CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly meeting of the Legislative Task Force Committee was held on Monday, March 23, 2015, and called to order by Janice Falkenberg at 5:07 p.m. in the Board Room, Room M210, at the Downtown Milwaukee Campus of Milwaukee Area Technical College.

A. ROLL CALL:

Members Present:
Ellis Bromberg, Charles Bruders, Janice Falkenberg, Bill Neville, Camille Nicolai and Ramie Zelenkova

Members Absent:
Lauren Baker, Archie Graham, Gustavo Hinojosa, Trevor Kubatzke, Vicki Martin, Cheralyn Randall and Michael Rosen

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 FEBRUARY 23, 2015 MEETING:

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

D. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Legislative Update:

   a. Federal:

      **2015 Budget**
      To date, there has been no movement on the president’s budget request. Secretary Duncan has however testified in front of Congress and emphasized that the Administration supports the president’s America’s College Promise Proposal. The House budget proposal calls for a $150 billion cut to financial aid and both the House and Senate proposals eliminate $89 billion from the Pell Grant program. The House proposal would freeze the maximum award level to Pell Grants over the next 10 years, and cut an additional $61 billion in other areas.

      President Obama announced an executive order, “Student Aid Bill of Rights.” Under the order, the Obama Administration will create an online
HUB for student borrows to submit feedback regarding their financial aid experience and improve disclosure protections.

b. State:

**Biennial Budget 2015-17**

The Joint Finance Committee will complete its public hearings on the budget this week. The public has shown strong concern about Family Care, long-term care insurance proposals and cuts to education, particularly K-12.

The Committee will begin its executive session on the budget proposal in April. Legislative leadership has indicated the public should expect changes to the Governor’s proposal for the UW System, K-12 and the Sports and Entertainment District. The proposed tuition freeze and performance funding are issues that affect the college the most and will be continually monitored by the Task Force.

Another item included in the budget that will affect the college is a property tax bill provision. This provision would require all taxing authorities to identify more information on the property tax bill including the amount of debt service and the taxpayer’s proportionate share, etc.

**State Legislation**

**Requiring that Local Government Contracts Include the Use of U.S. Made Products (AB 20)**

This bill would require that any contract entered into by the state for the construction, repair or modification of a public works or public improvement project must contain a provision that the contractor will use materials that are manufactured in the U.S. in the performance of the contract. This bill is awaiting a hearing.

**Requiring the UW System to Report on the High School of Students Requiring Remedial Instruction (AB 56)**

This bill would require UW System to report on remedial instruction. The bill was passed in the Assembly on March 17. Technical Colleges are not included in this bill, but the Task Force will continue to monitor it for any amendments.

c. Local:

**Bradley Center**

As previous discussed, the Governor has proposed a plan to allow the state to bond $220 million in state-issued bonds for the construction of a new facility in downtown Milwaukee for use by the Milwaukee Bucks and other entertainment purposes. At this point, it’s still a work in progress—legislators are not in agreement with the dollar amount attached to the
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project. Discussions continue and the Task Force will continue to monitor this issue.

d. Grants Update:  
None

2. Legislative Advocacy Planning  
The Legislative Breakfast was held on Friday, March 13 at 7:30 a.m. and included approximately a dozen legislators and staff.

E. Meeting Dates – FY2014-15

April 27, 2015 June 22, 2015
May 25, 2015*

*Meeting scheduled for the third week due to holiday

F. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Desma P. Madison