



Meeting of the Morrisville State College Council
5th Floor Board Room, Whipple Administration Building
May 13, 2005 – 10:00 a.m.

Council Members Present: Chairman Arnold Fisher; James Dunne; Don Huller; Hugh Riehlman; and O. Perry Tooker.

Excused: Matthew Morgan, Charles Root and Michael Watson, Student Representative

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 10:00 a.m. The minutes from the March 4, 2005 meeting were approved. Motion by Hugh Riehlman, seconded by Perry Tooker.

President's Report:

Dr. Cross reported that he and Jim VanRiper had just returned from a breakfast at Norwich with the guidance counselors from Chenango County. The meeting was hosted in the new building, and they talked about what we are doing and where we're going.

Budget Update. John Angerosa informed the group that in addition to TAP and EOP being fully restored, SUNY requested and received \$84.3M in increased state aid in lieu of an increase in tuition. Of the \$84.3M, Morrisville received a net increase of \$650,000 for the year which covers basic raises and increased utility costs. SUNY is trying to get some additional funding for '05-'06. They are trying to come up with a new funding model for '06-'07 to try to restore some of the damage done in 03-04 at which time we lost \$1M.

The capital budget is very positive. Morrisville received \$26M which is \$8M more than some of our sister campuses. \$2.5M will be provided for the auto performance building, which will bring our allocation to a total of \$5M – we'll have an automotive complex second to none. The only negative aspect of the capital budget is that the matching program was not funded for the public sector.

New Residence Hall Update. Construction is scheduled to begin by June 15th. The contract and design for the new building are already done and we anticipate a completion date of August 2006.

Restaurant Update. We will be adding a classroom addition onto the former Blue Lantern restaurant. The restaurant is scheduled to open the restaurant around September 15th and portions of the hospitality programs will be moved to that location. Utilization of the second floor area is still being considered; it may become a conference room.

Fall Enrollment. Admissions has received 3682 applications for fall and accepted 2107 students. Our current selectivity process is changing in that the bottom number is moving up. For example, in 2004, the percentage of students accepted with a GPA less than 75 was 20%; for fall 2005, that percentage is 8%.

Norwich Facility. It's great and we are really proud of it! Dr. Cross asked the Counselors this morning what their first impression of the building was when they walked into it and they all agreed it was "high tech." John Angerosa indicated that the new furniture has been received and will be moved into place during the week of May 24th. The

grand opening is June 10th at 3:30 and everyone is invited attend – there will be a ribbon-cutting, donor recognition and a tour following the ceremony. Governor Pataki was in Norwich recently to cut the ribbon on the new fire hall and indicated he would like to attend the Follett Hall Grand Opening.

Commencement: Rich Carreno reported that the preliminary weather forecast for Commencement Day is partly cloudy and in the 60's. Hopefully, the ceremony will be able to be held outside. As in the past, following the brunch, special guests will be escorted to the field and the platform party will report to Crawford Hall for robbing. Following tradition, there will be mounted knights and the Scottish pipe band. Our speaker is John Chapple, President/CEO/Chairman of the Board of Nextel Partners. Distribution of caps and gowns indicates a student participation of approximately 400 students, while the number of actual graduates is higher than that. He also gave an update on the condition of Marilyn Baker who just had surgery.

Wind Diesel Project. Dr. Cross indicated that we have been researching the feasibility of a wind over diesel power plant which would be backed up with bio-diesel fuel. However, in the process, we've discovered that funding for grants in the bio-diesel area is available and bio-diesel is a much more efficient form of power. We are in the experimental/feasibility stage of working on this concept as well as three degrees that can make use of that. We are talking with Binghamton University about offering an Engineering degree to be located on this campus along with an Energy Systems Management Degree.

Methane Digester Project. We are going forward with the methane digester project this summer. As you recall, we were short the money to do this and John McHugh gave us \$200,000 to finish the digester. However, because of the delay and the rise in the price of materials, we are still short. Jim VanRiper commented that a meeting was held yesterday and another \$100,000 was found that could be cut. We need to contact the designer and have him sign off on those changes.

Strategic Plan. Dr. Cross distributed the latest draft of this document and commented that this was a successful effort to engage the whole community. The mission statement has been endorsed by the College Council and has been separated from the role and scope. He also talked about the vision statement and the seven strategic goals. Dr. Cross complimented Jessica DeCerce on her fine work on this document. Arnold Fisher also thanked Jessica. Her professional approach to these types of publications makes the College look so good!

Faculty Speaker Report:

Diane Tice told the group that Faculty Congress has finished reviewing all of the policies put before them and she summarized the action taken on them. She commented that this review made them examine the intent of the policy itself, which was a very good exercise and resulted in good discussion as well as some changes to existing policies.

Diane represented the faculty at the Mission Review meeting on Wednesday, May 18th which was interesting. She believes they have a new slate of officers and a candidate for Faculty Speaker as well.

Dr. Cross told the Council that Dr. Tice has a new book coming out in June entitled Clinical Laboratory Immunology. He also pointed out that Diane has done a great job in her position as Faculty Speaker. Dr. Cross made a motion to pass a resolution to approve a Citation for Diane Tice, Faculty Congress Speaker, which was seconded by Don Huller. Dr. Cross also indicated that Diane is a valued faculty member and one of the pillars at Morrisville – we are privileged to have her.

Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Jim VanRiper told the Council that just as the Chancellor recognizes students for their efforts, he also recognizes faculty and staff as well. Those individuals are: Rosemary Baker, Recipient of the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching; and Bob Hasegawa, Recipient of the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service. Dr. Roxanna Pisiak will also be awarded the Distinguished Faculty Award at graduation this year.

We've just completed a very busy Academic Excellence month including a breakfast, capstone experiences for classes; portfolio presentations; Ag Business evaluations of the dairy farm; scholarship presentations; award bequests;

Phi Theta Kappa reception; a number of great experiences for the students. Dr. Cross and Jim VanRiper went to the Ag Engineering banquet last night and they were commenting about how solid the program is when students and industry are brought together.

Mission Review. We are in the completion stages of our current Memorandum of Understanding with SUNY. On Wednesday, we had representatives here from SUNY Administration and the Construction Fund to discuss dialogue points and we impressed them with our ability to plan. Mr. VanRiper is very confident that we are moving in the right direction. Now, we have to develop the second MOU which will probably happen sometime this summer.

Vice President for Administration

John Angerosa indicated that he had covered a number of items earlier; however, we have a number of other projects that will be completed this summer – some have started already. Our new eatery in Plaza View is just going into design and the same is true of the Rec Building project. We will move a lot of our Athletic Staff to the building which will be an indoor venue for sports with a turf floor. The brick replacement of Cayuga and Oneida will be finished by August. Our new residence hall will provide 150-200 new student parking spaces; so, hopefully, that will free up parking on this side of the campus.

Vice President for Planning and Institutional Effectiveness

Rich Carreno indicated that he covered Commencement and the Norwich Grand Opening earlier, but we are also in the midst of a heavy recruiting season. The Provost/VPAA position is just about wrapped up and an announcement will be made soon. Most of the work for the search committees is over and we will have everything in place to start the new academic year in August.

Other Business

Dr. Cross told the group that Sen. Hillary Clinton visited Nelson Farms about ten days ago. We asked her for \$792,000 in additional funding to build another processing center for raw products. We could add tremendous value to New York grown products by slicing and dicing vegetables and/or fruits for institutional customers such as state prisons and SUNY. Sen. Clinton is really keen on this and wants to find a way to help us get this money.

The Council also had a discussion on one of the new Nelson Farms products – ‘CurrantC – A Wealth of Health.’ It’s an all-natural juice drink made from black currants. Assemblyman Bill Magee was instrumental in getting the ban on growing black currants lifted in New York State which reinstates the black currant as a commercial crop.

In the Provost/VPAA search, we brought in four potential candidates and we will make that decision this week. We have a couple of options but haven’t totally figured it out yet.

MOU. Dr. Cross indicated that three issues exposed themselves in the MOU Review. 1) Our retention rates are lower than other institutions in the system. While there is some dispute of the accuracy of those numbers, they reflect a 52-54% retention rate. We need to be in the 60% or better range. We are trying to move in that direction and we feel that can be attained by raising the bottom of the bar as we are doing. Also, only 20-24% of our faculty have terminal degrees. We need to address that as well. 2) Our residence halls are also a problem; and 3) the village is a problem area as well.

Dr. Cross indicated that he plans to work on the retention problem first. Do we have a poor graduation rate? No, it’s actually better than the national average, but the way the data is presented is a problem.

Council Business:

a) Endorsement of Policy #6105 Requirements for Graduation. Dr Cross indicated that this policy was written at the time we only had a handful of baccalaureate degrees. As a result, we have taken a lot of language out of this policy and put it in the college catalog. Motion by Perry Tooker; seconded by James Dunn.

b) Endorsement of Policy #6109 Class Attendance. Attendance is becoming more important as we move toward a co-curricular transcript. It is also increasingly important to employers, so we are trying to establish a platform

that says that. Motion by Hugh Riehlman; seconded by Don Huller.

Chairman Fisher and Dr. Cross invited the College Council to tour the Residential Construction house after lunch, which is being built by our students.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Root
Secretary to the College Council

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