



**Meeting of the Morrisville State College Council**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room, Whipple Administration Building**  
**September 29, 2006 – 10:00 a.m.**

**Council Members Present:** Vice Chairman Matthew Morgan; James Dunne; Susan Dietrich; Hugh Riehlman Charles Root; O. Perry Tooker; and W. Garran Murphy, student representative.

**Excused:** Arnold Fisher and Don Huller.

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

**Minutes:**

Vice-Chairman Matt Morgan called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. The minutes from the March 10, 2006 meeting were approved. Motion by Perry Tooker; seconded by Charlie Root.

**President's Report:**

Dr. Cross apologized for delaying the start of the meeting as he had a telephone call from Libby Pataki who is interested in buying another horse from us.

Equine Sale. The sale went very well and we took in just about \$2M. The college did not have as many yearlings as we've had in the past, due to the fact that some yearlings were sold prior to the event. John Angerosa pointed out that the average price per horse has increased \$1,000 each year over the past three years due to a combination of quality and inflation. Ten percent is more than you would expect for inflation, so our quality is going up, too.

Dairy Sale. Due to the price of milk, we expected the sale wouldn't be as good as it had been in previous years; however, the dairy sale went extremely well.

New Academic Programs. Jim VanRiper updated the group on the HPHP Degree. We were successful in getting the Master Plan Amendment and State Ed has approved the degree. It's on the Governor's desk for approval. Ag Business Development has been approved and we have one year to hire a Ph.D. in that area. Jim thanked Arnold Fisher for sending a nice letter to Sheila Marshman for her work on the degree program.

Cybersecurity was just mailed and Nursing will also be mailed shortly. Science, Technology and Society is all but done on our campus – we just need one final approval. We are 75% through the process and we're making really good progress. You'll see some really good proof of that in the next few years.

Norwich Programs. We tried for a length of time to ask the state to offer bachelor degrees in Norwich, but they won't because there's not a critical mass to support that. At the same time, these two-year degrees in select niches will support Norwich. Our enrollment growth over the next few years will be there. The other thing we can do for our Technology Management degree and maybe some of the Small Business Management degree is we can offer all but one course down there so we can get around that in that way.

Our Automotive Engineering Technology degree is complemented by Automotive Design Tech. Regarding our BS in Equine Physiology, we just hired two Ph.D.'s out of Texas A&M. This will be an excellent feeder program to a

veterinary school – we've talked to both Cornell and Virginia Tech. We may have to collaborate with ESF on our Energy Engineering degree, so that may be a while before we get that.

Design Center. We really don't have an applied design curriculum. Degrees in the design area really depend on skilled development and handwork. Also, sixty percent of it is offered in Liberal Arts, so that's why this BT is so attractive in the Applied Design Center. We will be the first institute in the state to offer the applied design concept. Anne Englot pointed out that the Regional Architectural Accrediting Board just stated that they are going to be accrediting bachelor degrees again. There is not a BARCH in the SUNY system.

Dr. Cross pointed out that this is certainly a pile of work and everyone, particularly Jim VanRiper and the Deans, have been working very hard to accomplish this. Jim VanRiper distributed a summary of our new campus program initiatives to the group.

Matt Morgan said that this is a great compliment to the school. For all these years (85?), Morrisville has been a two-year institution and all the things that have been done in the last four or five years to transition us into a four-year college has been a lot of work. And the public is beginning to recognize the fact that Morrisville is a four-year institution.

NCAA. We are now a provisional member of the NCAA, Division III. This is our first year – other than football, our teams are doing pretty well. We will be a provisional member for four years, possibly three. A proposal has been made to restrict access in the future. There are currently 459 members of Division III and they'd like to cap it. We may have been very fortunate to move into this area when we did. Further, they're going to restrict the incoming number to four instead of six institutions per year. Between Time Warner and the sports section of the newspaper, we are getting publicity for things we have never gotten publicity for.

Statue. There is a new statue out at the Equine Center which has been donated by Arlene and Arnold Fisher. We wanted to get the statue up and send thanks to him before the annual standardbred sale.

### **Tim Williams – Enrollment Report:**

These are some real quick statistics in relation to how the fall enrollment came out. In Norwich, we had a 13.6% increase in students which we attribute to the new building and more traditional students are enrolling. In the fall of 2005, we changed our criteria for admission, particularly to change the retention statistics. We have had a 3% increase in our first-year retention basis. Three of our programs are at capacity: equine, auto and nursing. Of the students admitted in fall 2006, 82% of the class has a GPA of 75 or above. In 2000, that figure was 67 or above. We had 79 new students enroll in bachelor programs which is about the same as last year.

We have a very specific targeting initiative to go after transfer students. We want to be the ultimate place to transfer to.

With our move to the NCAA, we had to cut 11 sports. We were concerned it could hurt our enrollment, but it didn't. Some of those dropped sports will go back to club sports – skiing did that. Another aspect is to look at JV teams.

We will be very aggressive on spring enrollment. As our winter season continues to grow down in Norwich and on-line, it will give us a boost to those numbers. We are also leveraging our renovations to campus – all these things are very positive.

In our marketing campaign, we will continue to improve graduation and retention rates. We are really putting an emphasis on Career Services, not only helping our students but attracting more students to the campus. We are going to have an expansion of the personal VIP page for all of our entering inquiries to address academic and social needs.

Tim believes that over time, we will get more heavily involved in the International market. We have hired an Admissions Advisor who speaks six languages which will be useful to us in the future.

### **Current Construction Projects:**

The coffee shop in the Student Activities Building is up and running and it's doing extremely well. There is a line there most days – the architects did a great job! The Bookstore was also remodeled this summer – it looks really nice.

The methane digester is not quite working yet. It's frustrating, but there were modifications to the pressure system. We are putting manure into the digester and, hopefully, within 30 days we will be burning it off or we'll be running it inside.

Morrisville Commons. This is the new dorm that the Foundation financed. We are exploring the feasibility of building another one. The feedback from the students is enormously positive. John Angerosa deserves a lot of credit for pulling this all together. You have to be an upper classman and GPA is a factor to get you in that dorm, as well as behavior. We currently have 216 students in there and we have a waiting list for next semester. Now, we can remodel or tear down the old dorms over the next ten years.

The Rec Center is in the process of being renovated. As you may recall, we could only host 50 people in that building due to the lack of egress. This building will be a great practice facility for women's field hockey, soccer, lacrosse and wrestling (the second floor may accommodate that room). In the future, we'd like to be able to hold our commencement ceremonies there on rainy days – it's much larger than the gym.

### **Future Construction Projects:**

Equine Rehabilitation Center. The facility will contain an aquaciser, swimming pool, Eurociser, hot walker, hyperbaric chamber, etc. In Kentucky, there's a rehab center that runs their chamber 24 hours a day. Cornell is excited about our having this facility. If we'd had this facility by now, we would have been in a position to rehab "Barbaro" here. Empire Racing has submitted a contract to be the State of New York Racing Company – if they get the award, they will help us finance this center. We have not approached the state yet for this. We would like to build it with private money and on private property. We believe we can have 100 students in that bachelor degree program in just a couple of years.

Applied Design Center (remodeling of the tie stall barn). We are anxious to begin work on this project. The arc at the top of this building is just beautiful and it will be a fantastic facility. We have the funding for this -- \$8.5M.

Auto Performance Center. Because of the anticipated cost to these kinds of projects, we have had to shrink this building down. Our whole auto facility cost \$6M years ago.

Remodeling of Seneca. We are totally re-doing the kitchen of this facility next spring. Once we do, the efficiency of the kitchen will improve considerably.

### **Biodiesel Project Update:**

Biodiesel Infrastructure. This facility will convert feedstocks into usable fuels. We'll be able to burn them on campus. We are trying to acquire the old Homer Oil Company in Cortland and I think we are going to do that. We've asked for \$4M from Economic Development funds and we are going to get it in November or early December. We will start crushing as soon as we can remodel that facility. We have been working on a design to control the odor with O'Brien & Gere. MSC is the prime contractor in this process and we are also in the process of establishing a company called Biomax, LLC. The Morrisville College Foundation owns a piece of that company – our students will be able to move in and out of this – it's really exciting.

### **Current and Long Term Facility Discussions:**

Galbreath Hall. We received an allocation of \$5M based on a previous estimate indicating that's what it would cost to rehab it. Now, that estimate is \$23M. John is looking at taking the \$5M and doing the renovations in phases. Our intent is to go back and seek a \$23M allocation and then move the \$5M to the Applied Design Center.

Diesel Technology Facility. This degree has tremendous potential, but we need a building. A few years ago, it might have cost \$4M but that is a challenge facing us.

Expand the Dairy Operations. Everyone knows if you are going to milk 200 cows, you might as well milk 400 cows. The labor you need is not that much less that you need for 400 cows. How can I expand the dairy at a minimum cost?

Athletic Field Remodeling and Expansion. Ultimately, we'd like to have this done so that we could play hockey and football on turf under the lights. We've approached Coke, Pepsi, and Nextel with no success. One idea we're working on is that the original Astroturf Company has come up with a new turf to use on horse tracks. We thought we may be able to name the facility in honor of this manufacturer.

The second phase of our biodiesel project is to generate electricity on this campus using biodiesel. We need to build a plant for that. We will get money in the future because it's a popular item and, hopefully, we will generate more power than we need. We have three possible sites for that plant and they're marked on your handout.

### **Budget Update:**

John Angerosa reported that we are currently in the 2006-07 budget and this year we have been treated better than we have been treated in a lot of years. However, we were under-funded, particularly in 2004, 2005 and 2006. This budget doesn't make up for the prior years of being under-funded. Also, we are required to make an additional FTE between fall and spring or pay back money to SUNY. Enrollment is a critical component of any budget. SUNY will formulate a 2007-2008 budget based on data all campuses supplied to them by means of a five-year needs analysis.

The state is projecting a \$3.5M deficit so we're expecting 2007-08 to be a very lean year – all the signs are there. We'll try to prepare for it in the event it happens. The capital funds that Ray referred to have the same kinds of priorities. Our request for Galbreath has a good chance of being funded because it's critical maintenance. Infrastructure is looked at more favorably than new buildings. We were also requested to come forward with economic development recommendations as well – there is a total of \$4.5M to be spent.

### **Potential Partnerships:**

We are working with SU on a Kaufman grant to be a major player in the South Side Innovation Center. Nancy Cantor called and wanted us to work with them on this. They want us to bring the product development kitchen to the front so we can connect Nelson Farms. Kaufman people have told us the \$3M is ours to lose, so we are going to Kansas City in December to make the final presentation.

Also, we are looking at the ARC processing facility in Oneida for value-added products for Nelson Farms. Right now, baby carrots are not processed in New York State nor is cole slaw. We are looking at creating a facility so that vegetable and fruit growers can bring their products to this facility for processing. We would use ARC employees to process foods to go to state schools, prisons, state universities – and we'll also develop the capability to freeze these products, too. We'll focus on four or five products. Nelson Farms would partner with ARC to meet FDA requirements and we would also help growers connect to this

### **Faculty Speaker Report:**

Anne Englot noted that her report would be very brief since the semester has just begun. She distributed her report from May 24, 2006 and also distributed a one-page report for the upcoming items Faculty Congress will address during the coming year.

The 15 vs. 16 week semester. This is now off the table – it may be considered at a later date; however, there will be no change at this point.

GEAR. Jason Zbock reviewed the situation and explained the changes regarding the SUNY Assessment Initiative.

Ad Hoc Committee for regularization of Academic Schedule. A committee has been formed to regulate scheduling. Matt Morgan requested that the committee also get the student point of view. Anne said that athletes will be included in the discussion.

Honoring Distinguished Faculty through a lecture series. Rita Goyette is working with the Chair of the Awards Committee to try to determine a format for his.

Academic Calendars for 2007-08 and 2008-09. Both of these calendars will start the Tuesday after the Martin Luther King holiday – the last few years we have started the Monday after the holiday. These two calendars differ only in the way that one calendar has a make-up for that Monday and that will affect scheduling.

Local requirements have been set for the BBA and BT degrees, but not for the BS degrees as yet. Distribution needs to take into account the 30 credits of GNED requirements that are a SUNY requirement.

### **Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs**

Jim VanRiper indicated that our Middle State Committees are in place gathering information for our internal report. We will have this information by November and its due in June. We anticipate at the next self-study there will be increased demands on the institution to show how we have assessed everything on the academic side. We are working hard to have measurable outcomes and methods to prove what we are doing.

Structured Semester. We kept additional students in the spring that previously would have been dismissed. One hundred twenty-six students began the spring semester in the structured semester program. Fifty-five completed in such a fashion that they were eligible to return this fall. We were quite pleased that we were able to salvage 55 students – we felt that was quite successful. We will continue to watch these 55 students through this semester. We intend to run a structured semester and hope that it will be for fewer students this year. We actually offered the program to 200 students; however, those students and parents decided on their own that they would not return. The next thing to look at is our graduation rate. Dr. Cross stated that in the past, we were pretty arbitrary. Students could appeal and 35-40 would be granted their appeal. Now, we are trying to look at that more carefully. They can contribute to the decision by letting us know what affected their performance.

Faculty/Staff Recruitment. We believe that last year's recruiting efforts were very successful. We are trying to increase the number of faculty that have terminal degrees and we are also encouraging faculty to work on advanced degrees while they are here. We are searching for a Ph.D. in nursing so if you know someone who has that degree, please let us know so we can make them an offer. We were lucky to find three Ph.D.'s in equine this year.

High Needs Initiative. SUNY has expressed a need for engineering and health related professionals – we need people to go into those fields. As a result, they requested that SUNY institutions submit proposals for equipment, etc. we would need to enroll more of those students. We qualified in two areas: Nursing and Information Technology programs. We got just under \$300,000 in funding for the two proposals.

### **Vice President for Administration**

SUNY is going to continue with what they are calling a rational tuition policy. A student is guaranteed to pay that rate through his four years. The legislature didn't support this the last time, but SUNY is going to continue to push for it. Matt Morgan commented that it will probably happen next year. No one wants to do it in an election year.

John also mentioned that we have a new elevator in Hamilton Hall. We have also constructed a show barn at the dairy complex; in addition, we hope by the end of this week to get approval to go forward with the storage tank.

Now that we have the eating area of STUAC finished, we can start on the basement floor. Once we move Athletics, we can expand the fitness center and make it more attractive. We'll begin work on that next summer.

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

Rich Carreno reminded everyone that we are trying to secure funding for people who are pursuing Ph.D.'s to bring our faculty more in line with faculties from the comprehensive colleges. Four faculty have secured grants to work toward the doctorate degree. We did not get a specific allocation for equity adjustments for faculty but we are moving forward with local funds, committing \$100,000 over a three year period. If the project is positive over the next two years, we will continue. There is a huge disparity between our salaries and those at the comprehensive

colleges, although the work load is different. We don't have the research component but we have higher teaching loads.

The author Jack Schultz, who wrote Boomtown USA: the Seven and a Half Keys to Big Success in Small Towns, will be on campus on October 19<sup>th</sup>. We are inviting some of the community people who are working to improve the village for lunch and also to attend the open forum at 1:00 p.m.

State Fair. Jessica DeCerce did a complete redesign of the booth with the help of our talented graphic designer, Bill Goloski. Jessica indicated that she wanted to make it an open space to draw people into the booth. We also wanted to make it available to people so even if someone wasn't staffing it, people would feel free to come in and look around. It went very well. Tim Williams said that Morrisville was represented in five different venues at the Fair. Jessica suggested that Nelson Farms be in a different place next year – they would be better served in the Horticulture Building rather than the wine court.

### **Student Government Report:**

SGO's new president, Garran Murphy, reported on Student Government activity. Because Mustang Alley (in STUAC) was complete, MAC wanted to cut back the hours of STIX. However, after many meetings and discussions, MAC decided to only cut back a little since students would have to walk entirely across campus to eat.

Commuter students don't feel that the hours at the Cyber labs are adequate, but there are not enough work study students to open earlier or close later. It was suggested to students not to wait until 9:00 a.m. to print off materials for a 9:00 a.m. class.

VPN – very effective there and ready for us.

Environmental Cleanliness: The quantity of trash on campus gives a bad impression and we strongly suggest that any students with disciplinary problems be required to clean up the campus.

Parking Issues: While it appears that UP is overselling parking spaces, that is not the case – students are getting tickets for parking in the wrong area.

SGO has appointed a committee to research the possibility of raising the student activity fee. Last year, the budget was short \$30,000 so the money had to come out of unrestricted funds. SGO would like to see the fee raised by \$5 or \$10.

Matt Morgan requested that a get well card be sent to Don Huller letting him know that we missed seeing him at the meeting today and you're in our thoughts and prayers.

### **Council Business:**

a) Endorsement of Policy #6111 – Pass/Not Pass Option. This policy explains what a pass/not pass option is and the way it affects your grade point average. There was some discussion on this policy. Not every course is a pass/not pass course. The policy originated to allow students to take a course, possibly outside of their major, and not have to worry about it affecting their grade point average. Advisors play a big role to see that students do not abuse this policy. Motion by Charlie Root; seconded by Hugh Riehlman.

b) Endorsement of Policy #6804 – President's and Dean's List. Students can drop a course and, as long as they still have 12 hours, they will be considered for the Dean's List or the President's list. This was precipitated by students talking about it. They can drop up to the 10<sup>th</sup> week of classes. Motion by Charlie Root; seconded by Perry Tooker.

c) Resolution to approve curriculum advisory committee appointment of Paula J. Christ to the Massage Therapy Program Advisory Board. Motion by Charlie Root; seconded by Perry Tooker.

**Other Business:**

Matt Morgan reminded the Council members that they have received the announcement for the ACT Fall Conference and said that this Council should look for a new representative. Matt has been covering this for many years and we need some new members to do it. Matt indicated that it's a great way to get to know the upper echelon and it's a good way to help our school. This institution has been active in the ACT, set up their website and Dr. Cross has always been active as a participant. This one is on energy – please let Joyce know if you can attend. The dates are October 27 through October 29<sup>th</sup> at the Gideon Putnam. Our college pays for all of our costs. Neil Murphy from ESF will be one of the presenters.

Dr. Cross pointed out that this weekend is Mustang Weekend and the campus will be very busy. There will be alumni on campus, families attending the open house, a football game and a soccer game.

Also, for those of you on the College Council, if you don't have a copy of our Strategic Plan and Operational Plan, please let me know. At our next meeting, I want to go through the progress we have made from the operational plan. Copies of these items are also available on our web site.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m. Motion by Perry Tooker, seconded by Charlie Root.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Root  
Secretary to the College Council