CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly meeting of the Legislative Task Force Committee was held on Thursday, February 20, 2014, and called to order by Chairperson Falkenberg at 12:08 p.m. in the Board Room, Room M210, at the Downtown Milwaukee Campus of Milwaukee Area Technical College.

A. ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

Jason Bauknecht, Ellis Bromberg, Charles Bruders, Michael Burke, Tim Elverman, Janice Falkenberg, Camille Nicholai, Trevor Kubatzke and Michael Rosen

Members Absent:

Lauren Baker, Lindsey Becker, Archie Graham, Gustavo Hinojosa and Marwill Santiago

B. COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETINGS LAW:

The Legislative Task Force meeting was noticed in compliance with the Wisconsin Open Meetings law.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 23, 2014 MEETING:

Mr. Kubatzke moved, and Mr. Bauknecht seconded, that the minutes be approved. The Task Force concurred.

D. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Legislative Update:

   a. Federal:

      ACCT Legislative Summit
      Dr. Burke and Directors Baker and Webber attended the ACCT Legislative Summit meeting in Washington D.C. from February 10 to 13, 2014. They visited with Congressional staff and updated them on issues of concern to MATC, particularly Pell Grant funding.
Pell Grant Funding
The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) on February 4 published updated budget estimates for Pell Grant funding for 2014 to 2024. The CBO projected that funding shortfalls for the Pell Grant program will be lower than originally projected in the current fiscal year. The outlook for the next few years is also more positive than originally estimated. C. Nicholai commented on the new estimates and reiterated the high demand for Pell Grants among MATC students.

b. State:

State Legislation
T. Elverman distributed the updated document entitled “State Legislation That Could Affect MATC” and highlighted recently introduced pieces of legislation, as well as action taken in recent weeks on bills discussed previously by the Task Force.

Changing the Definition of Eligibility for Serving on the MATC Board (AB 627, SB 476)
A. Pinckney and J. Bauknecht joined P. Gabriel in testifying against SB 476 at the Senate Universities and Technical Colleges Committee public hearing on February 5. J. Bauknecht noted that Republican committee chair Sen. Shiela Harsdorf, as well as fellow Republican committee member Sen. Richard Gudex expressed concerns with the bill. The bill has not been voted out of the committee. The Assembly has not held a public hearing on the bill at this time. J. Bauknecht and T. Elverman will continue to monitor this bill.

Instructional Programs for Nurse Aides (AB 249, SB 212)
This bill permits DHS to approve instructional programs for nurse aides that include instructional programs in another state if that instruction is substantially the same required under current Wisconsin law. T. Elverman reported that SB 212 passed in both the Senate and Assembly on 2/18/14. This bill is waiting to be signed into law by the Governor.

Changes to Barbering and Cosmetology Regulations (AB 291, SB 237)
This bill makes several changes to laws governing barbering and cosmetology in Wisconsin. SB 237 was approved, after being amended, by the full Senate on 10/8/13. T. Elverman reported that SB 237 is scheduled to be voted on in the Assembly on 2/20/14 and is likely to pass.

Changing the Names of “Wisconsin Higher Education Grants” to “Wisconsin Grants” AB 532, SB 406
These bills would change the name of the higher education grant program administered by the Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB)
from “Wisconsin Higher Education Grants” to “Wisconsin Grants”. The bills also would change the titles of the appropriations funding those grants to “Wisconsin Grants”. AB 532 is on the Assembly calendar for 2/20/14. SB 406 had a public hearing on 2/5/14. T. Elverman and J. Bauknech will continue to monitor these bills.

Proposal to Replace Property Tax Support for Tech Colleges with State Aid JR4 AB 1, JR4 SB 1
As proposed by Gov. Scott Walker, this “special session” legislation would eliminate the current limit on a Tech College’s tax levy and replace it with a revenue limit. It would “buy down” the operational mill rate by .89 in each Tech College district ($89 per $100,000 of property value). The bill would allow the districts to recapture their levy authority to the extent state funding is reduced in subsequent years. An amended version of JR4 AB 1 passed in the Assembly on February 11 and was referred to the Joint Finance Committee by the Senate. The Joint Finance Committee approved amended versions of these bills on 2/19/14. T. Elverman and J. Bauknech will continue to monitor these bills. J. Bauknecht said that he expects a vote in the Senate on this bill on 3/4/14.

Proposal to Provide $35 Million to Increase Workforce Training Grants from DWD to Tech Colleges to Reduce Waiting Lists JR4 AB 2, JR4 SB 2
This “special session” legislation was also proposed by Gov. Walker. This bill would provide the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) with $35 million in funds so that DWD can allocate the funds to Tech Colleges to reduce waiting lists for enrollment in programs and courses in high-demand fields of study. JR4 AB 2 was passed by the Assembly on February 11 and was referred to the Joint Finance Committee. The Joint Finance Committee approved these bills on 2/19/14. T. Elverman and J. Bauknech will continue to monitor these bills. They expect a vote on these bills in the Senate on 3/4/14.

Changes Affecting the Student Information System, Disclosure of Personally Identifiable Student Data and Pupil Records (AB 618)
Current law directs DPI, the UW System, and the Technical College System Board to enter into written agreements to establish and maintain a longitudinal data system of student data. The disclosure of this data is restricted and mirrors the restrictions found in the FERPA federal regulations (CFR 99.31 (a) (6)). This bill says that the Tech Colleges can only provide personally identifiable student data to research organizations if a student (or his parents) consent in writing. J. Falkenberg and T. Kubatzke noted that MATC already requires such a consent. T. Elverman reported that this bill is on the Assembly calendar on 2/20/14 and is likely to pass.
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c. Local:

Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) District Board Appointment
J. Falkenberg reported that The District Board Appointment Committee has scheduled its meeting for Thursday, April 3, 2014. Due to staggered terms, there are three board members whose terms expire on June 30, 2014. Also, due to a resignation, there is an additional position that needs to be filled.

Meeting Dates – FY2013-14

The Task Force will meet on the following dates at 12:00 p.m. in the Board Room (M210):

March 20, 2014    May 22, 2014
April 10, 2014    June 19, 2014

A. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Desma P. Madison