

**MINUTES OF THE MILWAUKEE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE
LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE MEETING
September 18, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular quarterly meeting of the Legislative Task Force was held on Wednesday, September 18, 2019 and called to order by Janice Falkenberg at 12:02 p.m. in the Board Room, Room M210, at the Downtown Milwaukee Campus of Milwaukee Area Technical College.

A. ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

Dr. Vicki Martin, Janice Falkenberg, Bohdan Zachary, Laurie Kohel, Richard Busalacchi

Guests:

Ramie Zelenkova of Hubbard, Wilson, & Zelenkova, LLC

Members Absent:

Equan Burrows, Mark Foley, Charles Bruders, Yamo Abdullah (Student Representative)

B. COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETINGS LAW

The Legislative Task Force meeting was noticed to be in compliance with the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY 22, 2019 MEETING

Minutes were approved by consensus of all members.

D. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Legislative Update

a. Local

- Milwaukee County Transit is proposing \$5.9 million in reductions to bus service lines to close a budget gap in 2020. Several of the proposed cuts will negatively impacts student and community access to MATC campuses and education centers, specifically MATC's Oak Creek and Mequon campuses. These campuses will be impacted because of the proposed reductions to Routes 80, 40U and 44U. The County Executive will recommend a budget to the County Board by October 1st. The County Board will deliberate and hold public hearings and will adopt amendments and a full budget by November 12th.
- The U-Pass program generates \$1.3 million/year, so it is profitable for MCTS.
- There is some advocacy outreach already happening to protest this proposal. Dr. Martin has reached out to County Executive Abele and other County Board

members to voice her opinion against the proposal. Additionally, Dr. Wilma Bonaparte is reaching out to the Ozaukee County Economic Development Council and Dr. Mark Felsheim is reaching out to local government members at Oak Creek to garner support against the bus service reduction. Equan Burrows is organizing students to appear at the County Board's meeting to show their support for keeping those bus lines in service.

b. State

- **Senate Bill 16/Assembly Bill 23 (Feyen/Ballweg):** 2013 Wisconsin Act 59 established a grant program to promote career and technical education programs in high schools. The intent of this act was to identify industries and occupations that face workforce shortages, approve industry recognized certification programs that will address the workforce shortages, and to grant awards of \$1000 per pupil to school districts for each completed, industry-recognized certification program completed. On May 16 the Joint Committee on Finance approved similar language bringing new base funding level for the program to \$6,500,000.
- **Senate Bill 17/Assembly Bill 13 (Feyen/Rohrkaste):** This legislation creates a new arm of Fast Forward with \$2 million in funding over the biennium to provide grants to non-profits and institutions of higher education to create and administer upskilling programs to unemployed or under-employed individuals. The legislation prohibits non-profits and higher education institutions receiving upskilling funding from charging participants tuition or program fees in excess of 10% of the cost of administering the program to ensure that students have skin in the game without being priced out of participation.
- Upskilling, sometimes also referred to as micro-credentialing, is defined as the process of learning new skills. Private sector companies have embraced the concept as a way to improve their current workforce. While all upskilling programs look different, they serve a common goal: get individuals into well-paying, high-need jobs in order to better the individual's life and the community's workforce.
- Lakeshore Technical College administered a successful micro-credentialing pilot program in their region of the state and provided some insight to legislators as to how the program this bill creates could be used. The average adult student's income at Lakeshore Technical College is \$19,300. Programs at technical colleges that do not result in either a Technical Diploma or Associate Degree are not eligible for most types of state or federal financial aid. Therefore, unless funding was provided, the average student would struggle to afford enrollment in an upskilling program, therefore hindering their ability to better their economic outlook and help ease Wisconsin's workforce shortage. Passage was recommended by Senate Committee 5-0; bill available for scheduling in the Senate. Public hearing held in the Assembly.

- **Senate Bill 39/Assembly Bill 33 (Darling/Risser/Steffen/Goyke):** Expungement reform legislation. The legislation will eliminate the state mandate on judges to grant/deny expungement at the time of sentencing; Current law is very ambiguous on the matter of disclosure requirements relating to expunged records. This bill clarifies this matter so that employees and employers have a clear understanding of their respective requirements; only low-level offenders are eligible for expungement; clearly defines what it means to successfully complete a sentence, which includes completing community services, paying all fines, fees, restitution, and completing any community supervision without revocation; Wisconsin is one of only four states to have an age limit. This bill removes the 25 years of age limit in order to focus on individuals that have successfully completed their sentence and have not reoffended. Both bills received public hearings. The bill was amended and passed in the Senate Committee 4-1, and the Assembly Committee 9-1. The bill passed the Assembly via a voice vote and is available for scheduling in the Senate.
- **Senate Bill 44/Assembly Bill 36 (Jacque/Murphy):** Tools of the Trade Apprenticeship Program Expansion. The legislation provides the Wisconsin Technical College System Board with an additional \$100,000 per academic year to assist technical college students who have undertaken apprenticeship training courses in conjunction with instruction at their schools. Each individual student who qualifies is eligible to receive up to \$1,000, which must be used to assist in paying for materials and expenses associated with the apprenticeship training program, including tools, clothing, equipment, and supplies. The Technical College System Board is required to establish an application process and criteria for awarding these grants. The existing Tools of the Trade program is privately funded for the system by the Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation and dispenses \$200,000 annually in grants. Both bills received public hearings.
- **Senate Bill 25/Assembly Bill 22 (Thiesfeldt/Johnson)** Requires commercial vehicle driver education courses offered by technical colleges or licensed private driver schools to provide instruction in the recognition and prevention of human trafficking. Passage recommended by the Assembly Committee 13-0. The bill passed the Assembly via voice vote. The Senate Committee on Universities, Technical Colleges, Children and Families will vote on these bills on August 27th.
- **Senate Bill 165/Assembly Bill 189 (Stroebe/Born)** relating to transferability of courses between WTCS, the UW System, private and tribally controlled colleges. The bill received a hearing in the Senate and the Assembly.
- **Senate Bill 142/Assembly Bill 161 (Kooyenga/James)** relating to late payment of tuition benefits for student veterans enrolled in the University of Wisconsin System or a technical college. This bill would prohibit a technical college from taking adverse action against a student veteran whose financial aid package includes federal veterans' tuition benefits as a result of the college's failure to receive

payment of these benefits by the tuition deadline. The bill received a hearing in the Senate and Assembly.

- MATC to support modifications proposed for the credit requirements reductions for the Funeral Service Program (from 90 to 75 required credits).

c. Federal

- President Trump signed the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019 into law on August 2nd; Congress is now enabled to move forward with the appropriations process for FY 2020. The Senate has not yet marked up any appropriations bills for FY 2020. The House passed its appropriations bills without knowing the budgetary caps for FY 2020, and as a result will now have to make revisions to reflect lower funding levels agreed to under the new budget deal. Both chambers will only have a handful of legislative days in September to pass appropriations bills before the end of the fiscal year on September 30th.
- Bohdan reported that the \$50 million CPB grant money might not be promised after all; he will know more about it in the next few months.

E. NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, January 22 at 12:00 p.m. in the Board Room (M210)

F. ADJOURNEMENT

Janice moved, Dr. Martin seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.