

**Meeting of the SUNY Morrisville College Council**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room, Whipple Administration Building**  
**February 7, 2003 – 10:00 a.m.**

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

**Excused:** James Dunne, 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.

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

**Minutes:**

The minutes from the December 13, 2002 meeting were approved. Motion by Matt Morgan, seconded by Don Huller.

Chairman Fisher asked for additions to the agenda. Matt Morgan pointed out that Charles Root's term of office expired in 2002, and it would be a good idea to temporarily assign the position of Secretary to someone else until a new secretary is appointed. A short discussion followed. Matt Morgan made a motion that Joyce Malloy be appointed Assistant Secretary to sign and certify the minutes, seconded by Don Huller.

**President's Report:**

Dr. Cross informed the group that we are continuing to invite campus personnel to the College Council meetings to inform members on various aspects of the institution. Today, you will hear from Jim VanRiper, Interim Dean of the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Dr. Cross talked about the budget and the proposed tuition increase. We're not sure how this will turn out, but there will definitely be a tuition increase as the state is facing a serious deficit. We will have to make cuts as well since there are expenses that are not covered, particularly the increase in salaries.

In regard to the upcoming five-year capital plan, our budget would be about \$500,000 less than the last time, as the budget was proportioned on the basis of academic square footage. With our new buildings, we did well compared to the other colleges of technology. We'd like to use our capital plan funds for the Brooks Hospitality remodeling but, if we do that, we will need our share of the funds up front and we'll have to submit a plan within the next 30-45 days. Dr. Cross plans to visit Jean Pierre Etchinberregaray, an alum from the Atlanta area who is a Vice President with the Holiday Inn. That company is competing to operate Destiny USA in Syracuse. Our strategy would be to create a training center on our campus for employees at the future Destiny location.

Dr. Cross told the Council members that we have been working on a food-processing project at the former Nelson Inn. Renovations are being done now and we will be ready to open by the end of March. We are applying to the USDA for a rural economic development grant and we have submitted other grant applications to help with the funding for this project. We plan to develop a bachelor's degree that would allow students to work with these individuals to build their business plans and to also develop the marketing side of their business. The Nelson Inn project builds on our history and roots in food science and expands on our agricultural position. It has great potential.

We hosted a visit by Sheila Johnson in recognition of Black History Month. She wants to do more for the college in the future. On a tour of the Wood Products area, a gift was made to her of a replicated antique icebox. She is very interested in our use of Lyptus wood and would like to promote the use of that at Salamander Farms.

Dr. Cross described to the Council a horse rescue operation he was involved in last weekend. Sen. Nancy Lorraine Hoffmann called him to ask for help to relocate 17 horses that were being neglected in the Tully area. Dr. Cross was

able to accomplish this with the help of two equine students who accompanied him on this trip. The horses were all safely relocated to the State Fairgrounds and eventually to their new home in Pennsylvania .

Dr. Cross told the Council that at our next meeting, he would like to go over the Strategic Plan and Operational Report with them to review how we're meeting our goals for program and institutional expansion.

### **Student Government Report:**

Sarah Blood reported on the activities of the Student Government Organization. A national conference on Student Services will be held in Atlanta from April 11<sup>th</sup> through April 16<sup>th</sup> and they have six members who plan to attend.

Their Assembly is working on the anti-tuition hike. On February 11<sup>th</sup>, Sarah will testify before the joint session and the Ways & Means Committee at their hearing on higher education. Sarah plans to talk about how the tuition increase will affect the majority of students at the Ag & Tech colleges.

She reported that the student body has rebounded well from the water main break that occurred in January. They are pleased to have University Police Chief D'Alessandro back on campus as he has been able to address a number of their concerns. Also, an officer has been present at SGO meetings to help them formulate ideas and Chief D'Alessandro attended RA training as well. He has made himself visible and available to the student body.

Things that SGO has been working on include the annual semi-formal; budget hearings in April; the Spring Jam; and a number of constitution hearings.

### **Academic Affairs Report:**

Dr. Blaas indicated that we are in the heart of the semester and things are progressing well. We are moving along on the process of recommendations made from our Middle States visit. A master schedule of courses has been put together for next semester. Jessica DeCerce met with the Deans to discuss web page development, so we're working on that as well.

March 22<sup>nd</sup> is set to be our first Conversion Day – a day specifically tailored for students who have been accepted at Morrisville but have not yet paid their deposit. The day is designed to give them and their parents more information to help them make Morrisville their choice.

We are into the work of collecting and assembling data for the General Education Assessment Plan. There has been some talk of putting together a new academic calendar that would eliminate one of the spring breaks.

Academic programs continue to remain a priority. Some new programs that we hope to begin in fall '03 are a baccalaureate degree in the horticulture area, Nursery Management; a BBA in general Business; and an associate's degree in Teaching Education. Additionally, we have made moves toward bringing on line a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Morrisville is trying to bring about the concept of our moving to a baccalaureate institution. A lot has been done to renovate articulation agreements and Admissions has made efforts to advertise the inclusion of baccalaureate degrees in our program offerings.

Arnold Fisher inquired about getting new programs approved in Albany . In the past, we had difficulty getting them approved in a timely fashion, but Dr. Blaas indicated that has gotten much better. Morrisville submits quality materials, so there is little that needs to be improved upon. Also, we have a good working relationship with Kate VanArnam, the Associate Provost for Academic Programs.

### **Dean of Students:**

Mike Corpin reported that our University Police Department had a promotion ceremony on campus recently to honor Dave Duchene who has been promoted to Lieutenant and also to recognize the hiring of two new police officers, Tom Knight and Christine Griffin. Both officers have already gone through training and will be a welcome addition to

Morrisville, allowing us to better serve the campus community.

The Career and Counseling Center has organized the Peer Education Organization, a student group that will educate students and faculty regarding alcohol, drugs, HIV/AIDS, diversity, prevention and harm reduction as well as provide the opportunity for one-on-one conversation of these topics.

Mike informed the group that oversight of the campus swimming pool is now under the jurisdiction of MAC. The Department of Health has so many regulations that it can no longer be accomplished through the intramural office as it had in the past.

Student Government Organization has been involved on campus with the peer counselors and leadership series as well. They have also worked on the teen pregnancy campaign to bring awareness to the campus and local high schools. Although it is currently under development, more information will eventually be available on our web site and through the Sheila Crump Johnson Institute.

### **Administrative Services Report:**

John Angerosa further discussed the Governor's proposed budget. John believes it's possible the legislature will reduce the tuition hike and if they do that and state aid is not restored, the cut institutionally will be very great. The Governor has been trying to reduce TAP for 8-9 years. The current suggestion is that students will get part of their TAP in a loan that will be forgiven upon graduation. Also, there is a proposal out there to reduce the direct aid portion of the EOP Program, which will also have a big impact on our students if that goes through.

There is a design meeting scheduled to discuss the Campus Center. The Capital Plan funding for this is a part of our '03-04 Executive Budget, but we'll have the design when they give us the go-ahead. Work on our Fountain View Dormitory is progressing. There will be 88 rooms with some facing into a courtyard. This dorm will give us the ability to do necessary maintenance on other dorms each spring semester.

We will be receiving some capital funding for renovations to our infrastructure. We won't, however, be able to use that funding for new construction. It's proposed that we use this money to improve the lighting in the theater, widen the aisles, replace the seating and make it more uniform. We would also like to enlarge Plaza View snack bar to accommodate more students. Dr. Cross also suggested renovations be made to the gymnasium area to put in permanent seating which would be useful in the event we have to hold Commencement inside. Dr. Blaas indicated that the academic areas such as Galbreath and Marshall Halls are also in need of updating. Dr. Blaas also indicated he would like to see more of the Student Affairs services move into the Student Activities Building, making those offices more convenient for students.

Enrollment: We budgeted 2730 students for full time enrollment and we have roughly 2825, so we're on track for our projected enrollment for the '02-'03 academic year. As far as our Perkins III (previously VATEA) funds are concerned, President Bush originally proposed a cut in this funding. Since then, however, that has been changed to a reduction, so it's likely that our original amount of \$480,000 will be reduced, not eliminated.

### **School of Agriculture Report:**

Jim VanRiper thanked the group for giving him an opportunity to give them a look at what's currently happening in the School of Agriculture. He gave a power point presentation showing the dairy complex, the breeding facility and an overview of the academic departments.

Jim described the BT offerings and indicated that the Equine Science BT is at capacity. We need to consider increasing our facilities and that department just met with Dr. Cross and Dr. Blaas to discuss possible options.

Last year's standardbred sale grossed \$2.4-\$2.5 million and collected \$143,000 from the sale of our own horses. Recent workshops and clinics have been conducted in hunter/jumping, driving and reining by Candice King, an Olympic equestrian; Shawn Florida, a gold medallist in the reining competition; and Chester Weber, the first American to win the four-in-hand driver World Cup.

Our dairy operation is milking 67 tie-stall and 150 free-stall cows right now and the milk goes to the processing plant to produce milk, cheese and yogurt for use in the dining halls. Soon, we will also be able to grow our own heifers.

Other projects that Jim talked about were the methane digester, contract crop planting and harvesting, hydroponics, and the Center for Brownfield Studies, which is a five-college consortium that will be involved in the environmental management and contamination cleanup coupled with the redevelopment of the affected properties. He also talked about recruiting efforts at events such as Empire Farm Days, the Syracuse Farm Show, etc. and club trips. We also have many shared activities with Cornell University, Environmental Science & Forestry in Syracuse and a number of industrial collaborations. Many other exciting things are in the works for the School of Agriculture for the coming year.

### **Faculty Speaker Report:**

Mike Oppedisano reported that Faculty Congress has been very busy with committee work. The Gen Ed Assessment committee has a full agenda and Faculty Congress will be discussing the possibility of forming additional committees to work with major and campus-wide assessment issues. The Faculty Awards committee has gotten three nominations for the Distinguished Faculty Award and the recipient will be announced during Academic Excellence Week.

A suggestion was made last spring that the role of Department Chair, including responsibilities, selection and recognition, should be consistent across campus. A request was made that Administration review the issue of compensation and/or release time for department chairs. Since the UUP contract contains a provision allowing for compensation above and beyond normal teaching loads, it was suggested that each department chair negotiate individually with their Dean for compensation.

Faculty Congress will also discuss the issue of tenure to particularly educate new faculty about the existing policies and practices regarding tenure.

The Faculty Senate has endorsed a policy to establish a “rational tuition policy,” allowing students and parents to plan for increases each year. The Senate has also endorsed the establishment of an award to recognize professional contributions to governance leadership.

### **Council Business:**

- a) The resolution to approve the Constitution of the Peer Education Organization. Motion by Sarah Blood; seconded by Don Huller.
- b) The resolution to approve the Constitution of the American Fisheries Society and their By-Laws. Motion by Sarah Blood; seconded by Matt Morgan.

Matt Morgan requested an update from SGO on those clubs that have disbanded in the last few years. Sarah Blood will provide that information at the next College Council meeting.

### **Other Business:**

Hugh Riehlman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Matt Morgan. Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Joyce Malloy  
Assistant Secretary to the College Council

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