



**Meeting of the Morrisville State College Council
5th Floor Board Room, Whipple Administration Building
Friday, September 26, 2008 - 10:00 a.m.**

Council Members Present: Chairman Matthew Morgan; Lawrence Baker; Susan Dietrich; Arnold Fisher; Steven Jones; Judith Noyes; Hugh Riehlman; Patrick King, student representative

Excused: James Dunne

Morrisville State College Staff Present: Richard Carreno; Ray Cross; Jessica DeCerce; Jo Ann Godfrey; James VanRiper; Tom VerDow; Jason Zbock

Prior to the start of the meeting, the College Council toured the new Autobody Building.

Chairman Matthew Morgan called the meeting to order at 10:55 a.m.

Minutes:

The minutes from the May 17, 2008 meeting were approved. Motion by Mr. Lawrence Baker; seconded by Mr. Arnold Fisher.

Introduction of New Member of the College Council:

Mr. Morgan introduced Mr. Steven Jones to the members of the College Council. Mr. Jones has been very supportive of the College over the years and Chairman Morgan welcomed him as a new member of the College Council.

President's Report:

Enrollment

The Director of Admissions, Mr. Tom VerDow, provided an update on enrollment. There were 4750 applications this year which is 545 applications more than 2007-08 and 494 applications more than 2006-07. There were 64 more full-time students accepted this year as compared to 2007-08 which is 46 FTE and means that there are 160 more students living in the residence halls. Mr. VerDow noted that there are 70 more Bachelor degree students on campus. He also noted that there has been a decrease in the enrollment at the Norwich campus.

Mr. Baker asked if the total number of applications was a record number. Mr. VerDow responded that in checking back twenty years, 4750 applications was the highest number on record. Dr.

Cross agreed. Mr. VerDow indicated that applications were up 11.5% as compared to last year and he and his staff are working to match that number for this year.

Mr. VerDow reviewed the headcount by type (first time, transfer, continuing, returning, and concurrent enrollment). The overall headcount is down. Mr. VerDow indicated that most of that has to do with concurrent enrollment. In 2007-08 we did not hit our target FTE (-60) which resulted in a budget shortfall. Mr. VerDow is optimistic that with the increase in the number of full-time students and the number of resident students, we should meet our target this year.

Mr. Morgan commented that Mr. VerDow and his staff has made tremendous progress in reversing the trend that we had experienced over the last several years and commended Mr. VerDow and his staff for doing a great job!

Budget

Dr. Cross opened his presentation by commenting that these budget problems are not unique to New York State. Other states are also having difficulty. Dr. Cross provided an overview of the budget cuts thus far: Cut #1 – 2.9% which reflects a \$350,000 cut in March 2008. Cut #2 – 3.35% which reflects a \$400,000 cut in April 2008 plus an additional \$450,000 cut that was necessary due to the enrollment shortfall. Cut #3 – information received via a Budget Bulletin indicates that we should expect an additional 7% cut but no additional information has been received on this cut. A 7% cut would mean an additional \$600-700,000 cut in our budget. Dr. Cross noted that this totals \$1.8-1.9M in cuts for Morrisville and there will be more. This is an enormous reduction and is the largest cut that this institution as ever had to face. Dr. Cross explained the reductions that have been implemented so far, and commented that he has delayed on cut #3 waiting for additional information, but nothing has come through.

Mr. Fisher asked if Albany was looking at the impact these cuts would have on the institutions. Dr. Cross responded that they have no choice. They are going to have to make cuts and the impact to the campus will be left up to each campus. At this point, Dr. Cross indicated that he hopes to have more information after the Board of Trustees Meeting on November 18.

Mr. Morgan asked if these cuts were all coming out of this year's budget. Dr. Cross responded that Cuts 1 and 2 have to be accomplished by March 30. Dr. Cross mentioned that UUP has chastised SUNY in the paper for not acting in an expeditious manner in dealing with this. This is a fair criticism.

Dr. Cross reviewed some of the ways being implemented to deal with the budget shortfall:

- Reducing travel budgets even more
- Holding positions vacant
- Reducing class offerings
- Eliminating incidental expenses
- Postponing expenditures
- Reducing staff levels
- Evaluating program cuts
- Energy savings and waste reduction – we are being very aggressive in this area. We anticipate saving \$200,000 between now and June 30.

What happens next year? Dr. Cross indicated that the Governor has directed a “zero-growth” budget which means that there will be no additional funding for the salary increases that have

already been negotiated. These increases will now have to come out of local budgets. It is not likely that there will be a tuition increase approved for 2008-09. There may be a tuition increase in January 2009 for 2009-10. A tuition increase is a difficult tradeoff since it can limit access for students who need this the most.

SUNY Chancellor Search

Dr. Cross indicated that it is his understanding that the SUNY Board of Trustees has forwarded three names to the Governor and he will be interviewing the candidates. He indicated that this is not generally how the search is handled – usually the Trustees receive the names and they make the decision. Dr. Cross commented that he has heard that the three candidates are political appointees and not typical educators. Very little information is known about this process.

Cabinet Reports:

Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Academic Programs

Provost VanRiper opened his discussion by commenting that a number of years ago the Colleges of Technology received authorization to begin offering Bachelor degrees. Morrisville started by offering a Bachelor of Technology degree and a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. For a period of time, twelve Bachelor degree programs were offered. Over the last three to four years, eight new Bachelor degree programs have been approved bringing our total Bachelor program offerings to twenty.

The Bachelor of Technology in Technology Management was recently approved. This degree allows for a different technology core around a business program. A new Associate in Applied Science degree in Autobody has also been approved. Both degrees have been registered for a fall 2008 start.

New academic programs expected to be completed and receive approval for fall 2009 or fall 2010 are:

- BBA Video Journalism
- BT Criminal Justice
- BBA Business Administration
- BArch Architecture (emphasis in rural architecture)
- BS Applied Psychology
- BT Nutrition Management
- BS Equine Science and Physiology
- BT Automotive Engineering Technology
- BS Technical Theater
- AAS Renewable Energy

Mr. Fisher commented that he thought the Criminal Justice degree was already being offered at the Norwich Campus. Mr. VanRiper clarified that the Criminal Justice Associates degree is currently being offered at the Norwich Campus and the Bachelors degree would be offered on the main campus.

Provost VanRiper also outlined programs currently being developed:

- BS Rural Development and Leadership
- BS Renewable Energy
- BT E-Commerce
- BT Energy Systems Management
- AS Biological Sciences
- AAS Wooden Boat Building and Restoration
- AAS Residential Construction

Mr. Fisher asked if there would be additional funding for these new programs. Dr. Cross explained that the College cannot stop investing in the future. Efforts are continuing in new program development, but new programs may not be implemented as quickly as we would have if the budget had not been reduced. Once approved, start up costs and enrollment projections will be evaluated to determine when they should be implemented. Mr. Fisher asked if it was still difficult to get new programs through the State Ed process in a timely manner. Dr. Cross acknowledged that new program approval was still a long process.

There are a number of program revisions:

- Medical Office Technology
- Journalism Technology – changing the AAS degree to an AA now that we have a four-year Journalism program
- Culinary Arts option in the BBA in Resort and Recreation
- Design and Drafting AAS (name change)
- BBA Resort and Recreation Services Management (name change)

There are a number of programs under development:

- BT in Graphic Design
- BT in Interior Design
- BT Automotive Design Technology
- BT Industrial or Product Design

Some new program ideas:

- BS or BT in Aquaculture or Aquatic Science
- AAS in Optical Technician at the Norwich Campus
- Event Management

Mr. VanRiper noted that efforts are underway to offer Morrisville Bachelor degrees on some community college campuses such as the BBA in Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management. Discussions are underway to offer this BBA degree at Onondaga Community College as well as Cayuga County Community College.

Dr. Cross commented that he does anticipate offering one year of the Equine BT degree at KESMARC next year to a couple of students in Florida.

Mr. Morgan asked about the status of the boat building curriculum. Mr. VanRiper responded that with Wayne Hausknecht's retirement, not much has happened with this.

Mr. VanRiper indicated that the degree audit program – Curriculum Advising and Program Planning (CAPP) – is being implemented. This program will be used by students, faculty

advisors and administrators to determine a student's status relative to completing their degree or evaluation of requirements and time to completion in a new degree program. This new program will be tested for a couple of weeks with the faculty first. There was a lot of work involved in setting up 80 curriculums and all requirements.

Mr. VanRiper announced that the Dean of the Norwich Campus, Dr. Edward (Ted) Nichols has resigned and accepted a new position as an Academic Vice President at a college in Pennsylvania. Marsha Cornelius, who has been working at the Norwich Campus since 1993, has been named Director of the Norwich Campus. She will handle the day-to-day operation. Dr. David Rogers will serve as the Interim Dean of the Norwich Campus in addition to his responsibilities as the Dean of the School of Business. Dr. Cross noted that Ms. Cornelius is finishing up her dissertation to complete her doctorate. He commented that she has done a fine job and she will be given serious consideration for the position of Dean of the Norwich Campus once she has received her doctorate.

Mr. VanRiper updated the Council on Xiang Li. He has been sentenced to 9 ½ years for his threats to faculty and staff at this college.

Vice President for Administrative Services

Capital Projects

Dr. Cross explained that at this point the problems with the New York State budget do not affect the funding for the Capital Projects.

The College has a purchase agreement on the Bucks Woods property on Route 20 for the new Equine Rehabilitation facility. This 103 acre piece of property is located only 3 miles from the campus. The money for this project is coming through Economic Development, not the State, which means that construction will be able to proceed much quicker. Mr. Carreno indicated that it is hopeful that this construction will be completed in early 2010. Mr. Jones mentioned that he and the owner of Buck's Woods have been friends since Kindergarten and that he and his office have represented the owner of Buck's Woods, as a matter of public record, on other matters. However, he had not heard about this proposed purchase until today, and he will not be representing the owner of Buck's Woods on this matter. He indicated that in the interest of full disclosure, he wanted to mention this.

Architects will be interviewed soon for the construction of the Athletic Stadium. Construction will begin spring 2009, but will have to be scheduled around athletic activities. It is anticipated that the stadium will be completed fall 2009.

Work on the upgrade of Bicknell Hall should begin in Spring 2009 with expected completion by Spring 2010.

Construction on the Design Center is expected to begin in April 2009. Mr. Carreno indicated that with the new Design Center and the Stadium, the entrance to the campus will really change.

Construction on STUAC should begin in mid-year 2010. The swimming pool has been closed and this area will become the new Fitness Center.

The new apartment complex – Commons 2 – should be completed in April.

Oneida Hall had to be used for the fall semester, but construction is expected to begin spring 2009. This dorm will be all singles when renovations are completed.

Student Government Report

Patrick King, the new Student Government Organization President, was welcomed by the members of the College Council. He indicated that the current members of the Executive Board of SGO are: Armando Franco, Vice President; Kristin Clark, Secretary; Scott Nicolai, Director of Budgets; and Kyle Russ, CAB Chairperson.

The question of whether or not SGO should set aside funds for college-recognized honor societies has not been reviewed yet this semester and is still pending in SGO.

SGO is considering a proposal to bring a leadership and motivational speaker to campus. Patrick King commented that this individual would be very helpful to clubs and other student leaders on campus.

Patrick King updated the members of the Council regarding the process that was started last year to update club constitutions to meet new guidelines.

There is a voter registration drive being planned to try to encourage voter awareness among the students.

The SGO TIPS series has started and the ELITE Series will be starting soon. These events instruct students on such things as how to run a meeting, financial issues, etc.

The Club Fair is at the end of the month. All Clubs are required to attend. SGO will be there to help familiarize students with the many clubs and organizations on campus.

A few freshman students have approached SGO about the swimming pool. Patrick indicated that he has asked the Athletic Board to come and talk to the SGO Assembly.

The students agreed to increase the student activity fee to \$65. Students want to have bigger and better activities on campus. Patrick King noted that even though Morrisville has one of the lowest fees, we have the largest number of activities. Dr. Cross commented that it costs more to have the type of activities that the students want and it would be hard to convince students to increase the fee to accomplish that. Patrick King indicated that SGO has explained what the fee brings to the campus and what the campus would be like without student activities.

Faculty Speaker Report

Mr. Zbock reported on the activities over the summer to develop a plan to improve retention. The first session focused on advising, the next session looked at academic support services and the third session focused on non-academic services.

Faculty Congress is continuing its discussion on revision of the academic review policies and the early dismissal policy.

Dr. Cross complimented Jason Zbock and Faculty Congress for taking leadership in these areas. Mr. Morgan agreed and thanked Mr. Zbock for keeping the College Council well informed.

A website has been created for Faculty Congress. Information is now available to everyone.

Storage space has been provided for Faculty Congress in Hamilton Hall. This has been a tremendous help to have older Faculty Congress files located all in one place.

There has been a change in date for the University Faculty Senate 2009 Winter Plenary that will be hosted by Morrisville State College. It will be held on February 5, 2009 to February 7, 2009. Mr. Zbock indicated that he expects a good turnout. The Morrisville campus has changed over the last few years and this meeting will be a great opportunity to show off the campus to the many visitors that will be here, including SUNY administration.

Emily Casey, the AmeriCorps Vista Worker, made a presentation to Faculty Congress to talk about the community service initiatives on campus. She announced that there will be a campus-wide day of service on October 17.

Council Items:

a) Resolution to approve the Morrisville State College Model Domestic Violence and the Workplace Policy.

Mr. Carreno explained that Executive Order 19 requires each facility to have a domestic violence and the workplace policy; however, this policy does not change the way that we are already operating. This document has been agreed to by the Unions. As an employer we need to be aware of how domestic violence issues impact employees. Mr. Morgan commented that not all places of employment are as family oriented as Morrisville is.

Training will be provided so that employees will know how to recognize domestic violence and how to deal with that. SUNY has hired a compliance officer to make sure campuses are in compliance. Dr. Cross commented that SUNY is hiring at a time when other campuses have to lay people off.

Motion to approve by Mr. Fisher; seconded by Mr. Baker.

b) Resolution to approve a naming opportunity.

Dr. Cross asked the members of the College Council to consider approving a Resolution to name the Dairy Complex the *Arnold R. Fisher Dairy Complex*. Arnold Fisher has been affiliated with the College Council since 1967. He is a long time supporter of the College; he served on the Foundation and has donated a considerable amount to the College. Dr. Cross requested approval of the Resolution so that a request can be sent to SUNY.

Mr. Fisher responded that naming the Dairy Complex after him was a heart-warming compliment and he indicated that it has been a pleasure serving Morrisville State College.

Mr. Morgan responded that this was a well deserved honor and the College Council would like Dr. Cross to seek approval from SUNY.

Motion to approve by Mr. Baker; seconded by Mr. Riehlman.

Other Business:

Mr. Morgan encouraged the members of the College Council to attend the ACT conference that is coming up in a few weeks. It is the 60th year of SUNY and a nice program is planned.

Dr. Cross commented that every year he opens the school year with a theme and events surrounding that theme are planned throughout the year. This year the theme is the world food crisis. One of the events that is being planned is the showing of Dr. Sheila Johnson's movie, *A Powerful Noise*. This movie is about women who start businesses in third world countries. Dr. Cross commented that empowering women is an effective way to deal with the food crisis. If possible, a telephone interview with Dr. Johnson is planned at the conclusion of the film. Dr. Cross indicated that other events will be planned throughout the academic year.

Homecoming Weekend is October 3-4. Box seats have been reserved at the football game. Dr. Cross mentioned that box seats will also be included in the new stadium design. Mr. Fisher asked if sponsors for the stadium had been identified. Dr. Cross responded that efforts are being made to identify sponsors.

The swimming pool has been closed. It would have taken approximately \$500,000 to repair the pool and even if it was repaired, we would still have an undersized pool. Dr. Cross indicated that in view of the budget situation, repairing the pool was not a good solution. At some point in the future, a new pool will be built down by the Rec Center that will be full sized which would allow Morrisville to compete in that sport. There was a push last year to encourage use of the pool, but the usage numbers just did not increase. Dr. Cross indicated that he needed to make a decision on whether to repair the pool or not during the remodeling of STUAC. After considering all factors, Dr. Cross indicated that the decision was made to create a Fitness Center in this area. Dr. Cross indicated that there have been some parents and students that were upset with the decision to not fix the pool. Mr. VanRiper commented that Mr. VerDow even helped one of our students transfer to another institution because he was very upset about not having access to the pool.

Dr. Cross advised the members of the College Council that the budget outlook is not good. He explained his frustration with his inability to sit down and talk with staff that may have to be laid off – this has to be processed through the State. Dr. Cross indicated that he hopes to figure out a way around that – “if a program is eliminated or a position has to be cut, I need to be able to sit down and talk with that person face-to-face.” Mr. Morgan voiced his complete agreement.

Dr. Cross indicated that the Fair was just terrific even though it is a very hard time of the year for the college with classes just starting. Mr. Morgan noted that the Nelson Farms/Pride of New York display was a huge success.

Mr. Fisher indicated that he would like a Resolution of Support for Dr. Cross stating that the College Council at Morrisville State College is behind all of his efforts. Seconded by Judith Noyes. Mr. Morgan stated that the College Council support for Dr. Cross was unanimous.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann Godfrey
Temporary Secretary to the College Council