CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly meeting of the Legislative Task Force Committee was held on Thursday, April 10, 2014, and called to order by Chairperson Falkenberg at 12:03 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, Jason Bauknecht, Ellis Bromberg, Charles Bruders, Michael Burke, Tim Elverman, Janice Falkenberg, Gustavo Hinojosa, Trevor Kubatzke, Michael Rosen and Marwill Santiago

Members Absent:

Lindsey Becker, Archie Graham and Camille Nicholai

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 MARCH 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:

      2015 Federal Budget Proposals
      President Obama and Rep. Paul Ryan released dramatically different 2015 federal budget plans during the last 30 days. Both the President’s plan and Rep. Ryan’s plan would abide by the spending cap set at the end of 2013 in the Bipartisan Budget Act. However, President Obama’s new proposal calls for an additional $56 billion in domestic spending in 2015, contingent on changes to the federal tax code and alternative spending cuts. In contrast, Rep. Ryan’s Republican House
plan calls for significant cuts in nondefense discretionary programs. For example, Rep. Ryan calls for capping Pell Grants at $5,370 annually and eliminating $84 billion in mandatory funding for the Pell Grants in future years. Both of these budget proposals have no chance of being approved. The Democratically controlled Senate will not vote on Rep. Ryan’s budget proposal if it gets approved in the House, and the Republican controlled House will not vote on President Obama’s proposed budget if it gets approved in the Senate.

b. **State:**

**Legislative Session Ending**
T. Elverman reported that while the Wisconsin legislature has not officially adjourned for the 2013-14 legislative cycle, legislative leaders held their last regularly scheduled “session day” on April 1. There are no plans to reconvene this year, prior to adjourning in May. Therefore, bills that have not been approved in both chambers of the legislature at this time are effectively dead for this session.

**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)**
Although this bill had a hearing in the Senate, it didn’t advance in either the Senate or the Assembly for a vote. Since the legislative session has ended, this proposal by Sen. Glenn Grothman and Rep. Joe Sanfelippo is “dead” for this session.

**Special Session Legislation – Replacing Property Tax Support for Tech Colleges with State Aid (SB 1), 2013 Wisconsin Act 145**
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 replace $406 million in property taxes with new state funding for Tech Colleges this year. Governor Walker signed this bill into law on March 24.

**Special Session Legislation – Providing $35 Million to Increase Workforce Training Grants from DWD to Tech Colleges to Reduce Waiting Lists (AB 2), 2013 Wisconsin Act 139**
This special session legislation provides 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 signed into law by the Governor on March 17. Dr. Burke noted that MATC has already submitted requests for funding from this new DWD program, with the hope by DWD that the funds will be distributed to MATC and the other Tech Colleges this summer.

**Requiring HEAB to Conduct Study of Viability of Allowing Wisconsin Resident Students to Attend Tech Colleges or UW Schools for Two Years Without Paying Tuition or Fees. (AB 926).**

T. Elverman noted that this bill was introduced on April 1 and has only Democratic sponsors. It will therefore not advance during this legislative session. The Legislative Task Force Committee members noted that several other states are considering proposals similar to the proposal outlined in this bill (to pay for two years of tuition and fees for in-state residents).

**Legislative Council Study Committee Proposal Affecting Tech Colleges**

At the end of each legislative session, the Joint Legislative Council Committee suggests topics for discussion by committees composed of legislators and citizens. On March 19 the Legislative Council staff mailed a ballot to the Committee members listing 8 suggested topics for this year. One of the 8 suggested topics/committees was: "The Special Committee on the Review of Wisconsin Technical College System Funding and Governance". The committee members voted 18 to 6 in favor of moving forward with the Tech College special committee. The co-chairs of this study committee will be Rep. John Nygren and Sen. Sheila Harsdorf. The Legislative Task Force Committee members discussed strategies for suggesting members for this committee. It was decided that Dr. Burke will ask Melanie Holmes if she would agree to serve on the committee. J. Bauknecht will forward her name to the legislative co-chairs if she agrees to serve. Legislators and public members will be named to this committee in the near future.

c. **Local:**

**Ramp Closings Affecting MATC’s West Allis Campus**

MATC has been actively involved for the past two years with the DOT and West Allis officials regarding the widening/renovation of the freeway (I-94) from downtown Milwaukee, heading West. The DOT will hold another “town hall meeting” on their proposals regarding ramps at 60th and 70th streets on May 20 at the West Allis campus, in room 117. DOT Secretary Mark Gottlieb will be at that meeting. Al Pinckney has been involved in these discussions on behalf of MATC.
Legislative Task Force
Minutes of April 10, 2014

Meeting Dates – FY2013-14

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

May 22, 2014       June 19, 2014

D. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Desma P. Madison