CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly meeting of the Legislative Task Force Committee was held on Monday, April 27, 2015, and called to order by Janice Falkenberg at 5:01 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, Ellis Bromberg, Charles Bruders, Janice Falkenberg, Vicki Martin, Bill Neville, Camille Nicolai, Cheryl Randall, Michael Rosen and Ramie Zelenkova

Members Absent:

Archie Graham, Gustavo Hinojosa and Trevor Kubatzke

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 MARCH 23, 2015 MEETING:

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

D. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Legislative Update:

   a. Federal:

      2016 Budget
      Both the House and the Senate passed their budget resolutions for FY2016. The House budget includes a $150 billion cut to financial aid and both the House and Senate budget eliminates $89 billion from the Pell Grant program. Also, the House’s portion of the budget freezes the maximum award at the FY2014-15 levels to Pell Grants over the next 10 years, and cuts an additional $61 billion in other areas.

      Ms. Zelenkova reported that several white papers were released by the Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee. The papers center around the reauthorization of HEA and include the following topics:
Accreditation – concentrates of the effectiveness of using accreditation to determine aid eligibility.

Risk Sharing – requires educational institutions and students to be more responsible for students’ success, debt and default.

Data Collection – reviews how to improve federal data elements while making the data requirements more consumer friendly.

b. State:

Biennial Budget 2015-17
On April 15, the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) removed several fiscal items from the budget including the tuition freeze for high-demand programs. As previously reported, the governor’s biennial budget proposal included a provision for performance based funding which would shift general aid funding to 100% by FY2020. The JFC changed the governor’s proposal by specifying that the percentage of general aid distributed under the performance based formula would remain at 30% for not only 2017-18, but thereafter.

MATC Board Member Qualifications
At the request of the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce (MMAC), JFC approved a motion requiring that a person serving on the Milwaukee Area Technical College district board representing employers must have at least two years of experience managing a business entity, nonprofit organization, credit union or cooperative association with at least 15 employees or at least two years of experience managing the finances or the hiring of personnel of a business entity, nonprofit organization, credit union or cooperative association with at least 100 employees. The motion will not impact appointments made for July 1, 2015.

Student Fees
The JFC also amended the budget by moving to prohibit technical colleges from charging students for accident insurance coverage. Students will not be charged for insurance coverage if the student makes a request to have the fee waived and if the student provides evidence that he/she is already covered by an equal insurance.

Home-Based School Programs
This motion allows students under the age of 16 who are attending a home-based school program to attend programs at technical colleges during the school day.
State Legislation

Requiring the UW System to Report on the High School of Students Requiring Remedial Instruction (AB 56, SB 59)
This bill would require UW System to report on remedial instruction. Technical Colleges were not included in this bill and there were no amendments. The bill is awaiting the governor’s signature.

Resident Fees for Nonresident Veterans and Eligible Spouses and Children Enrolled in the UW System or Technical College (AB 186)
This bill requires technical college districts to charge resident fees to: 1) a veteran living in this state, regardless of whether the veteran is a resident, if the veteran was discharged or released from at least 90 days of active service within the three years before the date of enrollment in the technical college; and 2) the veteran’s spouse or child, living in this state, who is eligible for certain federal benefits by virtue of his or her relationship to the veteran. Action on this bill is pending.

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. Discussions continue and the Task Force will continue to monitor this issue.

d. Grants Update:
None

2. Legislative Advocacy Planning
None

E. Meeting Dates – FY2014-15

May 18, 2015* June 22, 2015

*Meeting scheduled for the third week due to holiday

F. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Desma P. Madison