CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly meeting of the Legislative Task Force Committee was held on Monday, May 18, 2015, and called to order by Janice Falkenberg at 5:02 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, Ellis Bromberg, Charles Bruders, Janice Falkenberg, Trevor Kubatzke, Vicki Martin, Bill Neville, Camille Nicolai, Cheryl Randall and AJ Wilson

Members Absent:

Archie Graham, Gustavo Hinojosa, Michael Rosen and Ramie Zelenkova

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 APRIL 27, 2015 MEETING:

Mr. Kubatzke moved, and Ms. Nicolai 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 the Budget Conference Agreement for FY2016, although it hasn’t been finalized. It is scheduled to go before the President for approval in early summer. As summarized in previous meetings, the House’s budget includes a $150 billion cut to financial aid and both the House and Senate’s 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.

Mr. Neville reported that interest rates on federal student loans will decrease for the upcoming school year. Based on the 10-year Treasury
Legislative Task Force  
Minutes of May 18, 2015

Note, the rate for academic year 2015-16 is 4.29%. In addition the Stafford loan rate is 5.84% and the rate for the Parent PLUS loan is 6.84%.

Ms. Neville reiterated that several white papers had been released by the Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee on March 23, 2015. The papers centered 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**

Educational Communications Board
Mr. Wilson reported that the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) voted to reduce the Educational Communications Board’s general purpose revenue by $2.78 million. The cuts will affect educational programs, including public broadcasting.

**Wisconsin Student Refinancing Authority**
Also reported was the defeat of Motion 250. The Motion would have allowed the formation of a board to develop and implement a loan program which state residents would be able to refinance student loans.

**Expansion of Wisconsin Fast Forward**
JFC consolidated DWD grant programs under a single appropriation. However, the Local Youth Apprenticeships and Apprenticeship Completion Awards will be separate appropriations and remain at the current base funding levels.

**Placeholder Property Tax Bill Information**
The Governor recommends adding information shown on a property tax bill to include: the amount of the debt service from bonds issued by each taxing jurisdiction and the taxpayer’s proportionate share of that amount, the amount of any fees or charges assessed by each taxing jurisdiction that is collected in the tax levy and the taxpayer's proportionate share of that amount, the amount of taxes levied for the maintenance and operation of each county, city, village, town, school district and technical college district where the property is located, etc. The bill as proposed was not adopted by JFC, but was altered to include the total amount of tax levied in the current year and the
amount of tax levied on the property in the current year both that are a result of a referendum to exceed the school revenue limit, the technical college revenue limit or the county and municipal levy limit on a non-permanent basis.

**State Legislation**

**Entrepreneurial Assistance Grants (AB 103, SB 112)**
The bill authorizes WEDC to award a grant of up to $3,000 to a new business for expenses related to hiring, as a paid intern, a student enrolled at an institution of higher education who studies business, engineering information technology or a similar field (entrepreneurial assistance grant). Action is pending on this bill.

**Relating to University of Wisconsin and Technical College Credits on Military Training or Experience (AB 182)**
The bill requires the Board of Regents and technical college district boards to establish policies requiring, respectively, UW System institutions and technical colleges to award academic credit to a student who is a current or former member of the U.S. armed forces or of a reserve unit of the U.S. armed forces (veteran) for any course that was part of the veteran’s military training or service experience if the veteran demonstrates that the course: 1) meets the standards of the American Council on Education, or equivalent standards, for awarding academic credit; and 2) is similar in subject matter to a course offered by the UW System institution or technical college. Committee action is pending.

**Relating to Resident Tuition for Veterans Enrolled at Technical Colleges (SB 164)**
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. After a veteran or qualifying spouse or child is enrolled at a technical college, the technical college district must continue to charge resident fees for as long as the veteran or spouse or child is continuously enrolled. Introduction of this bill is pending.

c. **Local:**

**Bradley Center**
The legislature is working on a plan that would have the city and county borrow money from the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands. The plan would be a cash loan and there would be no bonding...
involved. It has been suggested that the city create a TIF to cover some of the costs, the county use revenue it receives from a half-cent sales tax or the Center District Board raise its taxes and divert funds to arena and ancillary development. Discussions continue and the Task Force will continue to monitor this issue.

d. Grants Update:
None

2. Legislative Advocacy Planning
None

E. Meeting Dates – FY2015-16
TBD

F. ADJOURNMENT:
The meeting was adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Desma P. Madison