



**Meeting of the Morrisville State College Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room, Whipple Administration Building  
March 2, 2007 – 10:00 a.m.**

**Council Members Present:** Chairman Arnold Fisher; Matthew Morgan; James Dunne; Susan Dietrich; Hugh Riehlman; Charles Root; O. Perry Tooker; and Rashida Conteh, student representative.

**SUNY Morrisville Staff Present:** John Angerosa; Richard Carreno; Ray Cross; Jessica DeCerco; Anne Englot, Faculty Congress Speaker; Joyce Malloy; and James VanRiper.

Chairman Arnold Fisher called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.

**Minutes:**

The minutes from the December 1, 2006 meeting were approved. Motion by Matt Morgan; seconded by Perry Tooker.

**President's Report:**

Dr. Cross told the Council that we are asking for an additional \$35M over what the Governor has budgeted for us because enrollment has been going up. We are also asking for \$21.4M for the Empire Innovation and High Needs programs. To create new industry in New York, we need to do research – our institution needs to do that. Biodiesel is an example – it's costly, but it's a home run when those things work out. Only the state and federal government can help in those areas.

On the Capital side, we are asking for \$3M for critical maintenance and repair and \$4M for the renovation of Galbreath Hall. According to conversations Dr. Cross has had with Senators Bruno, Libous and Seward, as well as Assemblyman Cliff Crouch, we are supposed to get \$7M for our Equine Physiology and Rehabilitation Center. The Governor put forward a reasonable budget for higher education but these are the things that got left out of our budget. There are some interesting things happening in Albany and while we are getting great support from the Assembly and Senate, if they think the Governor is going to veto these proposals, then their support means nothing. We are also trying to get funding for the Madison Cortland NYSARC Vegetable/Fruit Processing Center – we're asking for \$2.5M for a value-added processing center in Oneida. Our first goal would be to sell to schools, colleges and universities and then expand from there.

**Academic Programs**

We are in the process of hiring new faculty for the Ag Business Development program; the Human Performance and Health Promotion program; the Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management program as well as the Nursing program and the AAS Human Services program in Norwich. We are having a difficult

time getting these proposals through System Administration and then through State Ed.

Our AAS in Human Services has been approved by State Ed and SUNY – we are just waiting for the Governor’s signature. The BS in Journalism and Communication will be sent next week to SUNY. Regarding the BS in Science and Technology, we are waiting for letters to be sent to public and private colleges to get their responses. The AAS in Criminal Justice is expected to be completed this summer. The BBA in Tech Management is awaiting the approval of external reviewers. We expect these proposals to be completed this semester.

### New Academic Programs

We finally got the go ahead for a BArch, a professional five-year degree which is in development now. We are working on a BT in Auto Engineering Technology. This program will deal with suspension and chassis construction, Baha-type motor vehicles which the students will get really excited about. The BS in Equine Physiology would go with the new center which will be very popular. We also will have a BT in Auto Design where students will actually design skins in clay.

Jim VanRiper told the Council that we have gotten three new bachelor degrees since we last met with them. Our big issues, now, will be hiring the faculty for these new programs.

We are also looking at an undeclared major which is very common in some schools and financial aid imposes some requirements on this. We have chosen to put forth an exploratory major and choose within one year. New courses will help support them in making a decision. We are hoping that this will also function as a retention tool for those who come in totally undecided.

Tim Williams said that we are recruiting for all of these programs on the assumption that these programs will be available in the fall and faculty will be hired by then. We need to send the resumes to State Ed.

### College Issues

Snow Days. Morrisville did not close during the February 28<sup>th</sup> snowstorm. It is our policy that faculty have the right to cancel classes at anytime. Only the Governor can close the campus – if the administration closes campus, then staff are required to take a day of leave; if we don’t cancel, we don’t force that on them. They can work if they want to. Matt Morgan questioned: isn’t it difficult to cancel classes when you are a residential campus? Jessica DeCerce stated that we did close Norwich since that is not a residential campus, just as community colleges are not residential.

There was discussion on terminology such as “state of emergency.” Counties use that term to get federal and/or state funds. There are “weather advisories” and “road closures.” Who determines this and how much is too much? We are in the process of trying to sort all that out.

Anne Englot suggested that faculty may have been upset because they didn’t understand they had the power to cancel classes. Charlie Root commented that the same thing happens in every state office: who are necessary staff? The issue needs to be discussed more.

Judicial Board. A few years ago, we had seven separate judicial boards hearing cases that would last for four or five hours at a time – it was incredibly time consuming and they were both judge and jury. Because the decision-making process was very slow and the offending student was on-campus all that time, Dr. Cross made

a decision that if the student was guilty, a decision would be made and processed quickly. We still have two judicial boards that still meet; however, Geoff Isabelle now handles the decision rather than going through the original lengthy process. Anne Englot told the Council that last semester no hearings were held but, due to a change of secretaries in the Dean's office, there was a lack of communication between Student Affairs and the boards. The concern arose when they didn't hear anything and no boards were being called for hearings. Dr. Cross said to the Council, "I want you to be aware that this is an issue on campus and you should know what's going on."

Structured Semester. With our enrollment indicators telling us where we are, it was decided that we would give a second chance to students who didn't do well during their first semester here. The students who would be accepted into this program need help academically and need to be free of behavior problems. The faculty reacted to this as well and wanted to contribute to decisions affecting those students. Anne Englot explained that if a faculty member sees a student with a 0.00 GPA, it's obvious that student showed no potential and should be dismissed.

Jim Dunn pointed out that at Cornell, you were put on probation and if you still could not keep up, you were out but you could apply for re-entry. You had to collect references, etc. Jim VanRiper said that in the past, the Deans have met as a group and made decisions about probation and dismissals. If dismissed, the student immediately has the right to appeal and fill out paperwork justifying their reason. All the details are reviewed by the Appeals Committee and a decision is made.

Dr. Cross said that we are down 100 students this year and a high percentage is due to the fact that we are unable to retain some students. We have to have movies on Friday and/or Saturday nights, and intramurals over the weekend. The village contributes to lack of things to do. We have to fix these other problems and I want the Council to be aware of that.

Financial Condition of the College. Dr. Cross asked John Angerosa to share some statistics with the group. John explained to the Council how being "down 100 students" affects our finances. We lose \$400,000 in tuition and another \$400,000 on the state aid basis, so we are short \$800,000 on our operating budget. The impact on the residence halls is \$400,000 and the same happens to the meal plans – we're down another \$400,000. This totals \$1.6M. Our fees are \$140 x 2 semesters – now we're closing in on \$2M – that's what the overall impact of those 100 students is. We are trying to solve these problems, but we will not be able to do some of the projects we hoped to complete this summer. The Auxiliary Corporation operates on a cash basis and they are laying people off trying to recover from this. The sky is not falling, but it's a painful situation.

Rec Center. The artificial turf has been put down in the Rec Center – it looks really nice, although it's dark. We'll have to change some of the lighting.

The Methane Digester (flaming but it is not burning since we are not making enough gas). The generator is running and sounds great – it's nice and quiet. One of the tanks is missing a pump – it'll all happen in a few weeks. The columns have 13" of gas pressure and we're producing 46 kw. We use about 40-42 kw in the barn. If this works all the time, it will peak and we will have to buy from the grid but between this device and the windmill, we should be in pretty good shape.

Applied Design Center. We have gotten \$8.5M in the budget to redo the barn; however, we are asking for another \$5M since it will cost \$13.5 in all. We will know within the next two weeks whether we can start that job at the beginning of April.

Auto Performance Center. We intend to start construction May 1 and the building should be completed by June, 2008, allowing us to offer classes in that building in the fall.

Equine Center. We are also asking for additional monies for this building – another \$7M.

Biodiesel. We have been told we will get \$4M from the state for this project. If we do not get state funds, we will go private and it will be in Cortland. We should have a letter of commitment by March 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>.

Morrisville Commons II. We want to build another residence hall and an exploratory committee has been approved by the Foundation.

Remodeling. If you look at our existing dormitories, the doubles are very small, but if we can turn them into singles and give more privacy to the bathrooms, we'll be giving students more of what they want. Sue Dietrich pointed out that since Morrisville Commons is such a success, isn't that a great recruiting tool for the college? John Angerosa said that's true – when we met with the ad hoc group that was the conclusion we drew – it's such a positive influence on the campus and our overall enrollment. John agreed that we should go forward with Morrisville Commons II. We got the IDA approval this year and, by next fall, we will know the numbers and can make an informed decision.

### **Faculty Speaker Report:**

Anne Englot began by saying that some of the things in her report had already been reported on by Dr. Cross, so she will only briefly cover those.

Academic Calendar. The spring semester on all calendars was the same so that was approved some time ago. A web poll was conducted and the faculty voted to accept Draft #1 (58% of those voting chose this option).

M/W/F and Tu/Thursday Schedules. A recommendation is expected from this committee at the April 3<sup>rd</sup> Faculty Congress meeting.

Requirements for Bachelor of Science degree. That committee has come forward with recommendations and Faculty Congress will review them.

Structured Semester. Jim VanRiper put together a draft policy for Faculty Congress to consider that looks at all the different aspects of what happens when a student's performance is inadequate. There are policies in place already but the new policy will supersede the current policy and include the structured semester option. This new policy will be reviewed by Faculty Congress at the April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. This change was made administratively instead of going through the Faculty Congress policy approval process. One thing I would like Faculty Congress and the Administration to consider: maybe we should have a process in place where we need to do things quickly. So it won't look like the administration is usurping Faculty Congress procedures. Dr. Cross told the Council that some of the policy decisions we make don't involve Faculty Congress; however, the structured semester should have involved Faculty Congress since it's an academic decision. Anne also commented that the faculty were also concerned about the judicial board decision for the same reason. Currently, there is nothing in our constitution dealing with how the judicial board runs. There is no process for faculty review of what goes into the student handbook.

Campus Closure Procedures. This is a procedure that needs looking at. Because of our recent snowstorm, a

good number of faculty cancelled classes on Wednesday. Jim VanRiper commented that our faculty come from a bigger circle than they used to. There will be more discussion about this at the April 3<sup>rd</sup> Faculty Congress meeting.

### **Student Government Report:**

Rashida Conteh reported that the Student Opinion Survey ranked everything pretty low at Morrisville. SGO decided to change their constitution to be more specific – they do not want their school ranking that low. She noted that more students were inquiring about how a club could become an organization – that way, they would not be under SGO’s jurisdiction. As soon as the changes are made to the constitution, it will be sent to Dean Isabelle’s office for approval.

A request has been made that we have flags for each club and those flags hang around the stairway in STUAC to create more of a visual presence. She said that students are asking what the unrestricted money gets used for in SGO since students want more activities. SGO is looking into sponsoring more weekend activities and plan to promote those activities by sending e-mails; distributing fliers around campus; and also taping a Channel 4 commercial. If the Council has any ideas, your help would be appreciated. Rashida mentioned that SGO spends a lot of money on activities and students don’t show up. She said they also plan to buy t-shirts for all SGO members to get the word out that we have that organization on campus.

SGO also talked about having a concert at the end of the semester. The prices are high, but they would like to get a group that everyone would want. They need to look at what is allotted for Spring Jam and go from there.

They also talked about having some parties on the weekend and they’d like to have the time extended from 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. Chief D’Alessandro responded to this by saying we don’t have the necessary officers to work an event like that. We would need to bring in an outside agency to assist with security at those particular parties. Dr. Cross agreed that we would have to bring in outside security.

SGO also talked about raising the student activity fee. Dr. Cross commented that most colleges charge \$100 for their student activity fee and ours is very low (\$60). John Angerosa said if SGO could tie the increase to something the students wanted, they would support an increase.

### **Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs**

Jim VanRiper indicated that the items he planned to cover had already been mentioned by Dr Cross and Anne Englot.

### **Vice President for Administration**

Arnold Fisher told the Council that this would be John Angerosa’s last College Council meeting since he would be retiring in April. He thanked John for his years of service and told him he would be sorely missed.

John said that in addition to the construction projects Dr. Cross covered, he can add a couple to that. Cayuga Hall will undergo a complete rehab beginning this spring and it will be completed by April 2008. It should be ready for students to move into in the fall of 2008. The rooms will be converted to suite style rooms without kitchens. Two roof projects will be completed on Bailey and Hamilton Halls. Completion of the MTW line will exceed \$800,000 but that will be underground by fall. We have another line from this building to the Infirmary that will need replacing and then we will be done. We have a meeting scheduled with the

Construction Fund to talk about what's going to happen beyond 2007-2008. They want to get a handle on our projects and they're starting to work toward the next five-year plan. All of this will come from the Strategic Plan.

Budget. 2007-2008 is not going to contain a tuition increase which is positive for our students. Even though we end up being funded for inflation and salary increases, our share is based upon the enrollment approved for that year. If we do not make our projected enrollment, our share will go down.

Dr. Cross told the group about the proposed equine expansion on the south end of campus. We have been asked to stand two or three more nationally prominent standardbreds who will bring with them as many as 75 mares each. We don't have sufficient paddock or run-out areas or stalls for them. Pioneer Farm Credit will finance this for us and they are awaiting our final decision.

After 34 years here at the college, I haven't missed a day because of inclement weather. John indicated that, even though he is retiring, he will be attending various college functions in the years to come and will look forward to seeing everyone at these events.

Matt Morgan said that he has had the pleasure of serving on this board for 25 years and he has enjoyed John's candor and great work. He also said he's glad John is not going to consult and give away our secrets!

Dr. Cross said that John is definitely one of the best financial people he has ever worked with. A lot of faculty give him a hard time about being tight with the money, but that is what we want! John is well respected within SUNY, at other campuses and he has a lot of respect from faculty at this campus as well. We are all going to miss John.

### **Vice President for Planning and Institutional Effectiveness**

Rich Carreno commented that John hired him 31 years ago, so he's spent a little time under John's tutelage.

He reported that Governor Spitzer issued Executive Order #3 which will have an impact on us. All public meetings are going to be broadcast live on the web after July 1<sup>st</sup>. So that will begin with our first meeting in the fall. Matt Morgan stated that the reappointment of College Council members has changed as well and it will be much easier than it has been in the past.

All of our labor agreements will be expiring this year. We don't know how those contracts will turn out. Although the first year is usually funded, we don't know what will happen with that. Hopefully, those will be implemented without too much delay.

Rich said that Morrisville is recruiting for a Director of Human Resources and also a Director of Financial Aid. Those resumes have come in and we have started interviewing for those positions. Hopefully, both of these positions will be filled by the end of the school year.

Rich also reminded the Council that Commencement will be held on Saturday, May 19, 2007 so please let Joyce Malloy know if you will be attending.

### **Council Items:**

- a) Resolution in Honor of Donald R. Huller. Motion by Matt Morgan (may he rest in peace);

- seconded by Charlie Root.
- b) Resolution to approve curriculum advisory committee appointments of Brian DePerro, Robert Kasprzycki, William Leonard, Richard Smith, Jr. and Kirk Wardell to the Design and Drafting Advisory Board. Motion by Hugh Reihlman; seconded by Perry Tooker.
  - c) Resolution to approve curriculum advisory committee appointment of Lisa Hoyle to the Nursing Advisory Committee. Motion by Charlie Root; seconded by Matt Morgan.
  - d) Endorsement of Policy #2102, Smoking Policy. Motion by Hugh Reihlman; seconded by Perry Tooker.

**Other Business:**

Jessica DeCerce said that she, Rich and Dr. Cross visited with seven legislators in Albany on SUNY Day. SUNY has kicked off their advocacy campaign and are requesting that people send letters to the legislators in your area asking for their support. Jessica distributed bookmarks with contact information to all the council members.

Chairman Arnold Fisher had the sad duty of reporting the resignation from the College Council by Charlie Root. Charlie retired four months ago and he and his wife are moving to their retirement home in New Hampshire. Charlie indicated that it has been his pleasure to serve on the Council with a great group of people who contribute good ideas and provide valuable input. He is proud to have been a member of the Council in their selection of Ray Cross – a rare person who combines business sense, academia and leadership with a solid vision for the future and the ability to move the college forward at an astounding rate. Everything that happens at the college is not only done well, but with excellence. He is comforted to know that our future is in the hands of bright, capable and motivated students. The wonderful diversity of our student body brings great opportunities to Morrisville. If there is one change I'd like to see happen, it would be that the College Council become more representative of the diversity of the student body. Thanks to all for making this such a satisfying experience for me.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m. Motion by Perry Tooker, seconded by Sue Dietrich.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Malloy, Temporary  
Secretary to the College Council