



**Meeting of the Morrisville State College Council
The Copper Turret
May 19, 2007 – 9:30 a.m.**

Council Members Present: Chairman Arnold Fisher; Matthew Morgan; Hugh Riehlman; O. Perry Tooker; and Rashida Conteh, student representative.

SUNY Morrisville Staff Present: Ray Cross; Jessica DeCerce; Anne Englot, Faculty Congress Speaker; Joyce Malloy; and James VanRiper.

Chairman Arnold Fisher called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m.

Minutes:

The minutes from the March 2, 2007 meeting were approved. Motion by Hugh Riehlman; seconded by Perry Tooker.

President's Report:

Dr. Cross told the group that last year we decided to hold our commencement ceremony outside since it appeared there was only a small window of inclement weather. This year, the forecast was for rain, so yesterday afternoon we decided to hold the ceremony inside. The weather will probably be perfect at 1:00!

Dr. Cross also informed the group about a disgruntled employee whose contract was not renewed. Shortly thereafter, he started making threats to some of our faculty and staff. This continued from August through October. We started working with the federal authorities in November – our University Police force helped make a strong case and eventually they could no longer ignore the situation, especially in light of the recent Virginia Tech situation. He was arrested last week in Pittsburgh and will eventually be transported to Syracuse for trial and/or sentencing.

Biodiesel announcement was made a couple of weeks ago in Cortlandville. The state is going to put \$4M into the Center for Liquid Biofuels research. That is going to help us build the plant and get that going.

Faculty Speaker Report

Anne Englot commented that during the time that threats were being made by this former employee, our faculty kept hearing bits and pieces of this around campus. They were surprised and confused as to why there was no public announcement about any of this. Dr. Cross told Anne that the FBI requested he not talk about it; that it would impede our progress in apprehending him. Dr. Cross indicated to Anne that he will talk more about it this Thursday at the final faculty meeting of the year.

Anne reported that there had been a lot of discussion in Faculty Congress this year, but no real conclusions. The issues will continue into the fall and the new speaker will direct that. The revision of the academic warning and dismissal policy discusses the structured semester. There has been progress regarding this policy, but there are still some differing opinions and questions.

The same is true about the M-W-F, Tu-Th schedule. The faculty wanted more regularity but that committee finished its work and turned in their report.

The ABC report was accepted by Faculty Congress with stipulation. The summary of their report was that all programs need to follow State Education guidelines regarding course distribution for particular degrees.

Regarding the Judicial Board, there have been very positive feelings about it returning to the way it used to be. Geoff Isabelle just sent the new mission statement which will be included in the student handbook. Arnold Fisher stated that the last paragraph of the mission statement is very important and he was glad to see it included. "As the safety of the campus is preeminent, there may be exceedingly rare cases where the campus administration determines that a student must be removed from the community prior to being able to hold a judicial board hearing. At such times, the student can be separated from the community pending the results of their judicial board hearing."

Mr. Fisher also asked if we have a policy concerning DWI arrests. Jim VanRiper responded that DWI matters are handled through our normal student review policy. Mr. VanRiper also added that our alcohol policy is focused on the residence halls and campus activities rather than traffic violations.

Dr. Cross told Anne Englot that the academic warning and dismissal policy needs to be discussed in depth by the faculty – there's no hurry to get it resolved. He also commented that he is happy about the decision regarding the judicial board, too.

Ms. Englot ended her report by saying she enjoyed being a part of the College Council and learned a lot from the Council. Dr. Cross commented that Anne has done a great job as Speaker.

Interim Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Jim VanRiper also extended his thanks to Anne for doing a great job with some very difficult items that have come before the Faculty Congress this year.

Mr. VanRiper reported that we have been working on a five-year report to Middle States. The steering committee chose to deal with two issues: our desire to become more baccalaureate in nature and the issues that relate to that and also the increased requirement of an institution like ours to show we are doing adequate assessment. We will be working on those two issues over the next five years.

Regarding program development, Mr. VanRiper said that the Human Services AAS degree for Norwich has been registered. We've hired Fred Weaver, a Ph.D., as a full-time faculty member for the Norwich campus. We've also hired a new Ph.D. out of Perdue, Pei Xu, to go with our Ag Business Development degree. She will also join the advisory committee for the NY Center for Liquid Biofuels. We've hired a Ph.D. in Nursing – Maggie Argentine will join our faculty in the fall. She will actually begin doing some work on the program this summer. We are also very close to the final stages of the criminal Justice program in Norwich. We've hired Claire Armstrong-Seward to lead that program. Mr. VanRiper also mentioned that he was very pleased with

our ability to attract and hire people with terminal degrees. We also received a report yesterday that our AAS in Human Services for the Norwich campus will be completed by Monday or Tuesday of next week.

Student Government Report

Rashida Conteh reported that SGO finally finished the review of their constitution and it has gone to their advisor for further review. It will then go to the Dean of Students for approval.

Dr. Cross commented that SGO has had a lot of problems with the clubs on campus this year regarding the way to handle money. The problems may not be fixed yet, but the current board has made a great deal of progress.

Rashida talked about the Spring Jam and the comedian that was hired to perform. Because there was disagreement about the comedian that was hired, it was determined that those commitments need to be made five months before the event; it should be a well-known performer; and that should be reflected in the amount paid to that person.

Chairman Fisher thanked Rashida for her contributions to the SGO and complimented her on doing a good job.

Dr. Cross remarked that Rashida will attend Long Island University from here and then go back to Africa to work. Chairman Fisher and Dr. Cross encouraged her to continue working with students and SGO.

Council Items:

- a) Endorsement of the Athletic Department Statement of Philosophy. This particular statement is important to our NCAA progress. Motion by Matt Morgan; seconded by Perry Tooker.
- b) Citation for Anne Englot, Faculty Congress Speaker. Motion by Matt Morgan; seconded by Hugh Riehlman.
- c) Citation for Rashida Conteh, President, Student Government Organization. Motion by Matt Morgan; seconded by Perry Tooker.

Dr. Cross, Chairman Fisher and Interim Provost Jim VanRiper thanked Anne for her contributions to the College Council during the past two years. Faculty Congress has had to deal with some very difficult issues this year and we appreciate all that she's done.

Other Business:

Dr. Cross told the Council that our commencement speaker was Aminy Audi who, of course, is one of the owners of L. and J.G. Stickley in Fayetteville, and is also a member of the SUNY Board of Trustees.

Dick Bartlett's family will be at Commencement. Next year, we will award him an honorary degree posthumously. Brian Bartlett, Dick's son, will be joining the Morrisville College Foundation. Two chairs will be left empty on-stage in honor of Dick and Don Huller.

Bridget Publicover's family will also be at Commencement. We plan to award a bachelor's degree to Bridget posthumously – this is the year she would have graduated. Her family will be there to accept the diploma.

We also plan to mention two students who died while attending Morrisville this past year: Laura Janson, an equine science major from Chittenango; and William Kellum, a nursing major from Norwich.

Matt Morgan apologized that he would not be able to stay for the Commencement ceremony – he had visitors arriving at the State Fair that he needed to meet with.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m. Motion by Perry Tooker, seconded by Matt Morgan.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Malloy, Temporary
Secretary to the College Council