CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly meeting of the Legislative Task Force Committee was held on Thursday, March 20, 2014, and called to order by Chairperson 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:

Lauren Baker, Lindsey Becker, Ellis Bromberg, Michael Burke, Tim Elverman, Janice Falkenberg, Gustavo Hinojosa, Camille Nicholai and Trevor Kubatzke

Members Absent:

Jason Bauknecht, Charles Bruders Archie Graham, Michael Rosen and Marwill Santiago

COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETINGS LAW:

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

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 20, 2014 MEETING:

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

C. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Legislative Update:

a. Federal:

DOE Gainful Employment Rule
The Department of Education (DOE) published its Proposed Rule for Gainful Employment in the Federal Register on March 14, 2014. MATC and others can submit comments on the Proposed Rule during a 60-day comment period. The Proposed Rule once again included two metrics/standards for judging program eligibility for Title IV funding at for-profit institutions and community colleges. The two metrics are: Debt...
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Programs with a default rate of 30 percent or above for three (3) consecutive years would not be eligible for title IV aid. MATC staff will review how the Proposed Rule could impact the college’s programs and students and submit written comments within the sixty-day comment period. The college may also ask some business partners and public officials to comment on the Proposed Rule’s impact on MATC.

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)**
The Senate version of this legislation (SB 476) had a public hearing in a Senate Committee on 2/5/14, but did not advance from the Committee. The Assembly held its last session day on 2/20/14 and the Senate is scheduled to hold its final session day on 4/1/14. This bill was not approved in either chamber and therefore appears “dead” for this session.

**UW System and Tech College Nonresident Tuition Exemptions (AB 785)**
Under current law, the UW System and the Tech Colleges can charge different tuition rates to resident and nonresident students. Under former law, certain students who were aliens but not a legal permanent resident of the U.S. could qualify for the resident tuition qualification. Those students who could qualify would have graduated from a Wisconsin high school; were continuously present in Wisconsin for at least 3 years after first attending a Wisconsin high school; were enrolling in a UW System or Tech College; and provided the institution with an affidavit stating that they were filing an application for permanent residency with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. This bill would restore the law allowing this exemption. This bill was referred to the Committee on Colleges and Universities but has not had a public hearing. This bill has only Democratic sponsors, and therefore T. Elverman said it will not advance during this legislative session.

**Reducing the Maximum Time for Which Operation Privileges (Driving Privileges) May Be Suspended From Two Years to One Year (AB 829, SB 653)**
Current law allows a court to suspend for up to two years the operating privileges of an individual who has failed to pay a monetary judgment
entered against that individual. This bill reduces that maximum time from two years to one year. These bills were introduced on 2/27/14. AB 829 had a public hearing on 3/4/14 and was approved by the Assembly Committee on 3/11/14. SB 653 had a public hearing on 3/5/14 and was advanced by the Senate Committee on 3/6/14. J. Bauknecht registered MATC in favor of both bills at the public hearings. The Task Force Committee members discussed how this legislation could be advantageous to MATC students and their families.

**Providing Free Tuition and Fees for Resident Students Enrolled in Tech Colleges and UW System Campuses (SB 677)**
This bill directs the Tech College System Board and the UW System Board to ensure that beginning with the 2014-15 academic year, resident students enrolled in their institutions could attend free of tuition and fees. This legislation was introduced on 3/13/14 and has only Democratic sponsors. T. Elverman noted that it has not had a public hearing and will not advance during this legislative session.

**Special Session Legislation – Replacing Property Tax Support for Tech Colleges with State Aid (SB 1)**
This special session legislation will eliminate the current limit on a Tech College’s tax levy and replace it with a revenue limit. The bill would allow the districts to recapture their levy authority to the extent state funding is reduced in subsequent years. It will also replace $406 million in property taxes with new state funding for Tech Colleges this year. SB 1 passed in both the Senate and the Assembly and is awaiting the Governor’s signature.

**Special Session Legislation – Providing $35 Million to Increase Workforce Training Grants from DWD to Tech Colleges to Reduce Waiting Lists (AB 2)**
This special session legislation will 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. It was approved by both the Assembly and the Senate and was signed into law by the Governor on March 17 (2013 Wisconsin Act 139).

**Legislative Council Study Committee Proposal Affecting Tech Colleges**
At the end of each legislative session, and before a new two-year session begins, the Joint Legislative Council Committee suggests topics for discussion by committees composed of legislators and citizens. The Joint Legislative Council Committee is composed of 22 legislators (11 from each chamber). On March 19 the Legislative Council staff mailed a ballot to the Committee members listing 7 suggested topics for this year. One of the 7 suggested topics/committees is “The Special Committee on the Review of Wisconsin Technical College System”
Funding and Governance”. The suggested committee’s assignment, (if it is selected) is described as follows: “The Special Committee is directed to review the current governance model of the WTCS in the interest of transferring governance responsibilities of local district boards to the state WCTS Board and examine current funding needed for WTCS with a preference toward reassigning current local property tax revenue to a broader state tax source.” We should know if this topic has been selected for study sometime in April. It is likely to receive a positive vote. The Task Force Committee members discussed the need to have representation on this Committee when it is formed, and the significant impact any legislative proposals coming from this Committee could have on MATC and the community.

c. Local:

MATC’s District Board Appointment Committee Meeting
J. Falkenberg updated the Task Force Committee members regarding the upcoming meeting on April 3 where the MATC selection committee will choose new Board members for the college.

Meeting Dates – FY2013-14

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

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

D. ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Desma P. Madison