

**Meeting of the Morrisville State College Council**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room, Whipple Administration Building**  
**March 4, 2005 – 10:00 a.m.**

**Council Members Present:** Chairman Arnold Fisher; James Dunne; Matt Morgan; Charlie Root; O. Perry Tooker and Michael Watson, Student Representative.

**Excused:** Don Huller and Hugh Riehlman

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

**Minutes:**

Chairman Arnold Fisher called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

The minutes from the December 10, 2004 meeting were approved. Motion by Matt Morgan, seconded by Charlie Root.

**President's Report:**

Governor's Budget. Dr. Cross indicated that there were four issues related to Morrisville that are important for us and we are trying to deal with them professionally and appropriately.

- Proposed Tuition Guarantee Policy. Although there are some issues that are questionable and others that need to be clarified more fully, we support the adoption of this policy. Tuition would be frozen for the student who completes their degree within the defined degree program time. It puts predictability into the process for the student and the institution as well.
- Address the \$84.3M SUNY shortfall. This shortfall is created by salary increases and the additional costs for rising energy prices. The Governor plans to increase tuition by \$500 to obtain those monies. Dr. Cross indicated that he is in favor of increasing state aid to meet that demand.
- We would like to see TAP fully restored and the Governor has indicated he would be receptive to that. The problem with the delay in getting state aid after graduation is that this assumes everyone can get the money – that isn't the case.
- We would also like to have full restoration of the EOP funds. Ron Canastrari in the Assembly as well as Senator LaValle in the Senate are committed to that.

Another part of the Governor's budget is the PACT portion which would give institutions \$250 per graduate for every student that graduates on time. There are also the Capital projects in the amount of \$26M and our two member items that were vetoed by the Governor in the last budget: \$1.5M for our Equine Racing and Rehabilitation Center; and \$2.5M for our Automotive Performance Center. The legislature says at least \$230M will be put back in the bill as they believe it will stimulate the economy.

New Residence Hall. Planning is underway for the new 200 bed residence hall with suites for four students. We are in the process of trying to increase the room size so that we can double up those rooms if we need to do that. Room sizes will be from 106 sq. ft. to 140 sq. feet. The facility will be built on South Street, near the Automotive Performance Center. The residence hall will also add parking for an additional 146 cars. Once the new APC is constructed, additional parking will also be available. Juniors and seniors will have the first opportunity to choose this residence hall. Any additional residence hall growth will continue in this area. The new food court plan for STUAC will serve these residence halls nicely.

Student-Run Restaurant. Work by the architects is underway to add to and renovate the former Blue Lantern restaurant. A proposed floor plan was shown to the group. Besides customer seating, etc., the restaurant will include a classroom, a teaching kitchen and office space. The restaurant should be open to serve customers in August, 2005.

Spring Enrollment. Applications are up as are transfer applications. Part of our strategic plan for 1999-2005 was to raise total enrollment to 4,000 students. If you add the main campus and Norwich together, we are just about there.

Norwich Facility. The building is in its final stages of completion and it's looking really great. It's a class building.

Strategic Planning. Dr. Cross briefly reviewed the strategic planning discussion we had at the last meeting. He indicated that we have been working on a Vision Statement and a Mission Statement for some time now. Some of the things we'll strive for are excellence, enhancement, innovation, entrepreneurialism, and the commitment of our faculty and staff. Matt Morgan pointed out the fact that this is already truly unique. Charles Root observed that there was no mention of the goals for College Council in the Vision statement. Dr. Cross indicated that we would definitely need to give some thought to that.

Mission Statement. Our mission statement will be accompanied by a statement of role and scope. Dr. Cross told the Council that he is going to ask for their approval of this statement today. When we get together at our spring meeting, we will have a complete strategic plan and Dr. Cross will go over the operational plan with the group.

Matt Morgan made a motion that the Mission Statement be accepted as proposed, with the minor charges that have been discussed. The motion was seconded by Charlie Root.

### **Faculty Speaker Report:**

Diane Tice reported that Faculty Congress reviewed and combined separate policies concerning academic warning and dismissal, suitable academic progress, and early dismissal. This has been sent on for review by Academic Council.

They also recommended drafting a policy on minors in the baccalaureate degrees. Many students are interested in having their minor reflected in their program name. This is a fairly extensive policy which reflects the procedure for developing a minor. The students would like to have it reflected in their transcript although it is not formally recognized by SUNY. This has also been sent on for review.

Another policy that is being discussed with a lot of enthusiasm is the attendance policy. There are some questions concerning financial aid that need to be resolved before drafting this policy. Michael Watson questioned if there would be some type of enforcement for the attendance policy. Diane suggested that an open discussion be scheduled on this topic. There also are concerns about infringing on academic freedom of faculty. Also, an ad hoc committee has been set up to look at what type of things should go into a syllabus. We want to respect academic freedom but this is also a contract with the students. They are also looking at what makes a 300 or 400 level course and they continue to discuss assessment.

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

Jim VanRiper reported that in January, we received SUNY approval and SED registration for six Teacher Education Transfer associate degrees that follow a University wide template for teacher education transfer. Students may pursue an AA or an AS under each of the following titles depending on their subject matter:

- Liberal Arts and Sciences: Childhood Education
- Liberal Arts and Sciences: Early Childhood Education
- Liberal Arts and Sciences: Adolescence Education

Jim showed the Council a spreadsheet that has been developed to track the progress of new degrees. He indicated where we are with each one and also discussed degrees that will be pursued in the future.

Three students from Morrisville have been named as recipients of the Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence.

They are: Jay Kurtz (Diesel Technology); Sarah Parks (Architectural Studies and Design) and Gail Shiminski (Nursing). These students are being recognized for the integration of academic excellence with other aspects of their lives, which may include leadership, athletics, community service, creative and performing arts, entrepreneurship or career achievement.

Seven of our students were honored recently by Assemblyman Peter Rivera and Assemblyman Bill Magee. The students are members of the Morrisville State College Entrepreneurship Institute (MSCEI) and were part of a team that completed an online conference management system for the Annual New York State Assembly Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force's legislative conference which attracts 20,000 registrants. The project took nine months to develop and the final system went online in March with great success.

SUNY has required each college to develop assessment plans, get approval, conduct assessments and report the result to the Provost's office. Although the colleges were assured that the results would not be used to compare colleges to each other, the Presidents were asked by the Chancellor to summarize the result of our assessment and we have complied with that request.

### **Vice President for Administration**

John Angerosa elaborated on some of the specifics of the current budget. There was some discussion regarding those matters.

John also updated the Council on the progress of the Norwich facility, renovations to the Theatre in the Student Activities Building, the Recreation Building, and progress on the new Foundation residence hall.

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

Vice President Rich Carreno reported that we are currently recruiting to fill 13 faculty and instructional support positions. Some searches are for new positions, some are for positions vacated by retirement, and other searches were filled at a late date last summer and now need a full search. Additionally, the Provost and the primary support person at Norwich are in the process as well. Search committees are actively reviewing materials and late March and the month of April will be a busy interviewing period.

Commencement planning is moving right along. John Chapple, President of Nextel Partners, will be our commencement speaker. Please let Joyce Malloy know if you will be able to attend commencement.

Our visit to Albany for SUNY Sector Days will be March 15, 2005. People attending meetings with legislators from Morrisville State College are John Angerosa, Jessica DeCerce, Michael Watson and Rich Carreno. We are currently conducting an active advocacy campaign, as are other state campuses.

### **Student Government Report**

Student Government President Michael Watson told the Council that SGO is preparing for its annual elections. SGO has had a pretty busy semester up to this point.

Michael also reported on Pizza with the Presidents which took place on Thursday February 24, 2005 in Banks Lounge. This was an opportunity for students to ask Dr. Cross or SGO president Michael Watson any questions they wanted to, but never had the chance to do so. There was a good turn-out for the event.

At a recent SGO meeting, Michael Watson presented the Tuition Guarantee Plan to the students. He explained that this is a proposal that would help prevent large jumps in tuition for returning students. The plan allows for a set tuition that is locked in their freshmen year until their expected graduation date. This provides students with a predictable cost from year to year and will help encourage graduation during the four-year period.

### **Other Business**

Chancellor Robert King joined the group at this time. Dr. King wanted to talk to the College Council about his

budget plans and the SUNY Tuition Guarantee proposition.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Root  
Secretary to the College Council