come here for approval by the College Council. Some of the clubs have plans to travel, including the Architecture club, Agronomy club and LASO. SGO also participated in a memorial service for Douglas Shumpert, a student who recently died while playing basketball with a group of friends.

### **Academic Affairs Report:**

Dr. Blaas indicated that today is the last day of classes for the semester. It’s hard to believe another semester has gone by, but we’re proud of our students and what they’ve accomplished this semester.

A number of programs have gone through academic program review this semester, including Nursing, Liberal Arts, and Automotive.

Dr. Blaas told the group that students taking the nursing program exam had a 100% pass rate on the state exam. Most of these students graduated in May. We’re very proud of the faculty and students in that area.

**Academic Initiatives:** We’re looking at the upgrade and maintenance of some of our programs including a possible baccalaureate in nursery or horticulture management; teacher prep at the associate level; baccalaureate dietetics; continue the movement in product design; and a baccalaureate in nursing program. We hope to bring these things on line as soon as possible, but ideally in the fall of 2003.

We’re also looking at what it might take to improve student needs in the equine program. The hands-on experience of the baccalaureate in technology may not be the best program to transfer seamlessly to a master’s program. We will investigate the consequences of pulling out some of those courses to add in Liberal Arts courses.

Deans Rogers and Elko and Dr. Blaas attended a press conference at Madison County BOCES to promote their VISTA program – there was an article in the Madison section of the newspaper this morning. VISTA will provide a lot of advanced student activities. The project will lead the way to partner with RIT, Hudson Valley and Mohawk Valley .

### **Administrative Services Report:**

As a follow-up on a couple of budget items, John Angerosa reported that we have already had our budget for this year reduced by \$208,000 – we had to absorb that adjustment last week. However, because we were able to participate in the early retirement incentive, we were better able to make this adjustment at this time. We believe we’ll be reduced again in the next budget year.

The State budget begins April 1st, even though the SUNY budget ends June 30<sup>th</sup>. The only way to compensate for a portion of the decrease is to increase tuition, and we hope the Governor's budget will include that. It's possible that a capital plan will call for remodeling and renovation of our infrastructure which will also boost the local economy.

When Fountain View Dormitory opens next fall, it will allow us to take some other buildings off line to do some needed work on them. Some dorm rooms will be converted to semi-doubles, adding a center partition for privacy. Over time, we will be able to refurbish the existing residence halls.

John told the group about a possible elimination of VATEA funding to our campus. President Bush has proposed that VATEA funding to two-year institutions be eliminated and those funds be incorporated into PELL funding. We have asked our Congressmen and Senators to oppose this.

### **Associate Vice President's Report:**

In regard to the retirement incentive, the Governor was committed to reduce the state work force this year and also committed to the unions there would be no lay-offs. Many campuses were not going to participate due to the restrictions on filling vacancies. Several of our employees in the heating plant have elected to participate in the incentive. We have to fill those vacancies, although we can demonstrate some savings in the turnover. Seventeen people have elected to participate in the incentive this year. They are mostly service positions; only two faculty are retiring. The incentive is much better for members of the NYS retirement plans than it is for people enrolled in TIAA-CREF. People will be leaving by the end of the month and we are examining all of these vacancies. Some will be reclassified.

We are in the last year of our labor agreements. We don't negotiate contracts locally, they are negotiated statewide. We do have some input, but negotiations haven't started yet due to the election, the state budget situation and a binding arbitration matter that has yet to be resolved. All unions are awaiting the outcome of that case.

### **School of Business Report:**

Dave Rogers, Dean of the School of Business, was invited to attend the Council meeting to give the members an update on new programs for the School. He said he appreciated being invited to share what we have planned. Currently, we have 600 students, 24 faculty (only three of whom are tenured), 20 technology programs and 7 bachelor level programs as of January. We're adding to these numbers by the day and are very excited about the creation of Destiny, USA at Carousel Center, Syracuse. This will create a number of jobs for our students in the resort and recreation program.

Morrisville State College is the only SUNY state-operated school to achieve the distinction of being accredited by ACBSP. We are really proud of that. The team was just here this past spring and reaccredited us for another ten years. This kind of achievement gives us the recognition of clearly being leaders in the technology area. Dean Rogers then gave a power point presentation to illustrate some of the things that are happening in the various programs in the School of Business.

### **Student Areas of Involvement:**

- 1) Our students designed the web page for Community Memorial Hospital.
- 2) While seniors in the hospitality program, our students run the Greenery Café during the spring semester.
- 3) Our marketing class conducted the MOO (Milk Out in the Open) survey and helped with that campaign, working with Assemblyman Bill Magee.
- 4) Our promotion management class designed fishing lures for Brian Sansone.
- 5) The project management class retrofitted our In-Lieu of Credit practice.
- 6) Our accounting students filed between 70-80 electronic tax returns during tax season.
- 7) E-Commerce: our students are working with an on-line store front for the floral shop on campus.
- 8) Travel: our staff at the on-campus agency learn ticketing and sales skills using SABRE, the industry software.

All of our BBA's require a twelve-credit internship and the above are some of the ways we've prepared them to complete that requirement. We are continually building on the old traditions here at Morrisville to allow our students to have a professional edge in their career.

Dean Rogers concluded his presentation by saying that it's not so much that we are the #1 Most Wired Two-year Campus...it's what we're doing with it to change the learning environment for our students and faculty that makes the difference.

### **Faculty Speaker Report:**

Mike Oppedisano distributed a report setting forth the matters that Faculty Congress has been working on. The Academic Affairs committee has been very busy reviewing new course proposals. The Student Affairs committee reviewed the possibility of reviving Greek life on campus. The committee concluded Greek life is not appropriate to our campus culture.

The faculty voted on the academic calendar for the upcoming 2003-2004 calendar year. A large majority (nearly 70%) voted to continue as we have in the past. This calendar will also be used through the 2007-2008 academic years.

Faculty Congress plans to investigate the responsibilities, selection and recognition of Department Chairs during the next semester.

### **Other Business:**

Matt Morgan made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Hugh Riehlman. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. Dr. Cross then took the Council members on a tour of some of the new buildings on campus. The group returned for lunch and the meeting concluded around 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles Root  
Secretary