

**Meeting of the Morrisville State College Council**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room, Whipple Administration Building**  
**September 24, 2004 – 10:00 a.m.**

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

**Excused:** Don Huller; Thomas Morrone

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

Chairman Arnold Fisher called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

**Minutes:**

The minutes from the May 7, 2004 meeting were approved. Motion by Matt Morgan, seconded by Hugh Riehlman.

**President=s Report:**

Dr. Cross told the group that there were a number of things he wanted to go over with them today, including the tragic accident at the Equine Center last weekend in which Bridget Publicover died. Dr. Cross shared with the group the facts as we know them and some thoughts as to how the accident may have occurred since no one actually witnessed the accident. The medical examiner's report shows that the imprint of the horseshoe looks as though the horse stepped on her – it looks like a stepping action rather than a kick. Also, it appears that the horse did not attack her as the horse was found grazing just outside the barn area shortly after the accident and he was calm.

The horse was sent to Cornell to be examined to be sure there was nothing obviously wrong. We're not sure what we will do with the horse; however the horse community has rallied and there has been quite an outpouring not to have the horse destroyed. We may sell or trade the horse – we're not sure. We've owned the horse for two years and never had any problems with it and it was well thought of by other students. We also received a fax from the place where Bridget rode asking us not to destroy the horse – that Bridget would not have wanted that. Dr. Cross called and told the owner that was not our intent.

**Enrollment Trends:** These figures show significant progress in quality. We are not growing in numbers as much as before, but what we are trying to do is to make sure our students are prepared to be here as we really want them to succeed.

**Budget:** John Angerosa will cover this topic. Under the capital plan, we will receive \$25M which was approved by the Governor; however, all other items were vetoed.

**Construction:** Dr. Cross showed pictures of the Residential Construction house that Bruce Revette and his students are working on. It's coming along nicely. He also showed pictures of the Norwich facility and commented that the architects will probably get an award for this building.

**Heifer Barns:** Dr. Cross reported that the heifers are doing really good and preliminary analysis suggests they are putting on weight in a hurry. The students are building a transition barn as we ultimately want to move out of the Owens barn.

**Nelson Farms:** This venture is coming along really well – we now have 103 products that we are processing. We are in need of warehouse space. The outside is currently being finished and the front will be a cracker barrel-type store. We will also be able to process gluten-free products.

**Mustang Statue:** Arnold and his family have donated the new Mustang statute which is located in the Administrative Quad. It's about 9 feet tall and has a four foot pedestal that has a stone wall appearance. The dedication ceremony

will be at 2:00 tomorrow during Mustang weekend activities.

Walleye Ponds: We have a potential project with the Cazenovia Lake Association to raise walleye fish to improve the quality of their lake. Since they have a stunted perch population, they feel this could improve the game fishing. This type of a project fits with our model of integrating academics with the community. In October, when the corn is removed from that area, we will do a topographical study of the land for construction of new ponds.

Dr. Cross also indicated that Jim VanRiper, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, will also talk about programs that we are currently developing.

### **Faculty Speaker Report:**

Diane Tice reported that Faculty Congress has had two meetings since school began and they have approved the Civility statement and added a reference to the environment. They are in the process of going through Policies 6105 – 6112 which are in the college catalog, but have never formally been approved. She said they are updating them to reflect the current four-year environment of the college.

She also indicated that they are working to define a template for the college catalogue so that all programs will follow the same structure.

Standing committees are just starting to meet.

### **Academic Affairs Report:**

Jim VanRiper updated the group on program development. Since the last meeting, two programs have been announced – an AAS in Auto Body Technology and a BT in Diesel Technology Management. We are still waiting for approval from SUNY and State Ed for the Associate's in Education Transfer; we'd like to have that ready for next fall. The BSN is currently being reviewed by SUNY.

Under local review is a Certificate in Surgical Technology and an AAS in Automotive Sports (performance program) that will primarily fill the auto building.

The BT in Clinical Exercise Science is being reviewed locally and will be in the hands of SUNY very quickly.

Jim and Dr. Cross, and the Deans have prepared a spreadsheet on program development that will continue development through 2008.

Jim distributed "fact sheets" for a number of programs on campus that have been put together by Admissions and Public Relations. Every program will have a fact sheet like this available on the web – it can be printed off and we hope it will help us in our recruiting efforts. We also have two new general brochures, one for juniors in high school and another for seniors in high school, giving an overview of our campus. There have been a number of improvements on our web page to make it easier for prospective students to find the information they need.

Lastly, we are in the process of putting together a list of courses that would be available for a Winter Term. Our goal is to utilize the campus during the six week winter break, allowing us to offer courses during fall, winter, spring and summer terms. Financial aid may not be available for these courses, but we will explore that further. Dr. Cross told the College Council that Jim VanRiper has been serving as Interim Provost and Vice President for a while now. He's doing a fine job and one of his principal jobs will be to develop these new programs.

We've also been looking at adding more summer courses at Norwich. Regarding Criminal Justice, we have the announcement into Albany and Jim has met with personnel at Broome Community College who are very receptive to working with us in terms of a BT over the top of their associate degree. Our goal is to see if we could find a niche for the bachelor's degree. We would like to have one, two or three new programs to announce when we open the Norwich campus. Summer school will start at the new building in the summer of 2005.

### **Administrative Services Report:**

John Angerosa distributed a handout showing the money that has been budgeted to us. John indicated that we will need to go through and get things priced out and approved. Three projects that we want to begin immediately are the Rec Building, the Theater and the Automotive Building . We are going to move the athletic department offices and lockers to the Rec Building as a campus project – that way, we can control the funding. The Theatre is not very useful for other functions, so we're planning to renovate that. We need to begin work on the Automotive Building as soon as possible, given the demand for motor sports in general. As you know the Governor vetoed the two projects we were hoping to have funded – the automotive racing center and the equine rehabilitation center. The matching program, which we were hoping to utilize for Brooks Hall and the methane digester project, was also vetoed.

We will take possession of the Norwich building about the first of December. We'll set up the classrooms, buy the equipment and, hopefully, have it opened for the summer session of 2005. The funding is in place and we have \$1.5M to use over the next five years.

Dr. Cross again commented on how responsive the Norwich community has been to this project. They've been a pleasure to work with. If we continue to bring new programs that are unique to that campus (like criminal justice, insurance fraud investigation), we should have between 800-1,000 students before long and, at some point, there will be also be a need for housing. There was some discussion about the winter term and how that would be well-received at the Norwich campus. Since so many of our Norwich students attend college on a part-time basis, they would be interested in picking up another course or two during this period of time.

In terms of the '03-04 budget, John indicated that we lost about \$2M when the \$50M was taken from the SUNY colleges. The Chancellor tried to get that back, but was only able to secure \$17M. So, we will get a portion of the \$17M plus our share of the raises that were negotiated. We have done very well. We are still trying to get the \$34M back and UUP is trying to get additional money for people on the campus. So, this budget is much better than it could have been for '05-06. However, it's expected that after the election, we will go back to into a realistic budget mode. Matt Morgan indicated that we may see some of those programs put back into the budget after the election. One of the major problems for the Governor is that the cost of Medicaid has gone so high. Family Health Plus is choking the counties and the state is picking up an additional piece next year.

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

Rich Carreno reported that we hired 17 new people at the start of the fall semester. Some our newer areas, massage therapy and automotive, needed new hires as well as the normal residence hall director turn-over.

We participated in the State Fair again this year and got a tremendous amount of exposure. Our booth has become a population gathering spot for our alumni; some even come back to participate in staffing our booth at the Fair. Rich indicated that our race car was displayed at the Fair and drew a lot of interest. We hope to have it displayed for a longer period of time next year. As always, thanks to Matt Morgan for his help with facilitating the feeding of all Morrisville personnel who worked at the Fair.

Mustang Weekend begins tonight. We have a lot of activities planned, along with a dedication tomorrow at 2:00 of the Mustang statue donated by Arnold and Arlene Fisher and family. Please join us if you are able to attend.

#### **Student Government Report:**

Michael Watson introduced himself to the group as the President of the Student Government Organization as well as a representative on the SUNY Student Assembly. He is an Agricultural Science major and he plans to transfer to Cornell to become a veterinarian. He lives in Queens, New York and worked with the Humane Society in Manhattan to get stray animals adopted.

He reported that SGO has had 2-3 meetings so far and they are in the process of getting things together, voting members in, revising constitutions and revising their own constitution as well. They have been working with the Dean of Students and Jim Hastie to get the students to join the board. They are in the process of trying to find a secretary; but everyone else seems happy with their position.

Michael noted that the main goal of SGO is to promote student government and get the word out to people to become a part of it. There's a lot more voice out there than the 30-40 students who regularly attend the business meetings. He reported that a training session held by SGO is called SGO TIPS (Training for Professional Skills) and includes topics such as parliamentary procedures, budgeting and expenses, goal setting, etc. At the SUNY Assembly, there's a project right now called "Rock the Vote" which is an attempt to get students to register to vote in the upcoming elections. The campus with the highest percentage of students who vote wins an artist or celebrity appearance on their campus.

Charlie Root asked Michael if they had tried to organize any on-line SGO meetings. Michael indicated he would look into that.

### **Council Business:**

a) Resolution to approve curriculum advisory committee appointment of David Grover for the Massage Therapy Program. Motion by Matt Morgan; seconded by Perry Tooker.

d) Resolution to approve curriculum advisory committee appointment of Theresa Contos for the Massage Therapy Program. Motion by Charlie Root; seconded by James Dunne.

### **Strategic Planning**

Dr. Cross gave an update to the Council on recent strategic planning exercises that have been conducted with the faculty and staff. He would also like to involve the College Council and the Morrisville College Foundation in the process. He explained that strategic planning is the development of a vision, mission statement and strategic goals. In December, we need to submit a new Memorandum of Understanding to SUNY and, as a result, we want to plan now so we are sure to include everything we want to accomplish.

Some questions utilized in the strategic planning process are:

- 1) What do you think, as an institution, we should be doing?
- 2) What are your expectations for this institution?
- 3) What concerns you...where might we be vulnerable....where are our opportunities?
- 4) What would be devastating to our institution and how do we guard against that?
- 5) What do you see as a weakness...or an opportunity...is the village an opportunity?

Matt Morgan indicated that he doesn't see any real town/gown problems at Morrisville, but one of the things the students tell him is there's nothing to do in Morrisville.

Dr. Cross noted that he feels the college has to take a leadership role in the revitalization of the village with possibly a restaurant, a hotel, or possibly new dormitories. From recent studies, we have learned that students would prefer to have study lounges in their residence halls; when the library closes at 12:00 p.m., they could go down to the lounge and complete their work.

Other comments/suggestions:

- 1) Matt Morgan felt that a café or a study area downtown would enhance the village.
- 2) Arnold Fisher pointed out that the Barge Canal coffeehouse in Hamilton is a very popular gathering spot for students.
- 3) Charlie Root suggested it might be possible to connect activities like Nelson Farms to academic programs.
- 4) We should do something with energy; something with wind power which is now eligible for metering.
- 5) We need to find a way to deal with this whole "green" concept.

Vision: What do you think the institution should aspire to do or be?

Question: If it could be done, what would catapult us into an area that no one could compete with?

Dr. Cross told the Council that a spreadsheet would be forwarded to them by e-mail and he encouraged them to take

some time to respond and send it back to his office.

**Other Business:**

Matt Morgan reminded the group that the annual NYS Association of Council Members & Trustees Annual Conference would be held November 12-14 at the Gideon Putnam Hotel & Conference Center in Saratoga Springs . He urged all of the Council members to attend.

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Charlie Root made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Hugh Riehlman. The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles Root  
Secretary to the College Council

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