

**Meeting of the Morrisville State College Council**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room, Whipple Administration Building**  
**May 7, 2004 – 10:00 a.m.**

**Council Members Present:** Greg Clark, Student Representative; Chairman Arnold Fisher; James Dunne; Don Huller; Matt Morgan; Hugh Riehlman; Charlie Root; and O. Perry Tooker.

**Excused:** Thomas Morrone

**SUNY Morrisville Staff Present:** John Angerosa; Charles Blaas; Richard Carreno; Ray Cross; Jessica DeCerce; Paul Griffin; Joyce Malloy; Diane Tice, Faculty Congress Speaker; and Marian Whitney.

Chairman Arnold Fisher called the meeting to order at 9:55 a.m.

**Minutes:**

The minutes from the February 6, 2004 meeting were approved. Motion by Matt Morgan, seconded by Hugh Riehlman.

**President=s Report:**

Dr. Cross showed the Council NEXTEL'S Annual Report. On the cover is one of our students and on the back cover are another student and Dr. Cross. The report listed highlights for the past year, and one of those highlights was Morrisville's partnership with NEXTEL for the residential cell phone project. It certainly is a great thing for us to be represented so well in this report.

Dr. Cross distributed a report he prepared for the Council and he commented on a number of items in the report.

Sen. Bruno, the Senate Majority Leader, visited our Equine Complex recently, along with Sen. Nancy Lorraine Hoffmann. We have proposed to add to our capital bonding request for an equine racing and rehabilitation center, and we hope to get their support for that. We also got some very favorable press during their visit.

The Residential Construction class is building a house near the President's house on Clover Hill Road. The design is pretty well completed and they've begun to clear the lot. There's room for at least two more houses there and we think we have already improved our recruitment in that program.

Dr. Cross indicated that he is much more positive about our chances of getting more money this year. SUNY has asked for an additional \$50M for operating costs which would mean close to \$2M for Morrisville. He is more optimistic that we won't be treated unfairly as we were in the past. We have asked for additional funding of \$1.5M from Sen. Hoffmann for the Equine Racing & Rehab Facility and an additional \$2.5M from Bill Magee to help fund an Automotive Performance Center.

Progress on the hotel has been slowed down due to a report submitted by PKF regarding occupancy. The data needs to indicate another 20% occupancy rate in order to get the funding to build. Dr. Cross will talk with the developers again next week, but we do have a couple of back-up options should the hotel fail to materialize.

Our enrollment is doing well and it looks like we should be up about 100 students in the fall. We also have indications that we are attracting better students all the time, which means we'll keep more of those 100 students.

We will begin formulating a new strategic plan to coincide with the goals on our operational plan. During the coming year, we will be working on the strategic plan and hope to have it completed by May. One of the key elements in this operational plan was technology. What new and innovative things do we want to pursue in the future?

Nelson Farms is using some grant money to change its look and we hope to have the store area ready to open the 1<sup>st</sup> of August.

The Norwich facility is coming along nicely. We are on or ahead of our target date. It's going to be a beautiful facility and we hope to be in there a year from this summer. We have submitted two new programs that will be offered exclusively at Norwich – Associate degrees in Criminal Justice and in Rural Development Leadership.

There was a ribbon-cutting ceremony for our new riding arena on Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. The heifer barn will be completed this summer as well.

Regarding the methane digester, we're not sure what we're going to do right now. We may be able to build it in pieces if we get approval from NYSERDA.

If the Capital Plan goes through, within that is a major remodel for Galbreath Hall; minor renovations to STUAC and the Rec Center ; an auto racing piece; and matching dollars for Brooks Hall. We believe we need to do some other things on campus such as expand and improve the facilities for Information Technology, build a show barn for dairy animal judging, and we may need to do some things in Shannon or Brooks for the growth of the Nursing program.

There was some discussion concerning the offer of state aid by SUNY to private colleges and how this will hurt the public schools that really need the aid.

### **Faculty Speaker Report:**

Diane Tice reported that Faculty Congress passed on a recommendation for a policy for a minor for a baccalaureate degree. Students in the baccalaureate program have requests for minors that would reflect a secondary area, i.e., equine and management.

We considered and recommended that our Faculty Senator vote against the system-wide assessment policy, but Morrisville was outvoted. So, system-wide assessment will go ahead, but it has been modified to be more “bottom-up” than “top-down;” more tailored to individual campuses and the value-added portion of the assessment has been eliminated.

Faculty Congress has also just received about a half-dozen academic policies to consider at their first fall meeting.

Dr. Cross and Dr. Blaas both commented on the effectiveness of Diane's leadership and thanked her for her service.

### **Academic Affairs Report:**

Dr. Blaas told the group there is only one week of instruction left – it's been a good year and it's hard to believe it coming to a close.

Program developments occurred since the last College Council meeting. We have submitted program announcements for the Norwich baccalaureate Rural Development Early Childhood and an associate degree in Human Services. These were submitted through the leadership of Paul Griffin and the faculty: an associate's degree in Liberal Arts Teacher Education and Transfer for Adolescence Education, Childhood Education and Early Childhood Education. Also submitted were announcements for a BBA for Entrepreneurship in Small Business Management, and a BT in Entertainment and Gaming Electronics Technology. We have submitted about ten program announcements since our last meeting. The Clinical Exercise Physiology program is about half done and we will be submitting documentation for the BS in Nursing next fall at the latest. This will require Master Plan Amendment.

Enrollment is looking good. Tim Williams reported that this past Monday was the largest single day to receive paid deposits in the history of the institution.

We have interviews on May 11<sup>th</sup> and May 20<sup>th</sup> for the two final candidates in the search for the Dean of Science and Technology. We are happy that Geoff Isabelle has accepted the position of Dean of Students and will work closely with Academic Affairs. The merger and partnership of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs enhances the entire institution.

Dr. Blaas confirmed that he will be retiring this summer. Jim VanRiper, Dean of the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, will serve as Interim Provost and Vice President in Dr. Blaas' absence. Arnold Fisher said it was hard to find the words to thank Dr. Blaas for his many years of service to the college – “we really do appreciate everything you've done.” Dr. Cross commented that it will be very difficult for him to operate without Dr. Blaas serving in the Vice Presidential position. “He is the balancing force for me – I will miss his counsel a great deal.”

### **Administrative Services Report:**

Regarding Dr. Cross' update on the budget, John Angerosa agreed that things are looking better than they did at the last meeting; however, there is no mechanism in place at SUNY to distribute the money. As of now, there is no plan. SUNY has requested the return of the \$50M that was cut last year and while we may get some of that, so will the schools that benefited by last years' budget (i.e., Cornell). Also, we don't know if the money will be restored on a permanent basis or on a one-time only basis. So, we have no sense of when that budget will be approved and how SUNY will allocate funding.

The capital budget seems to be much more positive. Since the allocation is based on square footage, our portion could be as much as \$26M, which is much better than anyone else in the system. We will not be able to build a piece of the methane digester this summer; we hope that NYSERDA will carry their allocation forward one year.

Regarding our plan for Brooks Hall, we have two matches into SUNY now and hopefully, we can get them both. The heifer barn should be done by the 15<sup>th</sup> of June (this is a date from the contractor).

Summer projects to be completed this year are:

- reconfigure Shannon Hall to accommodate the increasing numbers for the massage therapy program;
- the original equine building has sustained damage over the years and we will replace the metal skin of the building;
- regarding the BS in Nursing, we will have to determine space allocation for that program;
- residence hall maintenance is conducted during the summer and we will schedule two residence halls for repairs this summer;
- although we have allotted funds to replace the brick on some of the residence halls, that project will be completed next summer; and
- our biggest project this summer will be to comply with all recommendations made by the Fire Marshall. We just completed our inspection and the repairs will cost approximately \$40,000-\$50,000.

### **Associate Vice President**

Rich Carreno indicated that preparations are under way for Commencement. This will be Larry Baker's last year to be involved with it. Paul Griffin and Rich work pretty closely with Larry and will assume those responsibilities after Larry's retirement. The procedure will be the same as in past years – brunch at 11:00 a.m., robing at 12:30 and the commencement ceremony at 1:00. This year's speaker is Catherine Bertini. She was the head of the World Food Program and the London Times listed her as one of the most powerful women in the world.

The college works with four different labor unions on campus. The two largest, CSEA and UUP have reached an agreement with the state. The CSEA contract calls for an \$800 lump sum this year, followed by a 2 1/2% increase in 2005; a 2 3/4% increase in 2006; a 3% increase in 2007 and an \$800 lump sum payment in 2007 which will be added to the base salary. In the past, the UUP faculty and professional staff have also received discretionary monies as well. As soon as the legislature passes a pay bill, the money will be distributed to employees. It's nice to have these negotiations completed.

### **Student Government Report:**

Greg Clark reported that elections for SGO were held this spring. The results for the 2004-2005 year are:

President: Michael C. Watson  
 Vice President: Thomas Taylor  
 Director of Budgets: Ben Palmer  
 Cab Chair: Rebecca Burke

Some of the things accomplished by SGO this year include:

- Help with the drafting of Civility Statement;
- Attendance at SUNY Conference from April 16-18, 2004
- Discussion and vote on Assessment issue;
- Support of a book buy-back campaign;
- Organization of the Spring semi-formal (85 people attended)
- Review and finalization of club constitutions.

Greg Clark will be this year's student speaker at Commencement. Greg will be moving to Vermont sometime in June.

Arnold Fisher wished him well and thanked Greg for his service to the college. Dr. Cross commented that Greg is very active in showing cows and one of the reasons the show barn is important to the college is to attract students like Greg who like to compete in that area. We are looking at a show area and a prep area. Particularly in the northeast, there are a large number of students who want to do that and enjoy it. A show barn would catapult us to the next level – we could host 4-H shows and student competitions, as well as events like the Madison County Holstein Show.

### **Paul Griffin, Dean of the School of Liberal Arts**

Dean Paul Griffin introduced himself and thanked the Council for the opportunity to provide information to them about the Liberal Arts program. There are actually 541 majors in the Liberal Arts program; and their faculty consists of 21 full-time and 23 part-time instructors teaching 2,880 students. Liberal Arts serves the dual mission of servicing other schools as well as providing Liberal Arts majors.

Dr. Griffin explained that a whole new set of courses were created to go with the new bachelor level programs on campus. Some of those courses include ENGL312 (Advanced Technical Communications), PHIL311 (Professional Ethics), HUMN300 (Visual Communication) and SOCS311 (Industrial/Organizational Psychology).

Liberal Arts enrollment breaks down into the following numbers: 245 students are Social Science majors (which is our undeclared major and leads to a number of different degrees); 45 are Humanities majors; 59 are Journalism Technology majors; and 192 are Individual Studies majors.

New programs in development include Teacher Education Transfer and Early Childhood Education. There is a difference now in the way students complete their teaching courses. Since they go right into the classroom immediately upon beginning their studies (they don't wait until they complete student teaching anymore), we have students already helping out in the classrooms at Morrisville-Eaton and Cazenovia Elementary Schools .

Dr. Griffin indicated that compliments go to Mary Brown who created this program from scratch. It's also a "win" situation for the schools – they get more hands into the classroom. Workshops for interested students have been arranged and partially funded through the Sheila Johnson Institute here on campus. We are excited about this project and we want to become known as the place to get started in Education! Charlie Root questioned if there was any way we could get the fingerprinting done so that the students can substitute teach when they are on break. Dr. Griffin said yes, we could. We would also have to put them through security checks and things of that nature.

Another program in development is a bachelor's degree for Journalism. We already have the students – we need to leverage our program and build on its strengths. Another challenge is Philosophy of Technology. We have all the parts and if we can tie it into our technology program, we have a chance.

Dr. Griffin again thanked the Council and asked for questions. There was further discussion about some of the new

programs.

### **Council Business:**

- a) Resolution to approve the constitution of B.A.S.I.C. (Brothers and Sisters in Christ). Matt Morgan wanted to discuss some of the wording contained in the document. After a short discussion, it was agreed that the language should be amended as discussed and the group will become a functional organization. Motion by Matt Morgan; seconded by Perry Tooker.
- b) Resolution to approve a Citation for Greg Clark, Jr., President of the Student Government Organization and student member of the Council. Motion by Don Huller, seconded by Matt Morgan.
- c) Resolution to approve curriculum advisory committee appointment of Connie A. Jastremski for the Nursing Program. Motion by Charles Root; seconded by Hugh Riehlman.
- d) Resolution to approve curriculum advisory committee appointment of Ralph Krutulis for the Massage Therapy Program. Motion by Matt Morgan; seconded by James Dunne.

### **Other Business:**

Dr. Cross complimented Jim Dunne on his help with the Greater Norwich Foundation and his efforts in raising funds for the Norwich campaign. That construction is going well and we are on target to be in the building in the summer of 2005. The response from the Norwich community has been terrific and Jim has been a part of that. Dr. Cross thanked him for his leadership in that effort. There was some further discussion about the Jewish Center and the Hamilton House. Dr. Cross talked about the signage for the Norwich facility and programs to be offered.

Dr. Cross told the Council that if they have ideas for new degrees or programs that might be appropriate for Morrisville, let us know. There was some discussion about new programs in Nutrition, Rural Development and investigation of insurance fraud.

Also, we have been trying to have someone from each of the schools come in to tell you about their programs. If there are other issues you would like to discuss or other people you would like to hear from, we can arrange for that as well.

Dr. Cross told the group that although he sometimes gets frustrated with the budget situation in Albany , overall he is very positive about where this institution is going. He said he was very positive about the next ten years and he is grateful to have the continued leadership of the College Council. Arnold Fisher commented that it's the people at Morrisville that make it so special.

Jim Dunne made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Hugh Riehlman. The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles Root  
Secretary to the College Council

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