

Meeting of the SUNY Morrisville College Council
5th Floor Board Room, Whipple Building
November 8, 2002 – 10:00 a.m.

Council Members Present: Sarah Blood, Student Representative; James Dunne; Matt Morgan; Hugh Riehlman; and Charles Root.

Excused: Arnold Fisher, Don Huller, Thomas Morrone and Perry Tooker.

Morrisville State College Staff Present: John Angerosa; Charles Blaas; Greg Carroll; Michael Corpin; Ray Cross; Jessica DeCerce; Joyce Malloy; Michael Oppedisano, Faculty Congress Speaker; and Marian Whitney.

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Vice Chairman Matt Morgan.

Minutes:

The minutes from the May 18, 2002 meeting were approved. Motion by Charlie Root, seconded by Hugh Riehlman.

Student Government Report:

Matt Morgan introduced Sarah Blood, President of the Student Government Organization. She told a little about herself, her family, and her pursuits at Morrisville State College. The semester is going well for SGO and she's enjoying her time as President. She reported that she attended a Student Assembly Conference in October and one of the issues they voted on was a \$.25 tuition increase. She also talked about Morrisville being voted #3 in the nation (#1 for SUNY schools) by the Campus Activity Board Conference.

She indicated that SGO will be working with the Senior Citizens in December and many new campus clubs are in the process of being formed, with more diversity, to get a larger number of students involved. Matt Morgan asked if all organized clubs are active this year. Sarah indicated that there is an SGO policy that consolidates clubs that have not been active for three years; and that they are sending letters to the clubs that have fallen into that category.

The SGO budget will be submitted again in the spring and they will again look at the tuition increase to see if it's necessary.

President's Report:

Dr. Cross indicated he would like help from the Council on a couple of issues that will be coming up: 1) a tuition increase, and 2) bonding proposals.

The SUNY system has not received a tuition increase in eight years. New York has the advantage that any tuition increase is offset by our TAP program for most of our students. Therefore, we can control tuition expenses for students by increasing the TAP allotment. Dr. Cross indicated that if we don't get a tuition increase soon, we're going to have to make some serious cuts at our campus. At Morrisville, tuition is \$200 less than the other SUNY schools and, if nothing else, we should get an increase just to bring us up to the same level as the other schools. A discussion ensued on the \$150 pay-back charges for students attending community colleges.

Dr. Cross also indicated that he will need some help in his lobbying efforts. We need to encourage the Governor regarding bonding proposals. There's never been a cheaper time to borrow money and construction would stimulate the local economies and bring money into the region. We need to remodel our infrastructure and right now we could do it at very low prices.

Academic Affairs Report:

Dr. Blaas reported that we're into the heart of the semester, early grades have gone out and students are getting renewed in their academic pursuits. As we move towards Thanksgiving, students need to maintain their vigilance and

keep focused.

Academic Program Update: Our BBA's have now been registered with the State and they are programs in Information Technology, Auto Tech Management, and Resort and Recreation Management. Our Dairy Management BT has also been approved since the last meeting, as well as a BT in Renewable Resources, bringing to twelve areas at the baccalaureate level at Morrisville. We are very near submission of an AAS in Motor Sports to go along with our BT in Auto Tech and now the BBA, so we are really excited about our academic offerings in the automotive field. When Jim Dunne asked if we had any offerings in the restoration of antique cars, Dr. Blaas responded that we are close to that as we will be pursuing an associate's degree in auto body. If we get bonding, we may be able to overhaul Galbreath Hall to accommodate that – there is a big demand for it. We are also looking at the possibility of bringing a BSN (Nursing) to the campus. Norwich is looking at some stand-alone programs not represented on our campus, such as Health and Human Resources, Criminal Justice and the possibility of teacher preparation, a two-year transfer program for those who intend to go into teaching.

General Education Assessment: The faculty have been busy working on the ways that we will assess that students have met the requirements for seven out of ten areas at the associates level. We will be moving toward three other new areas this year.

On-line Grading: That happened for the first time this past semester and went very smoothly. We are in the process of moving away from paperwork. On-line registration also occurred this semester and we hit a couple of snags, but for the most part, that went well.

Deans: We have put together a search committee for the Dean of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The closing date for resumes in December 13th. Ted Nichols has assumed the leadership role at the Norwich campus and is doing an excellent job.

Reports: Dr. Blaas and President Cross have talked about bringing various reporting areas before this group. We will soon ask the academic deans to come in and talk about each of their schools. Today, Greg Carroll, our Director of Athletics, will provide you with an athletic update.

Athletic Update:

Greg Carroll told the group that his philosophy has never been about how many games are won or lost. You can't control how good the other teams are. The only thing you do have control over is how prepared you are and the lessons the students learn along the way. The athletic staff is involved in both recruiting and retention – their involvement doesn't end when a student decides to come to Morrisville. The athletic staff is also involved in community/campus events. The basketball team recently held some clinics for neighboring schools – it was fun for the team members. The teams would enjoy doing more of those types of things, we just need to identify areas.

He has asked the coaches to do some type of professional development and it's a part of the evaluation process. He has challenged the coaches to continuously follow through on ideas to make them part of an established program, not just to use it for one year and discard it.

He addressed the issues regarding low participation levels for women's sports and he distributed a hand-out outlining his strategy to reverse this trend. In the spring, Morrisville State College will host a salute to women's sports with the goal being to actively promote women's sports. High school Section III sports participants will be invited to attend and the speaker will be a woman of stature in sports. Coca-cola is working with them to get funding for speakers.

He and the Intercollegiate Athletic Board are studying the NCAA vs. the NJCAA to determine where we should be athletically. That study will be conducted during the coming year.

Greg expressed his pleasure that Paul Rose, the former Dean of Enrollment Management, is working with the athletic department as a lacrosse coach and recruiter. His years of experience in both areas will benefit the whole department.

Charlie Root asked about athletic involvement of Norwich students. Greg indicated that there aren't many who participate, but we are looking at ways to get Norwich students more involved. Jim Dunne indicated that a number of

students come from the Section III area and Sherburne-Earlville has also just joined that group.

Dr. Cross indicated that Greg Carroll's philosophy is what made him so especially attractive for Morrisville State College. His emphasis is on sportsmanship and character, and whether we win or lose is less important than the character, attitude and leadership of the team members.

President's Report (con't.):

Civility Paper: Dr. Cross distributed his position paper on Civility. In there, he indicates that we need to abandon the Jerry Springer line of thinking that the loudest voice gets heard and any other participants are shouted down. As he notes in the paper, "An uncivil environment promotes divisiveness— not education and learning" and it is our obligation, as educators, to discourage that type of behavior. "If we don't discourage disrespectful behaviors, we actually restrict free speech and limit academic freedoms." These messages are important and will be delivered to our students at a mandatory meeting at the start of the spring semester, and in various publications including the student handbook. It was noted that we need to allow students to express themselves, but to do it in a non-offensive manner, in a civil way without vulgarity. Charlie Root added that these are rights and obligations of being a part of a community. Sarah Blood suggested that the position paper be distributed at orientation and possibly become a part of the housing license which students are asked to sign and adhere to. Publication in the Chimes was also recommended. Jim Dunne added that most people feel this way, it's just never published anywhere. Perhaps it should go into the local newspapers as an editorial item.

\$1 Million Gift: Dr. Cross told the Council about Sheila Johnson's gift to Morrisville State College. The Sheila Crump Johnson Institute will provide support for diversity and character-building initiatives for students and the college community by creating fellowships, offering scholarships and providing diversity-oriented, character-building and leadership programming.

Construction: Construction for Fountain View residence hall is progressing well and is due to be completed by June 30, 2003.

Methane Digester: The design for this is 95% complete. Construction will start in the spring, so it will be out to bid soon. The digester is designed to make it feasible for the average farmer to build.

Co-Generation: This project is on hold. The bid came in at \$1.5 million over what it should have cost, eliminating its cost-effectiveness. We are working on a proposal to put in two generators.

Dean of Students Report:

University Police: As you know, the events of 9/11 called Rick D'Alessandro into active duty. He has obtained a release date and will be returning to campus the first week in December.

Career & Counseling Services: The two positions that were open have been filled with Counselors Amy Williams and Ed Millet.

Health Center : Dot Ivinski retired this past May and her replacement is Linda Lanni, who is doing a good job.

Residence Life: We only hired one new Residence Director, Celine Traylor.

Emergency Response Plan: We recently sent our plan to Albany but we continue to review that in accordance with emergencies that arise on campus. Our homeland security issues have been upgraded in the residence life areas to obtain information faster and to access campus judicial information as well.

9/11 Celebration: We did hold an observance on campus that was contributed to by Student Government, students and local townspeople as well.

Mustang Weekend: This event turned out to be a big success and was well attended. Rita and Mike worked with the Alumni Office to combine our campus community event with homecoming activities. The result was a great weekend enjoyed by all.

Incidents: Regretably, two car accidents have occurred this semester resulting in some pretty serious injuries and the death of one of our students. We had a gas leak at the dormitory construction site and it caused the evacuation of four residence halls. Our response plan was tested and we responded well.

Matt Morgan suggested we issue a Citation to Chief D'Alessandro and any other employees who have been called to active duty.

Administrative Services Report:

John Angerosa commented that we are in the middle of the 2002-03 budget year. In terms of increases, we are expected to compensate for salary increases totaling \$700,000. Our budgeted enrollment was 2730 and our actual enrollment was 2850. Our one-time cash infusions from the UCT will be going away, but the salary increases will still be here. That means we will need to make expenditure reductions or additional cuts for 2003-04.

The good news is that we have pretty much completed our construction projects except for the heifer barn which will be added in the spring. We've gotten another \$1 million from the state to re-do our brick work in Helyar and Oneida Halls. We are designing a new campus center – the construction fund wants us to start that, so that when the new capital plan is approved, we'll be ready. Additionally, we do a lot of the construction work on campus locally and we do the supervision ourselves.

As the Council is the local advisory group for Perkins III, John commented that at the last meeting VATEA approved \$547,000 to go into effect July 1st, and we would be able to spend that amount as of August 1st. We have purchased the \$350,000 worth of equipment that was specified. John will continue to bring the Council up-to-date on those VATEA funding issues.

Marketing Report:

Jessica DeCerce reported on the marketing plan and distributed a timeline for proposed marketing expenditures. She also talked about air time for sponsorship slots which will be aired on WSTM, WIXT and WUTR, Utica . We have also signed up for a full year run with Country Folks, an agricultural newspaper. And we will have billboard ads in October and December. Screen scenes will also be featured at local theaters. We are starting our advertising campaign earlier than last year to attract students who plan early registration.

She played the commercial that was made for us by Sheila Johnson's production crew. It's a quality product and was run continuously at the Washington International Horse Show in Washington, DC. We have extracted some of the information from that commercial and it is heard if you are placed on hold when you call Morrisville State College. We've gotten a lot of good response from the commercial. It's airing on Time Warner cable and is focused on prospective students. The Council members encouraged any marketing plans to bring Norwich students to the Morrisville campus as well.

Sarah Blood suggested that we invite students from local schools and FFA chapters to visit Morrisville. We could have them meet with some of our current students for information and then hold a question and answer session during the school year.

Faculty Speaker Report:

Michael Oppedisano reported that Faculty Congress has met four times this year. The Assessment Committee is now a standing committee and one of the busier ones. Phase III of the assessment plan is underway. It's a project that is being overseen by the Provost's Office.

Post Tenure: UUP will not support any policy that will evaluate post tenured faculty. It should be noted, however,

that the discussion that has come from all of this has been very healthy and enlightening. Dr. Cross told the Council that there is a review policy in place for post-tenured faculty that administration assumes; however he was trying to get the faculty to work on a service improvement process. Dr. Cross thanked Faculty Congress and Mike for facilitating this discussion and giving him a forum to express himself.

Another policy that came to Faculty Congress last year, the Distance Learning Policy, is still looking for more input from the Faculty Senate. Gladys Cleland will get this shortly and we hope to have this wrapped up by mid-spring. The biggest issue is shared ownership of internet-based materials.

Options for the 2003-2004 academic calendar are posted on the internet. It has been suggested that a vote be taken on a five-year model rather than to adopt one year at a time.

Comments:

Matt Morgan suggested to the Council members that different meeting times and/or locations be considered, such as a dinner format, breakfast format or a different location if this would make it easier for members to attend meetings. He pointed out that we need to have four meetings a year and we'd like members to attend these meetings at the most convenient time for them. Also, he agreed that having visitors attend and give information on their area is helpful to the Council. Hugh Riehlman suggested we include a tour of the campus as a portion of a meeting.

He also talked about a possible agenda item would be to rethink the name of the college. Binghamton University, SUNY Alfred and Alfred State have all dropped "Agriculture" from their names.

Matt attended the ACT Conference this past weekend. It was held at the Otesaga Hotel in Cooperstown and it was great. It will be held at the Otesaga again next year on October 3-5 and he would like to encourage other Council members to attend this interesting and educational conference. Matt received an award for being a member for 20 years. Matt commented that he announced the \$1 million gift to Morrisville which got a lot of attention and he was proud that Ben Dunigan received an ACT Student Initiative Award. Ben is responsible for our hydroponics project and the growing of the Morrisville tomato: "Momato." Ben was the #1 vote getter and was one of only four students to receive this award.

Other Business:

Charlie Root made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Hugh Riehlman. The meeting adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles Root
Secretary